

## Sermon followed by Service - November 3, 2024

1 Peter 1:25-2:3; 2 Peter 1:3-11

I am about to shoot my sermon in the tire. Are you ready to hear the air pshhhh? Here it is - Do we have any Minnesota Vikings fans here? Remember the 1970s with the Purple People Eaters? I wanted to play football like Alan Page. Alan Page - All-Pro defensive tackle year after year, NFL Hall of Famer. Alan Page - that's who I wanted to be like. Off-season, I knew better. Off-season, I wanted to be an Airborne Ranger, jumping out of planes and helicopters, taking the battle to the enemy. Then I wanted to be a nuclear physicist, running nuclear submarines, inventing nuclear cars. You know how people say: "You can be whoever you want to be; you can do whatever you want to do"? I don't think there is any diet and exercise program in the world that could grow me into the great white Alan Page, or an Airborne Ranger, or smart enough to be a nuclear physicist. But there is a diet and exercise program that can do better - a diet and exercise program that can have us stronger and wiser than any childhood dream or imagination - a diet and exercise program that can have you participating in the divine nature - a diet and exercise program that can have you living like you have God alive and living in you.

Peter is writing to people who were the perfect candidates for that kind of diet and exercise program. The people Peter was writing to ... so many of them were small in the eyes of the world, treated like nobodies or worse. People who often felt beat down, tired, withered like the grass in my back yard, blown down and

around like my crusty oak leaves. On their own, they didn't have a lot going for them. They were at the mercy of the world around them, thinking that somehow they should fight to get their way, fight to get their say.

*Ever feel that way?*

Ever feel that way? If not, don't be too quick to leave me; your day is coming and then you'll be like the rest of us. And like the rest of us, we'll all be tempted to make ourselves big, to make ourselves strong, to make ourselves sharp - to get our way, to get our say. And if that doesn't work, like the rest of us, we'll be tempted to find ourselves a champion out in the world, someone who can make us feel big and strong, someone who can make it feel like we can get our way and get our say. And what will we find out? No matter how big and strong we might think we are, no matter how big and strong we might think our champion is - in this world, in this life, we are all like grass.

That's what makes New Starts so hard. We get scorched and blown about. We get distracted and tired. And if we can get past being distracted and past being exhausted, then what? Just when we think we're greening up, what happens? If it's not the lawn mower blade cutting us down to size, it's the cold of winter hibernating us, turning us in on ourselves. New Starts are hard.

That's why Peter calls us to get on his diet and exercise program. I don't know about you, but I don't like that word diet. But the diet Peter has for us isn't a diet of less; it's a diet of better. Peter knows you've had a taste of it, and you know the

taste is good. Sweeter than honey, more energizing than a Lee's apple fritter, more satisfying than a Culver's Double Deluxe, more comforting than Dragon's Milk. Peter knows what tastes good to you ...

- when your stomach is churning with worry and stress and fear
- when your stomach is sick with guilt
- when your insides are empty, so you feel like your whole life is empty.

Peter knows what tastes good - "Taste and see that the Lord is good!" When our insides are sick with guilt," taste and see that the Lord is good. As the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, Jesus has taken your sin as his own, your guilt as his own; he's take God's judgment against you as his own. It doesn't matter what your insides say; it doesn't matter what anybody else says; in the courtroom of God, you are "not guilty," in the heart of God you are forgiven and right by God And when your stomach is churning with worry and stress - again "Taste and see that the Lord is good." As your Good Shepherd, Jesus has you close to his heart to bless you; he has everything around you under control to bless you. And when you feel empty inside - "What's the point?" - "Taste and see that the Lord is good." As "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," Jesus has a life for you better than being a star or a hero or even a billionaire inventor. You get to participate in the divine nature with God working his work in you and through you.

*In the "pure milk of the Word," what is your go-to comfort food, energy food, sweet treat?*

I said, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” Peter would have us do more than taste; Peter would have us gulp and gorge: **“Crave the pure milk of the word.” Like newborn babies, crave the pure milk of the word.** Babies aren’t content to nurse or eat just once a week, are they? And if they were to eat just once a week, what would we think? “Something’s wrong here!” In the same way, if we go days without eating and drinking the milk of God’s Word, something’s wrong in here [our heart and mind]. If we go days without eating and drinking the milk of God’s Word, we’re setting ourselves up to be spiritually weak, spiritually sick; we’re setting ourselves up to be easy prey for the devil. And if we’re talking New Starts, if we think we can get by on a taste of God’s Word once a week, we’re setting ourselves up to sputter and die.

