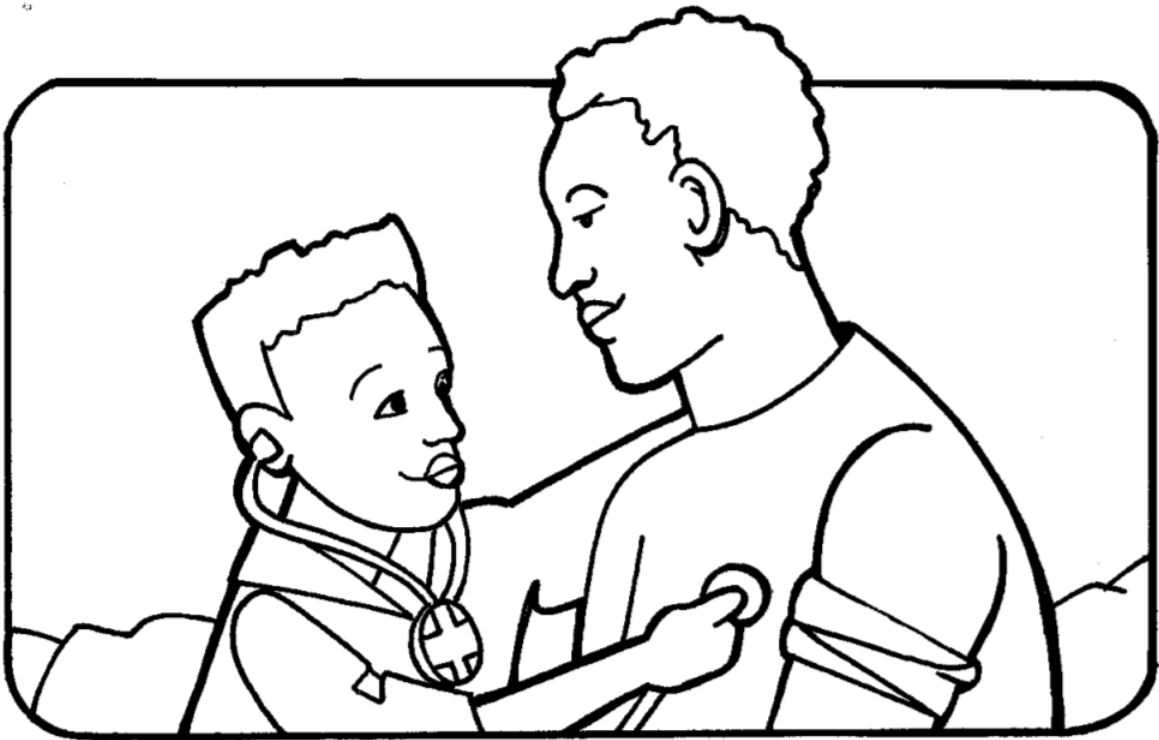


COULD I BE A



PASTOR?





Joseph likes to pretend. Some days he's a doctor.

