

# THE EPISTLE

## MARCH 2026

One question that occasionally comes up in parish life is simply this: *how do I get time with the priest?*

Part of my work as your rector is leading worship, preaching, teaching, and helping guide the life of the parish. Another central part of my vocation is serving as your pastor—walking with people through the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. Sometimes that means a conversation in my office about something happening in your life; sometimes it's coffee, a Zoom call, or a visit at home or in the hospital. If time together would be meaningful for you, you are always welcome to reach out.

One easy way to schedule time is through my online calendar (linked in my email signature and newsletters), where you can sign up for meetings, coffee, walks, or pastoral and sacramental visits. You can also contact me directly by email, text, or phone. While I regularly check email and my office voicemail, texting or calling my cell phone is usually best for time-sensitive matters. If you don't have my number, you can find it in my email signature, the weekly announcements, through the church office, on one of my business cards, or simply by asking. I often let calls go to voicemail—especially if I'm in another meeting or outside normal work hours—but I do listen to messages and return calls, so please indicate if something is urgent.

If you ever reach out via any medium and don't hear back in the timeframe you hoped for, please feel entirely welcome to nudge me. Emails get buried, texts slip past, and voicemail sometimes arrives at inconvenient moments. A gentle follow-up can be very helpful and will not offend me.

A word about pastoral visits in particular: if you are seeking pastoral care, please reach out to me. I won't know if you're in the hospital, recovering from surgery, going through a difficult season, or simply wishing for company unless someone tells me. I also very rarely make unsolicited visits, because not everyone wants to see their priest (especially without warning) when they're unwell or struggling. If a visit from me would be meaningful, please let me know directly, or reach out to the office or a member of the pastoral care team specifying that you would like a clergy visit—I am so thankful for these requests.

When I visit, the time is often simply conversation and/or prayer. If you would like, I can also bring Communion—usually bread reserved from the Eucharist we share on Sunday—or offer prayers for healing with laying on of hands and anointing (Unction). At times I can also offer other prayers of the church, such as blessing a home, hearing a sacramental confession (all may, some should, none must), or praying with families who are keeping vigil as someone nears death. But I will only know you desire any of these things if you tell me.

Pastoral care works best when people feel comfortable reaching out. So if you would like to talk, pray, meet, schedule a visit, or simply check in, please know that you are always welcome to do so. You might say, "call me, beep me, if you want to reach me," though in 2026 we mostly text.





### February Worship Service Links



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 1, 2026



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 8, 2026



Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 15, 2026



First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026

Older services can be found here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/sjeclivestream>

### WE APPRECIATE YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!

St. John's depends on the generosity of our friends and members. Pledges and gifts to St. John's can either be made by check and sent via US Mail to 405 N. Saginaw Rd., Midland, MI 48640, or by visiting [tinyurl.com/Give2SJEC](https://tinyurl.com/Give2SJEC). This link will take you to a screen where you will enter the amount of your donation and designate a specific purpose or fund. Enter your email address as well, and you'll receive an electronic receipt.



You can also access electronic giving from the upper right-hand corner of our [webpage](#)... or by pointing your phone's camera at this QR code.



If you have any questions about your continued financial support of St John's, please call the church office and your call will be directed to the appropriate staff person. Thank you for your generosity!



# the feast

## bite-sized

SECOND WEEK OF LENT | FEB 25, 2026

## bishop search is now open!

With great hope and joy and with the prayers of our diocese, we are thrilled to announce that the application window for our search for our first diocesan is open!

We invite all to read our profile and share it with those who come to your mind as you learn about the kind of bishop we seek.

Applications and nominations are open until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. See the profile here: [greatlakesepiscopal.org/bishop-search](https://greatlakesepiscopal.org/bishop-search)



## diocesan townhall

### college for congregational development

Are you experiencing holy curiosity about what God is up to in your congregation and how God may be inviting you to grow? The College for Congregational Development equips congregational teams to look honestly at their current reality, discern God's leading for their future, and work on the strategies, goals, and actions to get there. Learn more at this virtual townhall hosted by BJ Heyboer, diocesan Coordinator for CCD on **Wednesday, March 4, at 7 p.m.**

Learn more and register at [greatlakesepiscopal.org/townhall](https://greatlakesepiscopal.org/townhall)

## deadline for confirmation service

**Don't miss the deadline!**

Bishop Anne will preside over our first confirmation service of 2026. This service is scheduled for 4 p.m. on March 22nd at St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo.

