

The Coming Week at St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, 12/28

8:00am – Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)
 9:00am – Fellowship Hour (Williams Hall)
 10:00am – Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary & Livestream)
 11:00am – Fellowship Hour (Williams Hall)
 5:00pm – NA (McNab Room)

Monday, 12/29

12:00pm – AA (McNab Room)
 6:00PM – Popup Bible Study (Activity Room)

Tuesday, 12/30

10:00am – Samaritan Fund (Library)
 1:00pm – Knitpickers (Williams Hall)

Wednesday, 12/31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE (PARISH OFFICE CLOSED)

1:00pm – AA (McNab Room)

Thursday, 1/1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY (PARISH OFFICE CLOSED)

Friday, 1/2

12:00pm – AA (McNab Room)
 5:45pm – Peer Support Meeting (McNab Room)

Saturday, 1/3

12:00pm – AA (McNab Room)
 7:00pm – NA (McNab Room)

Sunday, 1/4

8:00am – Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)
 8:30am – Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 9:00am – Fellowship Hour (Williams Hall)
 10:00am – Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary & Livestream)
 11:00am – Fellowship Hour (Williams Hall)
 11:30am – Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Zone)
 5:00pm – NA (McNab Room)
 7:00pm – Bible in the Basement (Activity Room)

Point your smartphone's camera here to view these announcements electronically →



Online Calendar: Click on the “[Events](#)” link at top right of our [website](#) & explore in a dynamic monthly or weekly format. Click on an entry and, if info is available, a brief description will share more about that ministry or event. Keep tabs on all going on at St. John's and share those happenings with others!

Our Daily Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers...



Cathy Chang & Juan Lopez, Susan & Bob, Char Bakeman, Ronnie, Henry Youngquist, Chris, Yvonne, Charlene & John Adams, Lynn Miller, Linda Johannsen, Phillip, the Gwaltney family, Michelle, and Julie.

Give thanks with those from St. John's celebrating anniversaries this week... 28-John & Charlene Adams, 1/2-Gordon & Pat Roush

Give thanks with those from St. John's celebrating birthdays this week... 30-Judy Ellis, 1/1-Sophie Biggs

Pray for the Diocesan Standing Committee and the people of the Diocese of the Great Lakes; PRAY for St. John's, Fremont – Kris Carpenter, Senior Warden; Church of the Resurrection, Battle Creek - Terri Orolin, Senior Warden; Lay Leaders in the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

In our international Anglican prayer cycle; PRAY for The Anglican Church of Canada

Pastoral Care

Members of the congregation who have received Pastoral Care training are available all year for friendly visits. Members who are in the hospital, nursing homes, or homebound may request a visit from our team to receive communion, a comforting prayer shawl or a pocket cross.

Team members include:

The Rev. Alissa Anderson and parishioners

Chris Esquivel

Jan Marcou

Pat Roush

Dave Schafer

Chris Schuster

Fred Schuster

Michelle Spencer

*Call the parish office (989-631-2260) with a pastoral care request. In the case of a pastoral emergency outside office hours, please contact **The Rev. Alissa Anderson** at 616-540-9102 (cell).*

Contact the church office

989-631-2260 / office@sjec-midland.org

- To add someone to the prayer list
- Request receipt of the weekly Worship++email
- Request receipt of the monthly Epistle
- To update your membership directory info

We appreciate your ongoing support!

St. John's depends on the generosity of our friends and members. Please consider making a gift today. Visit tinyurl.com/Give2SJEC, mail your check to the church, place it in the drop box outside the office entrance, or point your smartphone's camera here: →



**Next Sunday's Readings – January 4, 2026
Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Psalm 84 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

Spend some time this week looking at next Sunday's readings. It's a great way to prepare for worship & build a personal spiritual discipline of regular bible reading.

The Episcopal Church provides a Lectionary Calendar with links to all the upcoming and past readings:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lectionary/>

**There is no Wednesday Noon Eucharist this week
Service resumes Wednesday, January 7**

How to Connect with Rev. Alissa

Schedule a time via Calendly:

<https://calendly.com/sjec-rector>.



Drop in Coffee Shop Office Hours are on hiatus due to the holidays. They will resume Thursday, January 8.

**The parish office will be
closed Wed., December 31,
and Thurs., January 1.**

CLOSED

Altar Flowers Sponsorship Update (Effective 2026) -

For many years, members of our parish have generously sponsored altar flowers in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones. We're grateful for this quiet but meaningful ministry that adds beauty to our worship week by week.

Beginning in **January 2026**, the cost to sponsor altar flowers for a Sunday will increase from **\$35 to \$45**. This change reflects the actual cost of the floral arrangements, which has risen over time. Updating the amount allows us to continue this tradition sustainably and with care for our resources.

As always, altar flower sponsorships are an invitation, not an obligation. If this change would create a financial hardship for you and you would still like to sponsor flowers, please know you are welcome to speak with **Mo. Alissa**—we're glad to find a way to make this accessible.

Thank you for the many ways you help make our shared worship beautiful and meaningful.

**call for
NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are now open for positions to be elected at the **Annual Meeting** on January 25: three members of the *Vestry*, three members of the *Endowment Committee*, and three *delegates* plus one *alternate* for the *Diocesan Convention*. All adult (over 18) members in good standing are eligible. Members in good standing are baptized, faithful in corporate worship, and received Communion at least three times in the past year. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Williams Hall. If you would like more information about any of these positions, please ask Mother Alissa or a member of the Vestry.

Nominations close on Sunday, January 11.

Ministry Leaders

The end of the year is coming fast! Please submit your Annual Report to the office **BEFORE January 5, 2026**. Thank you!!
office@sjec-midland.org.