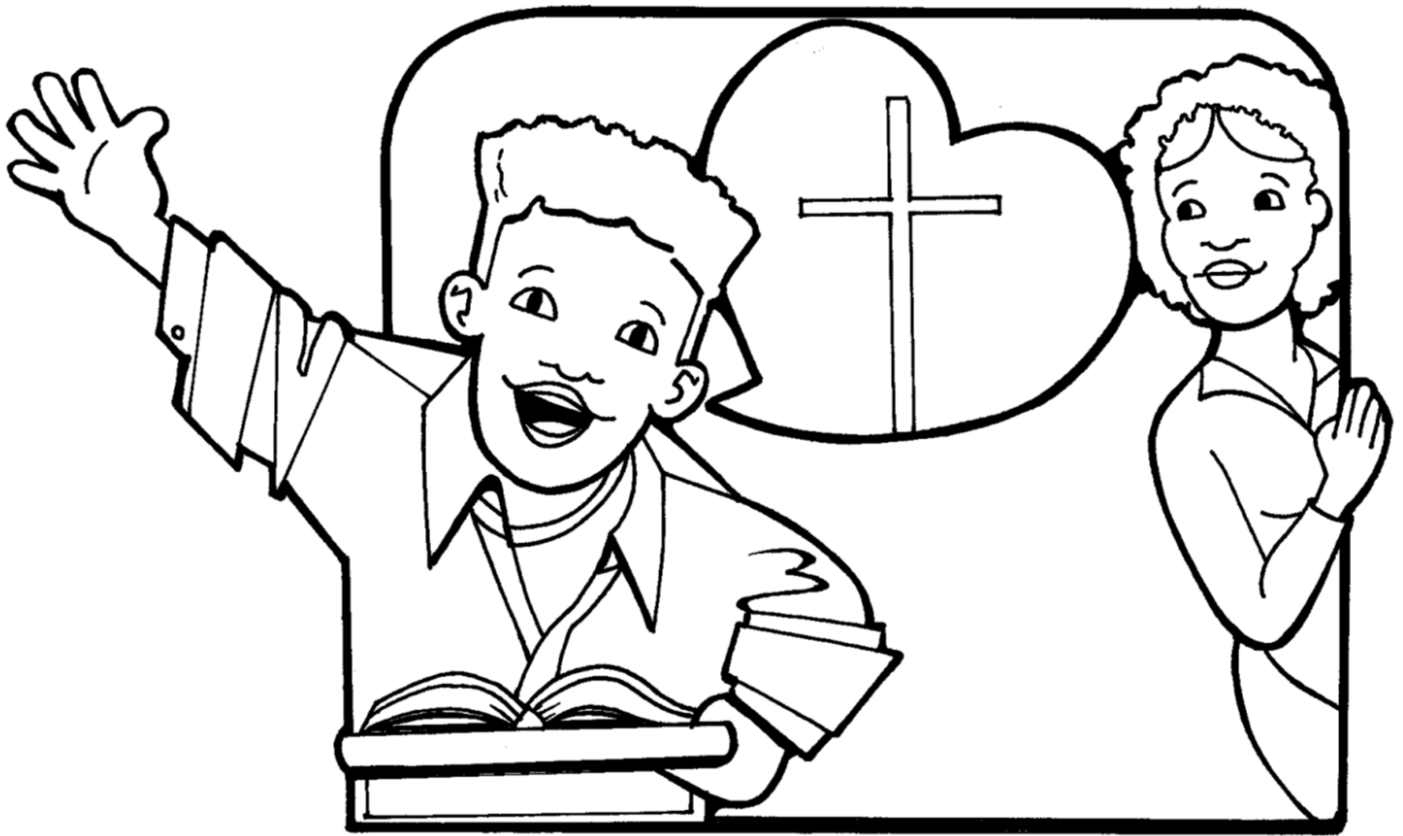


Other days he's  
a construction  
worker.