**Candidates (those being confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in The Episcopal Church) must be registered ahead of time by their parish by March 9.**

Learn more and register at [greatlakesepiscopal.org/confirmation2026](https://greatlakesepiscopal.org/confirmation2026)



Scan to keep up to date on events and announcements at our online home for people, parishes, and ministries, [greatlakesepiscopal.circle.so](https://greatlakesepiscopal.circle.so)



**[CLICK HERE to read the most recent full version of THE FEAST ONLINE](#)**

**WORSHIP SERVICES DURING LENT:**

WEDNESDAYS

**12:00pm** – Holy Eucharist – **Elliott Chapel**  
(with Prayers for Healing)

SUNDAYS

**8:00am** – Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
**9:00am** – “Being Here”– **Williams Hall**  
(Sunday Formation)  
**10:00am** – Holy Eucharist (w/music)

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:**

PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 29

**8:00am** – Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
**10:00am** – Holy Eucharist (w/music)

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK – APRIL 1

**12:00pm** – Holy Eucharist – **Elliott Chapel**  
(with Prayers for Healing)

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 2

**7:00pm** – Holy Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 3

**12:00pm** – Good Friday Service

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5

**8:00am** – Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
**10:00am** – Holy Eucharist (w/music)




**Lenten Concert Series**  
12:15-12:45 p.m. on Fridays

free & open to the public  
in-person & live stream  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1310 Ashman St., Midland  
WWW.MEMPRES.ORG

*Friday, March 13*  
Jamie Fiste, cello

*Friday, March 20*  
Mark Cox, tuba and euphonium

*Friday, March 27*  
Ellen Woodard, handbells

Memorial Presbyterian Church (1310 Ashman St.) is offering a *Lenten Concert Series* each Friday during Lent from 12:15pm to 12:45pm in the Sanctuary. You may wish to note that closing out the series on **March 27** is our very own **Ellen Woodard, handbell soloist.**





**SAMS Pantry Needs:** During the month of March, we would love more canned soups that can be an easy meal. Chunky soups, Progresso soups, etc. Progresso, Annies, and Pacific Foods also make some of these that are Gluten Free, which we also try to regularly stock. We are good on the "cooking soups" like cream of chicken, etc.



Any donations can be placed in the baskets in the narthex or dropped off in the covered bin at the back door of SAMS Pantry. Thank you so much for your support!



**Easter Flowers** - Forms are available on the table in the Narthex and from the parish office. Submit your donation and dedication to the parish office **by SUNDAY, MARCH 29.**



## Community

G<sub>2</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> E<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub> I<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub> H<sub>4</sub> T<sub>1</sub>

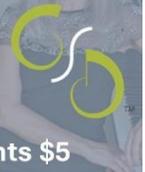
March **Game Nights** are Friday, March 13 and 27, in Williams Hall. Play our games or bring your favorites! Bring your friends or join in with us! All ages welcome!

### Grove Music Festival Presents

#### Strings & Piano & Winds... Oh My!



Featuring  
**Chamber Soloists of Detroit**  
with **Pauline Martin**



Admission \$10 | Students \$5

**Friday | March 20 | 7:30 PM**

St. John's Episcopal Church

**Each Sunday at 9am** (between services) we continue to gather in Williams Hall for **"Being Here,"** a Lenten exploration of what it means to live well in a fractured world. We're using readings and conversation to explore how faith speaks into the realities of being human in our world. No preparation required; just bring yourself. These are the remaining topics we'll delve into:

- March 15 – *"Grace in the Fog"*: In light of the man born blind, we'll reflect on uncertainty, blame, and what it means to live faithfully when clarity does not come.
- March 22 – *"A Good Life to the End"*: Standing with Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, we'll face mortality honestly and gently, engaging themes from Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal* as we ask what makes a life meaningful.
- March 29 – *"This Is My Body"*: As we enter Holy Week, we'll prepare our hearts by reflecting on Jesus' embodied love and what it means to bring our whole, mortal selves into the story of passion and resurrection.