What does it look like to sputter and die? What does it look like to be spiritually weak and sick? It can look like the darkest sins of the world. But it doesn’t have to. It can look like the happiest sins of the world. But it doesn’t have to. It can look like the hurt, the worry, the stress and fear of the world. But it doesn’t have to. It can look like the pride, the “I’m fine by myself” pride of the world. Sputtering and dying without God’s word can look like life out there in the world, or sputtering and dying without God’s Word can look like me how many times a week when I don’t take God’s Word and apply it to me.

*What are the warning signs in your life that you are sputtering and dying for lack of the “pure milk of the Word”?*

We don't have to sputter and die; we don't have to be spiritually weak or sick; and we don't have to settle for spiritual HoHos and Ding Dongs. We have the pure milk of the Word. Here in worship and Bible Study, at home with your Bibles, your devotions, our Forward in Christ magazine. We have what it takes to grow up in our salvation. We even have what it takes to participate in the divine nature.

Doesn't that phrase capture your curiosity? "Participate in the divine nature." What does it mean to "participate in the divine nature"? Born through water and the Word, we are made alive with God, alive with God alive in us. As we grow with Jesus, we are being re-created more and more in the image of God. As we grow with Jesus, we have God working in us and through us more and more.

You notice I said more and more. Just as Peter isn't content that we just taste God's Word, but that we crave God's Word, so also Peter isn't content that we just have a connection to God, but that God is alive and working in us. If we just want a God-connection without God alive and working in us, God will find someone else to live in and live through. So Peter says: **"Make every effort to add to your faith goodness ...."** **"Make every effort"** - we know what that means, right? **"Make every effort"** doesn't happen by just throwing these (Personal Ministry Plans) in the garbage. **"Make every effort to [what?]"** **"Make every effort to add."** That word "add" reminds me of when I was a kid cooking at the Holiday Inn in New Ulm. I started as dishwasher, until most of the kitchen cooks quit, and I was promoted to cook foods I had never heard of before. My boss

cook tells me to make some roux. I say, “What?” She says, “melt some butter and add some flour.” I melt some butter and add some flour. She looks at it and says, “add a little more flour.” I go back and add a teaspoon; I show her and she says, “add a little more.” After a couple times of adding a little more, we’re both getting frustrated; she takes the pan of melted butter and adds a whole lot of flour. And I thought, “You didn’t ‘just add a little,’ you added a lot.” That’s the “add” word Peter uses. Don’t just add a little; add a lot. We’re not adding ghost peppers; we’re adding grace - so add a lot.

At the same time that Peter says: “add a lot,” Peter also tells us how to add. Don’t just add on a thin veneer; work them in; work a whole lot of all these ingredients, in and through our lives.

*Give specific and practical examples of how we might put Peter's words into action.*

- *add to your faith goodness -*
- *to goodness, add knowledge*
- *to knowledge add self-control -*
- *to self-control, add perseverance -*
- *to perseverance, add godliness (piety) -*
- *to godliness, add brotherly kindness (philadelphia) -*
- *to brotherly kindness, add love (agape).*

That’s Peter’s exercise plan. I made it sound more like a recipe. But this is exercise; this is action. This is how God makes us strong. This is how God give us forward movement. This is how God gives us momentum. This is how God blesses

us to make it. Not by sitting and resting, but by adding and exercising. Not by standing on the sidelines and watching others, but by adding and exercising. Not by making ourselves busy, chasing around, living the life of the world, but by adding God's ingredients, by exercising God's exercises.

How? We'll talk about that in Bible Study. And we'll do more than just talk; we'll find a way to walk that talk - together with each other, together with Jesus. Amen.

*Now would be a great time to review your Personal Ministry Plan and New Start Holes and Roles.*

## THE SERVICE

**IN OUR WORLD TODAY ...** we fill our hearts and minds with a diet of garbage food that distracts and destroys hearts and souls. We then fill our lives with the exercises such as running the rat-race, chasing squirrels, and going in circles.

**IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ...** our Lord offers us a far better diet with a far more meaningful set of exercises.