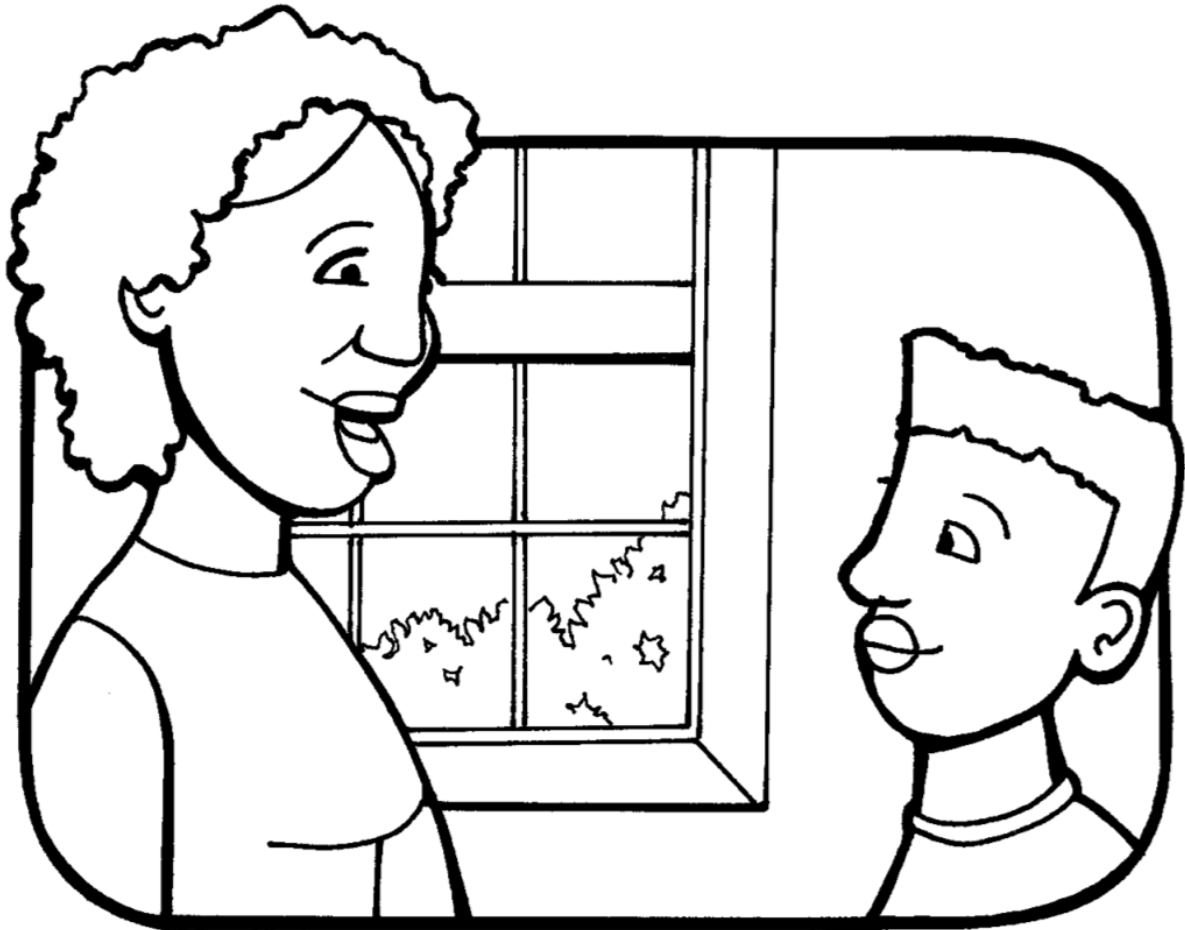


Joe likes to play church too. He's the pastor, and his brother and sister are the congregation.

They sing hymns and pray the Lord's Prayer.



He especially likes to preach the sermon. He talks about Jesus dying on the cross as the payment for everyone's sins.



One day his mom said, “Joseph, you should really think about becoming a pastor when you grow up.”

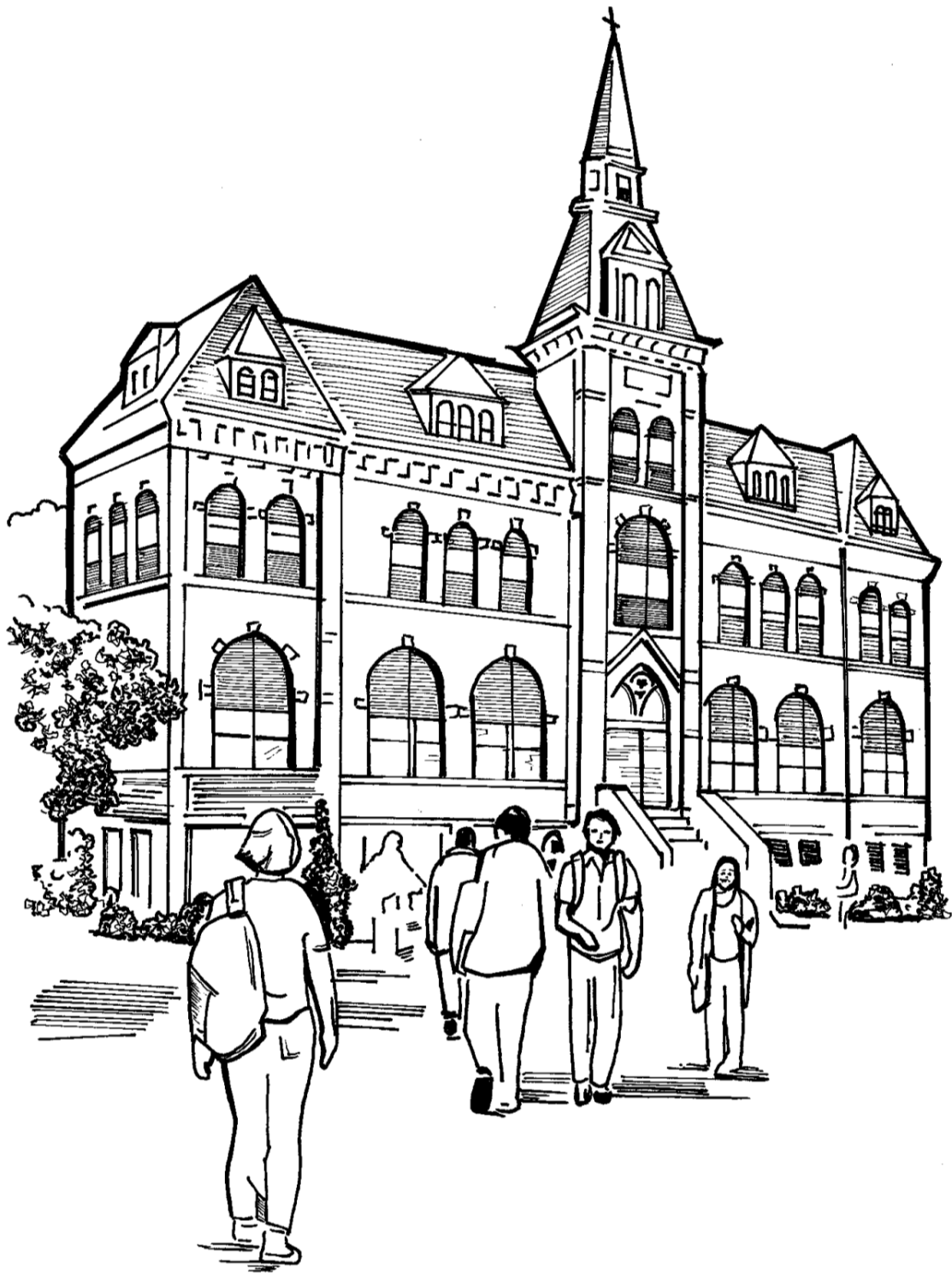
“How do you get to be one?” Joe asked.