## February Children and Youth



**Gods Best Kids & Upper Elementary Kids** – during February Sunday school God’s Best Kids listened to a few *Godly Play* stories one of which was on Creation. Our children are getting more curious and asking a lot of “wondering” questions and exploring lessons as they start to understand them more. Our upper elementary kids started a new series entitled *Restart*. They have made it halfway through and will finish up in April. The curriculum is about the power of repentance and



making a fresh start. Our second of the four lessons was our favorite so far. The children played Monopoly and learned how it connected to *Restart*. If you aren’t giving or given more than one chance to “pass go” or “restart”, how are you being given a chance to get it right? It is

always wonderful to bring a lesson full circle and interactive because it makes the lesson more fun and relatable.

Many of our children enjoy crafting on Sundays. Most often they select supplies and make what they creatively come up with. One Sunday they wanted to put glue in bottle caps, put googly eyes on top and see how fast it would solidify by placing the cap in the snow.

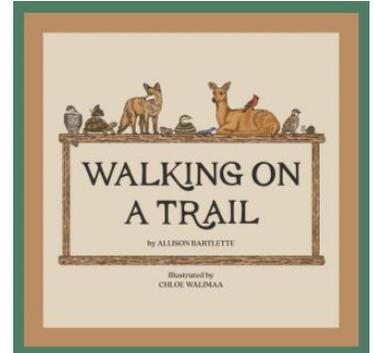


We are trying to engage more of the older children that are interested in serving during church service the opportunity to do so. One way this has taken a new approach is through the Handbell Choir. Little did Nykkoa know she would gain two children in the Handbell Choir after performing at Kids Day at the Mall for the public. They all performed in February for the first time and did well. Stay tuned for more handbell performances.





We had a guest author, Allison Bartlette, visit our Sunday school at the end of February. She brought in a children's book she wrote *Walking on a Trail* and read it to the children. The book is a picture book that talks about walking in nature but not disturbing what they find and just observing the beauty they find. The children also got to make binoculars and go on a scavenger hunt for animals that were highlighted in the book. Thank you, Allison, for sharing your gift with our children's group, they really enjoyed your visit.



March will be full of lessons about Lent, Easter, and maybe a little St Patrick's fun! Come join us for our fun story adventures and activity time during Sunday school.



**EYE Youth Group** continues to work on the Storymakers, *Identity* book series. We discovered defined and belonging within the Lord's Prayer. Being defined by our actions good and bad can leave a lasting impression. How we move forward from either is the key to success. Somethings will hold us back others will help us grow. You would be surprised by what makes you grow in faith and life. Belonging is important to everyone because it helps define us as individuals. The two chapters go hand in hand on our actions that give us a sense of belonging. Our youth dove in to understand how faith and belonging can help guide our decisions to help guide us down the path we want to take. The youth group has also enjoyed ping pong, games, and social time alongside the discussions.

## Scout Sunday, Pinewood Derby and PRAY God & Family Programming



Each year St John's graciously allows Cub Scout Pack 3768 and Girl Scout Troop 50593 to hold their annual **Pinewood Derbys** in Williams Hall. These events are enjoyed by scouts and families every year. The Cub Scouts Derby had around 65 cars this year. The Girl Scouts expanded this year with new leadership and invited all Girl Scout troops from Chestnut Hill Elementary as well as a few friends that are Juliette's. A Juliette Girl Scout is an independent Girl Scout working through the level program they are at just independently instead of with a group. We had a total of 41 cars run in the Girl Scout Derby, which included six leaders and sibling cars. The event allows both Cub

Scouts and Girl Scouts the opportunity to design, build, decorate, and race a Pinewood Derby car. The event lasted most of Saturday, February 7th as the Cub Scouts races were held in the morning and then the Girl Scouts in the afternoon. William's Hall was busy with activity! Cub Scout Pack 3768 and Girl Scout Troop 50593 thank the church for supporting them in their fun.