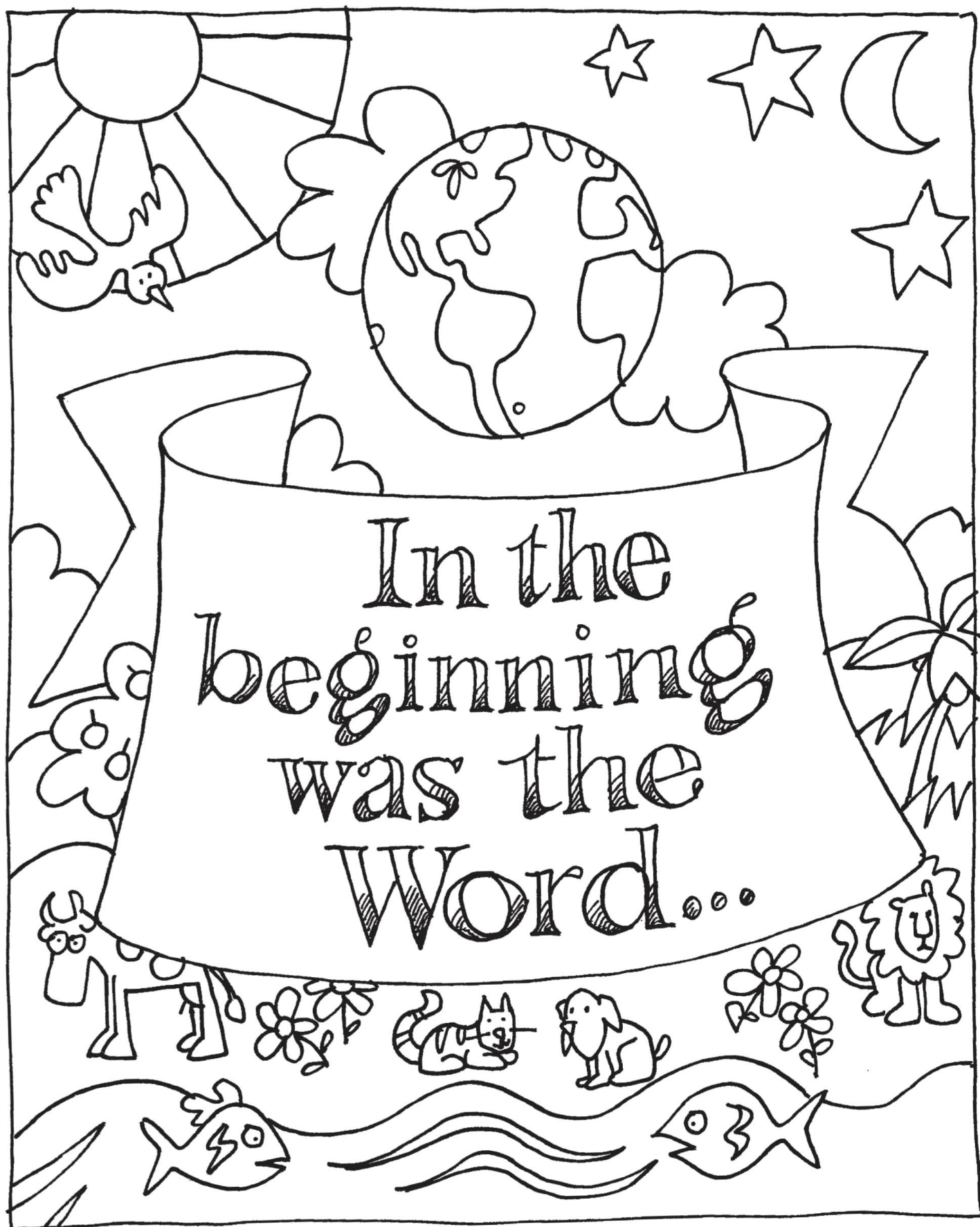
To celebrate the coming of the Christ child, SJEC St. Martha's Guild is collecting diapers around the Christmas tree in the church sanctuary through the Sunday after Epiphany, December 11. The diapers will be donated to several local charities for families in need.

As the year-end approaches, we greatly appreciate your financial gifts. Whether you are completing your 2025 pledge, submitting your 2026 pledge, or making a one-time gift in the spirit of the season, all contributions help us live out our mission of *Linking Lives in the Love of Christ*.

Access online
giving here:



happy new year



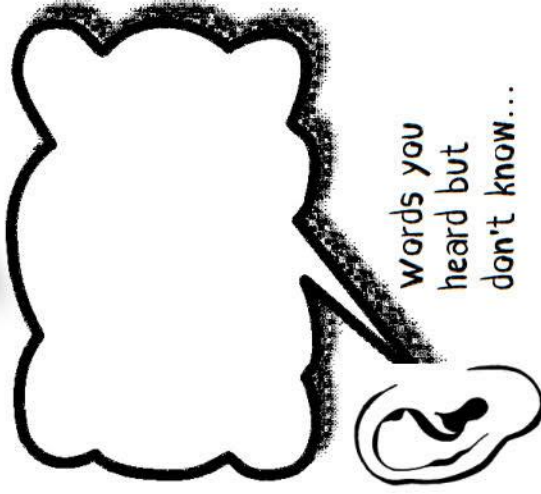
Sermon Notes FOR KIDS



As you attend church services with your family, use this sheet to help you pay attention and learn. We want you to worship with us by singing to God and listening to the message.

Date:

who is speaking?



what is the main
passage we are
reading today?

Book:

chapter:

verse:

Favorite song today was:



what are we learning about
God from this passage?



Questions?

The most important thing you learned was:

How does today's message apply to your life?

Write or draw something you heard in the sermon