“Let’s visit Pastor Daniel and find out,” said Mom.



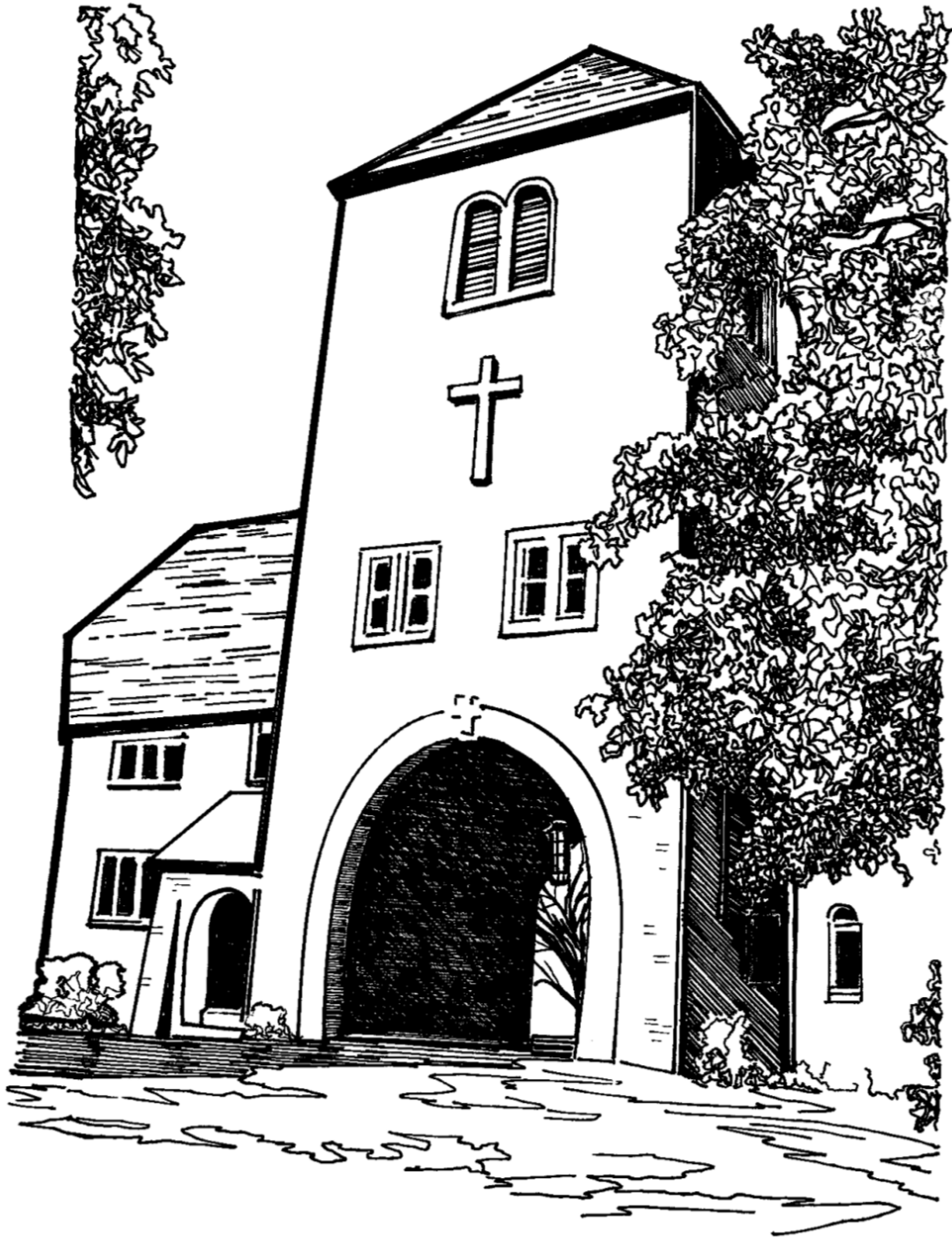
The next Saturday, Joe and his pastor had a good talk. They started in Pastor Daniel's office, where he explained how he became a pastor.