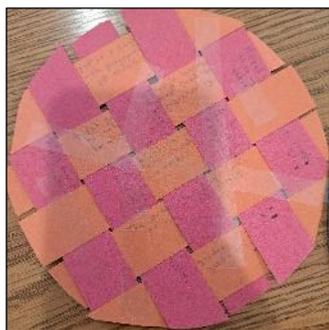


Each year St John's also hosts a **Scout Sunday service**. This year it was held on February 8th during the 10am service. The church recognizes past and present Scouts, leaders, and volunteers. We had Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 3768, BSA Troop 760, Girl Scout Troop 50834, and Girl Scout Troop 50593 serving during church and participating in activities after service. To quote part of the Girl Scout Promise *"I will try to serve God*



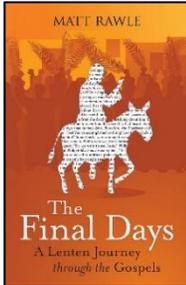
*and my country"* all our Scouts did an amazing job serving God on Scout Sunday. A few jumped in and served at the last minute and stepped out of their comfort zones. Leaders, parents, and the congregation enjoyed seeing young Scouts as torch bearers, flag bearer, and help with offertory collection. Thank you to Amon E for playing *Reveille* to start service, Ethan B for flag bearing, Abby G and Nathan G for torch bearing, Nathan G and Ethan B for offertory collection. We also had some past Scouts assist in organizing, setting up, tear down, and food for Scout Sunday thank you all for your help and continued support of our active Scouts! We took a group picture of past and present Scouts after service.

Over a couple weeks in January and February, Cub Scout Pack 3768 had their Arrow of Light Den work through a **PRAY, God and Family curriculum**. By completing this curriculum, the Scouts have earned a Duty to God, Arrow of Light rank pin for advancement and a religious knot. The religious knot will be worn on their uniform for recognition for participating in a higher level of religious programming as a Cub Scout. This programming is designed to teach Scouts about faith in a more generic form and setting. This specific curriculum brought God and family full circle and shows how they are connected. The Scouts had a fun time making their own pizzas out of cardboard and paper and then celebrating the end of their lessons with a pizza party! Ask Nathan G how each layer of a pizza represents something different in your faith journey. I'll give you a starting point in case he forgets...crust is our foundation, sauce family traditions/heritage influences, toppings is our talents, gifts of us and our family members, and cheese represents unity. Baking is the final step and without baking we have all individual parts but baked together all help to strengthen and support each other through faith. Nathan will receive his certificate and religious medal at a church service later in the spring. He will be presented with his second religious knot earned under this programming from is Cub Scout Pack Master.



## Women Journeying Together

We have begun our study for Lent, *The Final Days; a Lenten Journey Through the Gospels*. Led by Methodist Pastor Matt Rawle, it is a study of Jesus' passion in each of the gospels. We will look at each gospel separately and notice the different emphasis and perspectives in each one. It is sure to stretch our understanding of the Passion generally, and what Jesus is calling us to as his followers.



Our schedule:

**March 5** – Mark's Gospel

**March 12** – Matthew's Gospel

**March 19** – Luke's Gospel

**March 26** – John's Gospel

*Women Journeying Together* meets each Thursday afternoon during the school year from 1:00 to about 2:30. We gather in the Activity Room, at the bottom of the stairs across from the church office. We study, share, pray for and with each other, laugh frequently, and occasionally have lunch together. Women of all ages are welcome to join us, for a special study or "forever". If you have questions, please contact me, Marnie Bash, at [mpbash@ameritech.net](mailto:mpbash@ameritech.net)

## Library News

by Marnie Bash

Once again this month, the library shelves are busy and full as we continue in Lent and also celebrate Women's History Month, as well as St Patrick's Day. There is much to explore.