### OPENING HYMN

*"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

Hymn 863

A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;  
he helps us free from ev'ry need that has us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe now means deadly woe; deep guile and great might  
are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;  
but for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected.  
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is, the almighty Lord,  
and there's no other God; he holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,  
we tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will, he can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done; one little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;  
he's by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,  
though all may be gone, our victory is won; the kingdom's ours forever!

### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves  
and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY** (*Sung*)

**CW 174**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### CHOIR

*“Come To the Table”*

*We all start on the outside The outside looking in  
This is where grace begins We were hungry we were thirsty  
With nothing left to give Oh the shape that we were in  
Just when all hope seemed lost Love opened the door for us*

#### **Refrain:**

*He said come to the table Come join the sinners who have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table*

*Come meet this mighty crew of misfits These liars and these thieves  
There's no one unwelcome here  
That sin and shame that you brought with you  
You can leave it at the door And let mercy draw you near*

#### **Refrain:**

*So, come to the table Come join the sinners who have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table Come to the table*

*To the thief and to the doubter To the hero and the coward  
To the prisoner and the soldier To the young and to the older  
All who hunger all who thirst All the last and all the first  
All the paupers and the princess All who fail, you've been forgiven  
All who dream and all who suffer All who loved and lost another  
All the chained and all the free All who follow all who lead*

*Anyone who's been let down All the lost you have been found  
All who have been labeled right or wrong To everyone who hears this song*

***Refrain:***

*Oh Come to the table Come join the sinners you have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior Sit down and be set free  
Oh Sit down and be set free Come to the table Come to the table  
Sit down and be set free Come to the table*

**FIRST READING**

***1 Peter 1:22—2:3***

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For,

*“All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of the Lord endures forever.”*

And this is the word that was preached to you.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 1B*



1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the  
 2 But make the law of God their stud - y  
 3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters  
 4 The wick - ed are not so! They no such



sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels  
 and de - light a - mid the la - bors  
 near the root. Fresh as the leaf their  
 bless - ing find. Their hopes shall flee like



nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,  
 of the day and watch - es of the night.  
 name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.  
 emp - ty chaff be - fore the driv - ing wind.



5 How will they bear to stand be - fore that  
 6 God knows and he ap - proves the way the



judg - ment seat where all the saints at  
 right - eous go, but sin - ners and their



Christ's right hand in full as - sem - bly meet?  
 works shall meet a dread - ful o - ver - throw.

**SECOND READING***2 Peter 1:2–11*

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***2 Peter 3:18*

Alleluia! But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL***John 15:1–8*

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Speak, O Lord”*

**Hymn 633**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your holy Word;  
take your truth, plant it deep in us, shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;  
test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
your majestic love and authority.

Words of pow’r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds,  
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,  
truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
that will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we’ll stand on your promises,  
and by faith we’ll walk as you walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, till your Church is built,  
and the earth is filled with your glory.

**SERMON**

*1 Peter 1:22-2:3; 2 Peter 1:2-11*

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** May this be a time, O Lord, for confession and repentance. Forgive us for the apathy that harms our faith and hinders our works. Forgive us for boasting of our past achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference to public worship and Bible study. Destroy the distrust that plagues us, and shatter every thought and word that harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

**C: Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

M: Let this be a time, O Lord, when you renew us again by Word and sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of those who have gone before us.

**C: Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

M: Let this be a time, O Lord, when we recommit and reconsecrate ourselves to the ministry of the gospel. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and success in our labor.

**C: Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew steadfast spirits within us.**

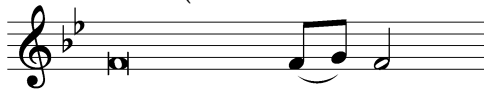
#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)



The Lord be with you.



**And al - so with you.**

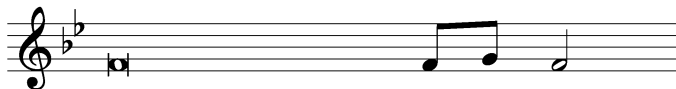


Lift up your hearts.