Devotionals and Lent/Easter books are still on the shelves; the emphasis this month is Holy Week. Books with this theme include *4 Days in Spring* by Adam Hamilton, *The Hope of Glory*, John Meacham's discussion of the 7 words from the cross, and Katerina Whitley's *Walking the Way of Sorrows*. Also, Marcus Borg and John Crossen's *The Last Week*, a day by day discussion of Jesus's last week as narrated in Mark's Gospel.



Other books include Ann Weems' beautiful set of poems for Lent and Easter, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*. And for a slightly lighter take on the subject, see Tim Schenck's *Dust Bunnies in the Basket*, a series of essays on living with children while preparing for Easter.

As March is Women's History Month, there is a wide variety of books on the second set of shelves by and about women. There are books by several of our favorite women authors: Ann LaMott, Madeleine L'Engle, Joan Chittister, and Mother Teresa, but there is far more. Inspired by the women of Proverbs 31, Rachel Held Evans' tried to live like that woman, choosing a particular aspect for each month, and she describes trying to live it in *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. *Half the Sky* is Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's look at poor women's life around the world. It is now an "older" book, but I don't think conditions have changed very much

for the women they are discussing. There are several volumes of *Companions for the Journey*, devotionals that include discussion of a particular saint along with prayers and a reflection on their work; included saints are Julien of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, Teresa of Avile and a couple of others. A fascinating series. Francine Rivers has two novels there, *Redeeming Love*, and *Lineage of Grace*, stories about women in the Bible. And there's more; check out the second set of shelves for some great reading this month!



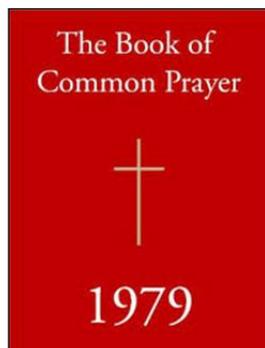
The Children's Shelves also have several engaging books about women and what they have done but also Tomie DePaola's story of *St Patrick*.

Books about women include *A Is for Abigail: An Almanac of Amazing American Women*, or *Counting on Katherine*, *Emma's Poem* (about the Statue of Liberty) or *Saving the Countryside*. One of my favorites is *Miss Moore Thought Otherwise*, a story of a woman who promoted allowing children to use libraries! Enjoy these stories and maybe even share them with your daughters! 😊

There is so much to discover on our Feature Shelves this month! Explore all on display and find the ones that speak to you. Wishing you a holy Lent and an exploring and growing Woman's History Month.

## BCP Spotlight

by Ellen Mc Vey



The Body Language of Worship, Part 4: **The Sign of the Cross**

*Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying to each one N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen. (BCP, Holy Baptism, p. 308)*

The liturgy of Holy Baptism is the only time the sign of the cross is mentioned in the BCP and this is performed by the priest. But the practice of making the sign of the cross dates from the second century, is a practice of piety, and is a way to be actively engaged during the service. Since there is no rubric for laity there's great variation in frequency ranging from "not at all" to "frequently". There is also no "right" or "wrong" if the sign is made in a reverent and prayerful manner.

**Why make the sign of the cross?** Several meanings have been attached to this practice: It may be (1) a silent prayer. (2) acknowledging receipt of the sacrament or of a blessing, a personal "Amen". (3) an acknowledgement of the Holy Trinity. (4) a reminder of your baptism, that you are "marked as Christ's own forever". (5) symbolizing the Incarnation or our connection to God as we move from forehead to chest and Christ passing from the dead to the right hand of God or our connection to one another as we move from left to right.

**How do I make the sign of the cross?** In TEC it is traditionally made by tracing the cross over your body, touching in the order of forehead, chest, left shoulder, right shoulder, and (optional, though you will see many



do this) chest again. Making the sign of the cross is typically done with the right hand because Jesus sits at the right hand of God. However, the left hand is okay too!

There are variations, though. Some traditions use the thumb and first two fingers, symbolizing the Trinity; some use 2 fingers to symbolize the 2 natures of Christ. Some use their thumb and forefinger to form a cross and kiss their thumb at the end. This is an ancient gesture of devotion, acceptance of one's own cross, love and gratitude for Jesus's sacrifice.

**When would I make the sign of the cross?** A good rule of thumb is to make the sign of the cross when the priest makes the sign of the cross over the congregation. For example, during the absolution and the blessing at the end of the service. Some also find it meaningful to do this before and/or after receiving communion.

If you want to go further, below are other times when some make the sign of the cross:

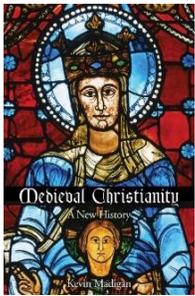
- When the sacred name of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is invoked, either in acclamation, blessing or absolution. This includes at the opening acclamation when we proclaim "Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" and by extension at the other opening acclamations, "Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins" or "Alleluia. Christ is Risen".
- When we sing/say the Trisagion (Holy God, Holy and Mighty...) typically during Lent, some make the sign of the cross (and bow) at the start of each repetition.
- As the Gospel is announced, the priest saying "The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" some use their thumb nail to cross their forehead (mind), lips, and heart, saying a silent prayer that Christ's words will be there.
- At the end of the hymn "Glory to God in the highest..." (BCP p. 356) when it concludes with praise to the Trinity (... "Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father").
- At the end of the Nicene Creed ("We look for the resurrection of the dead"...)
- During the Prayers of the People when we pray for the departed
- Following the confession when the priest pronounces God's forgiveness in the name of the Trinity.
- Near the end of the Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...") when we sing "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord".
- During the Eucharistic Prayer when we ask God to "Sanctify us also..." . and also "in the unity of the Holy Spirit"...
- Before and/or after receiving the bread and wine at communion.
- When the priest gives the final blessing at the end of the service - "And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Though this doesn't happen often, many make the sign of the cross when they are sprinkled with baptismal water in the practice called asperges. This sprinkling recalls our baptism, when we were first signed with the cross, so it is especially appropriate at that time.

## Church History in Three Minutes (or Less)

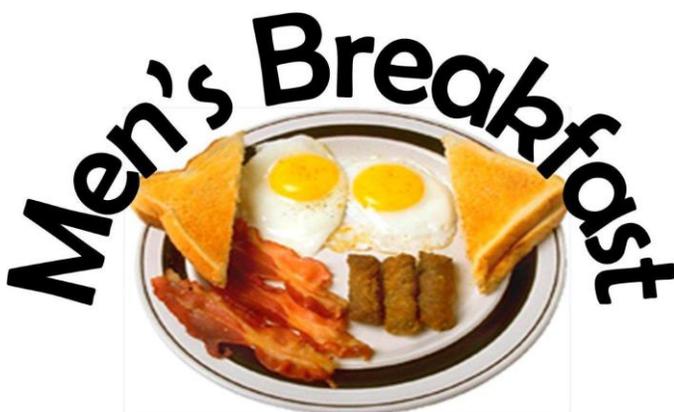
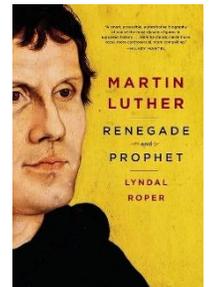
by Eric Carlson

This is the second article on history books recently acquired for the St. John's library. My first covered books on Medieval and Reformation England. This one will look at books on Europe as a whole in those periods. They can be found in our library's Classical Interest section, in either the Medieval Times or Reformation subsections. I'm also happy to recommend books on other church history topics.



**Kevin Madigan's *Medieval Christianity*** (2015) is a great broad survey written for general audiences. Madigan, a professor at Harvard Divinity School, covers many topics: the rise and decline of papal power; different forms of worship, devotion, and holiness; dissent and heresy; and religious art, architecture, and drama. He includes the religious experiences of ordinary Christians (men and women), not just saints. The book is organized so that you can just read sections on things that interest you. **Diarmaid MacCulloch's *The Reformation*** (2003) is long but covers a lot: the Reformation's origins, its main ideas and spread in different places, and its consequences for both religious experience and European politics. It's considered the best single book on the Reformation (it won the National Book Critics Circle Award and Wolfson Prize) because MacCulloch, retired Professor of Church History at Oxford, is an outstanding scholar and a master storyteller.