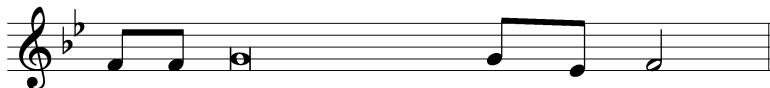




**We lift them up to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SUNG)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\tau$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\tau$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

## JESUS, LAMB OF GOD (SUNG)

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your  
peace.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*"I Come, O Savior, to Your Table"*

**Hymn 670**

I come, O Savior, to your table, for weak and weary is my soul;  
O Jesus, you alone are able to satisfy and make me whole.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

O grant that I in manner worthy may eat and drink and be restored,  
and, dwelling on your boundless mercy, look only unto you, O Lord.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

I should not be your sheep, dear Savior; I stray in sin's accursed terrain.  
And yet you pardon my behavior; my faithful Shepherd you remain.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

O let me loathe all sin forever as death and poison to my soul,  
that I through willful sinning never may see your judgment take its toll!  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

Your holy heart has one obsession, one blessed thing it burns to do—  
to cleanse the sinner from transgression; so I, a sinner, come to you.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

My soul is burdened; Lord, relieve me, by all this weight of sin oppressed!  
Though sinful, yet, in grace receive me and feed me as your grateful guest.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

Within me, Lord, your vision traces a heart of deep humility  
that mourns its sin and yet embraces the merit you have earned for me.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

By faith I call your holy table the testament of your deep love,  
for by your gift I now am able to know the heart of God above.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

This meal with blessing is abounding:  
to poor ones wealth, to weak ones pow'r,  
to angels joy, to hell confounding, and life for me in death's dark hour.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

My heart has now become your dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, your praises telling, shall live in joy eternally.  
Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you  
have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith,  
nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to  
live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your  
guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

*“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*

Hymn 930

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, my children; I will keep you and give you peace.

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### **NOVEMBER FALL SPEAKER SERIES**

**Who:** Susan Fink, WELS author of children's books

**When:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 7 p.m.

**Where:** New Life Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Susan Fink will make a presentation to preschool parents and members of New Life on the subject of "self-care" for kids. Susan is the author of a couple of children's books on this subject.

### **PAGE TURNERS – ST. JOHN BOOK CLUB**

November Book: Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 6 p.m. at Fremont Library (Mundelein)

All are welcome; bring your unchurched friend whom you are looking to connect with St. John and Jesus!

### **WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Join us, Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. for our Annual Women of St. John Christmas Party! More details to come, but all women are welcome; bring your unchurched friend whom you are looking to connect with St. John and Jesus!

### **CHRISTMAS HOUSEWALK – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 - AT 4 P.M.**

Join us for a Christmas HouseWalk on Saturday, December 14, starting at 4 PM. We'll enjoy soup and salad, appetizers, and desserts, but mostly each other, at three or four different Christmas-decorated houses. Space is limited to 30-35 adults (no children). We'll have a \$5 reservation fee; we'll start taking reservations on November 17. For more info, contact Sheryl.

### **ALL GERMAN CHRISTMAS SONG SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

You're Invited! Sunday, December 22, 4:30 p.m., with dinner following the service.

Christ the King Lutheran Church

100 W. Michigan Ave, Palatine, IL

### **LOVE IS IN THE AIR!**

Grab your calendar and save the date, February 1, 2025, for a marriage retreat at St. John. We plan to meet from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. with 3 breakout sessions, and a catered lunch! We are looking for help with child care and plan to pay those who assist. More info to come, stay tuned to News and Reminders. If you would like to help organize the event, talk with Holly and Charles Ledvina.

# **Join Us This Holiday Season!**

## **Christmas Decorating Party**

Sunday, December 1, after Family Bible Hour

## **Advent Wednesdays**

December 4, 11, & 18

3:30 and 6:30 pm

Advent Dinners at 4:30 pm

## **Women's Christmas Party**

Sunday, December 8 – 2 pm

## **Piano Recital**

Tuesday, December 10 – 6:30 pm

## **Christmas HouseWalk**

Saturday, December 14 – 4 pm

## **Children's Christmas Service**

Sunday, December 15 – 3 pm

## **All German Christmas Song Service and Fellowship Meal**

Sunday, December 22 – 4:30 pm

Christ the King Lutheran Church

100 W. Michigan Ave, Palatine, IL

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5 pm**

**Christmas Day Festival Service - 9 am**

**New Year's Eve Service/Lord's Supper - 5 pm**

Join us for our annual Game Night after the service!