If you would like to focus on the most famous Reformation figure, read **Lyndal Roper's *Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet*** (2016). Many new books on Luther appeared for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his 95 Theses in 2017; this is the best. Roper (first woman appointed Regius Professor of History at Oxford) presents Luther as a talented but flawed human being, not an idealized saintly character, while not diminishing his significance. She brings his world vividly to life. Want to learn more about the Reformation's theological ideas? Try **Alister McGrath's *Reformation Thought*** (5<sup>th</sup> ed., 2021). He has chapters on the Bible, justification by faith, predestination, the sacraments, the nature of the church, and church-state relations. Within each chapter, he explains the views of the main Reformation theological traditions (Lutheran, Reformed, and Radical) as well as Catholic teaching set out at the Council of Trent (1545-1563) to counter the Reformation. I used this every year in my introductory course on the Reformation because McGrath, an Anglican priest and theology professor, does such a great job explaining complex and unfamiliar concepts clearly for non-theologians.



**Monday, April 6, 8:00 AM**

Join us at the Big Boy Restaurant, 1513 S. Saginaw Rd., for our monthly **Men's Breakfast**. Once in the restaurant, walk through the big room to the smaller room located at the southeast end of the restaurant to find our table.

**JOIN US for food and fellowship!!**



Each month the *Prayer Corner* includes the church's prayer list as well as the anniversaries and birthdays for the month. The prayer list is updated weekly and included in the Sunday morning worship service bulletins, along with the *Daily Prayers for the Wider Church*. The most recent version can be found at any time by clicking the "[Announcements](#)" link on the SJEC web page:

<https://www.sjec-midland.org/>

**Please keep the following people in your prayers...**



Cathy Chang & Juan Lopez, Char Bakeman, Ronnie, Henry Youngquist, Chris, Yvonne (Denée Koonce's mom), Charlene & John Adams, Phillip, Julie, Dennis, Mike, Paul Trautman, Duane, Ron & Pat, Betty, Bronda (Wendy Thompson's mom), and Steve Jacqmain.

**Give thanks with those celebrating March Birthdays...**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Lisa Pressnall  | 16 – Chris Schuster   |
| 2 – Angela Garcia   | 18 – Eric Blackhurst  |
| 7 – Doris Frizzle   | 19 – Michelle Johnson |
| Madi Kent           | 20 – Pat Roush        |
| 8 – B.J. Kent, V    | 23 – Abby Germain     |
| 11 – Robbyn Prange  | 24 – Katarina Dasbach |
| 12 – Danette Bartos | 30 – Drew Albright    |
| Kristina Mason      | Hailey Wieland        |
| 14 – Barbara Pauli  |                       |

**989-631-2260 / [office@siec-midland.org](mailto:office@siec-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

**Give thanks with those celebrating March Anniversaries...**

- 20 – Tom Lane & Gail Hoffman  
 31 – Anthony Dizon-Webb & Tom Webb



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:

- |  |
|--|
| <b>The Rev. Alissa Anderson</b> and parishioners |
| <b>Chris Esquivel</b> <b>Chris Schuster</b>      |
| <b>Jan Marcou</b> <b>Fred Schuster</b>           |
| <b>Pat Roush</b> <b>Michelle Spencer</b>         |
| <b>Dave Schafer</b>                              |



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)**.

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS NOT YET COME: LENTEN GREETING CARDS



**How to Connect with Mother Alissa**

**Schedule a time via Calendly**

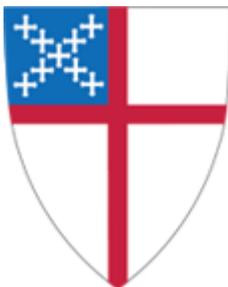
[CLICK HERE](#)



**Drop in Coffee Shop Office Hours**

**Thurs., 9-11 AM.**

This month you'll find her at Live Oak (711 Ashman St.)



**HEAD OF THE CHURCH – JESUS CHRIST**  
**MINISTERS – ALL OUR MEMBERS**

**To get in touch with any Clergy, Staff Member or Member of the Vestry, call or email the parish office:**

**(989) 631-2260**

[office@sjec-midland.org](mailto:office@sjec-midland.org)

**OUR VESTRY – OUR ELECTED LEADERS**

**Clergy**

The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson .....*Rector*

**Staff**

Dr. Amon Eady ..... *Director of Music*

Travis Fader ..... *Director of Operations & Organist/Pianist*

Linda Germain..... *Children & Youth Director*

Colleen O'Dell ..... *Bookkeeper*

Ellen Woodard..... *Administrative Assistant*

Nick Lowthian..... *Sexton*

Vickie Densmore ..... *Janitor*

**Class of 2027**

Eric Heglin, *Clerk*

Susan Rye

Fred Schuster, *Co-Warden*

**Class of 2029**

Nykkooa Lurie

Mike Spender

**Class of 2028**

John Adams

Doug Germain

Ann Wright, *Co-Warden*

## WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist .....Sanctuary  
 8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal .....Choir Room  
 9:00am "Being Here" ..... Williams Hall  
 9:00am Fellowship Hour ..... Williams Hall  
 10:00am Holy Eucharist ..... Sanctuary & YouTube  
 11:00am Fellowship Hour ..... Williams Hall  
 11:30am Handbell Choir Rehearsal..... Bell Zone  
 4:00pm Youth Group (every other) .....Activity Rm  
 5:00pm NA.....McNab Room  
 6:30pm Bible in the Basement (1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>)..Activity Rm

### Monday *(Parish Office open 9am-3pm)*

12:00pm AA.....McNab Room  
 6:00pm Popup Bible Study.....Library

### Tuesday *(Parish Office open 9am-3pm)*

10:00am Samaritan Fund Clients .....Library  
 10:00am St. Martha's Guild (2<sup>nd</sup>) ..... Activity Room  
 1:00pm Knitpickers..... Williams Hall

### Wednesday *(Parish Office open 9am-3pm)*

10:30am Women's Bible Study.....Library  
 12:00pm Holy Eucharist.. Chapel (use office entrance)  
 1:00pm AA.....McNab Room  
 5:30pm Tai Chi ..... Williams Hall

### Thursday *(Parish Office open 9am-3pm)*

9:00am Alissa's Drop-in Coffee Office Hrs. Live Oak  
 10:00am Love Knots (2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>) .....Williams Hall  
 1:00pm Women Journeying Together .. Activity Rm

### Friday *(Parish Office open 9am-noon)*

12:00pm AA.....McNab Room  
 6:00pm Community Game Night (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) ..Wms Hall

### Saturday

12:00pm AA.....McNab Room  
 7:00pm NA.....McNab Room

The 10:00 am worship service is livestreamed on YouTube. At the time of the service, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnsepiscopalchurchmid8944/streams>. A live service will have a prominent "LIVE" badge on the video thumbnail or title indicating the video is currently being streamed live. Previous services can also be viewed here at any time.

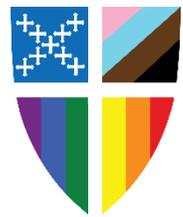
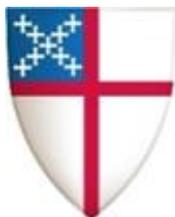


***We joyfully gather to pray, worship, learn and serve as we seek to follow Jesus, and invite all to join us on a sacred journey of hope and transformation.***

The next edition of **The Epistle** will be published in early April. The final deadline for submissions is Friday, April 3. Please consider submitting stories of your group's activities, or news of coming events and activities.

If you are not currently receiving an email notice to tell you that **The Epistle** has been published on our website, and you would like to receive one, please email [office@sjec-midland.org](mailto:office@sjec-midland.org).

If you prefer a printed copy of The Epistle, they are available in the church office, the narthex and each entrance into the church building.



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**405 N. Saginaw Road Midland, MI 48640**  
**(989) 631-2260 [office@sjec-midland.org](mailto:office@sjec-midland.org)**  
**[www.sjec-midland.org](http://www.sjec-midland.org)**

**Rector – The Very Rev. Alissa G. Anderson**



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