"My own pastor encouraged me to think about ministry," he said, "just like your mom is encouraging you."



“To learn how to be a pastor, I went to two special schools,  
Martin Luther College . . .





... and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.”



“At the seminary, I learned the languages the Bible was first written in, Hebrew and Greek.”

Hebrew

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת  
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

Greek

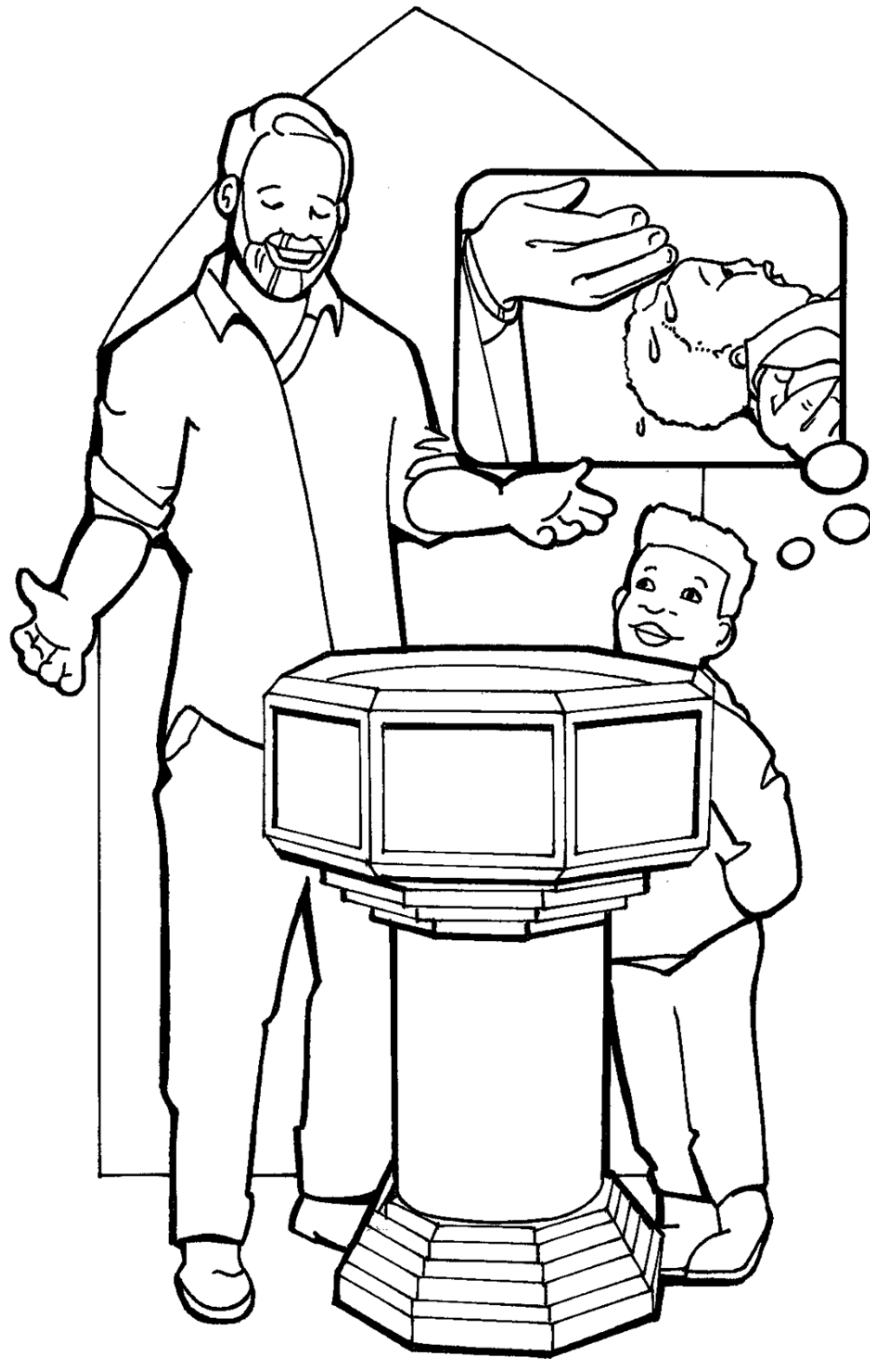
Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ  
λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)



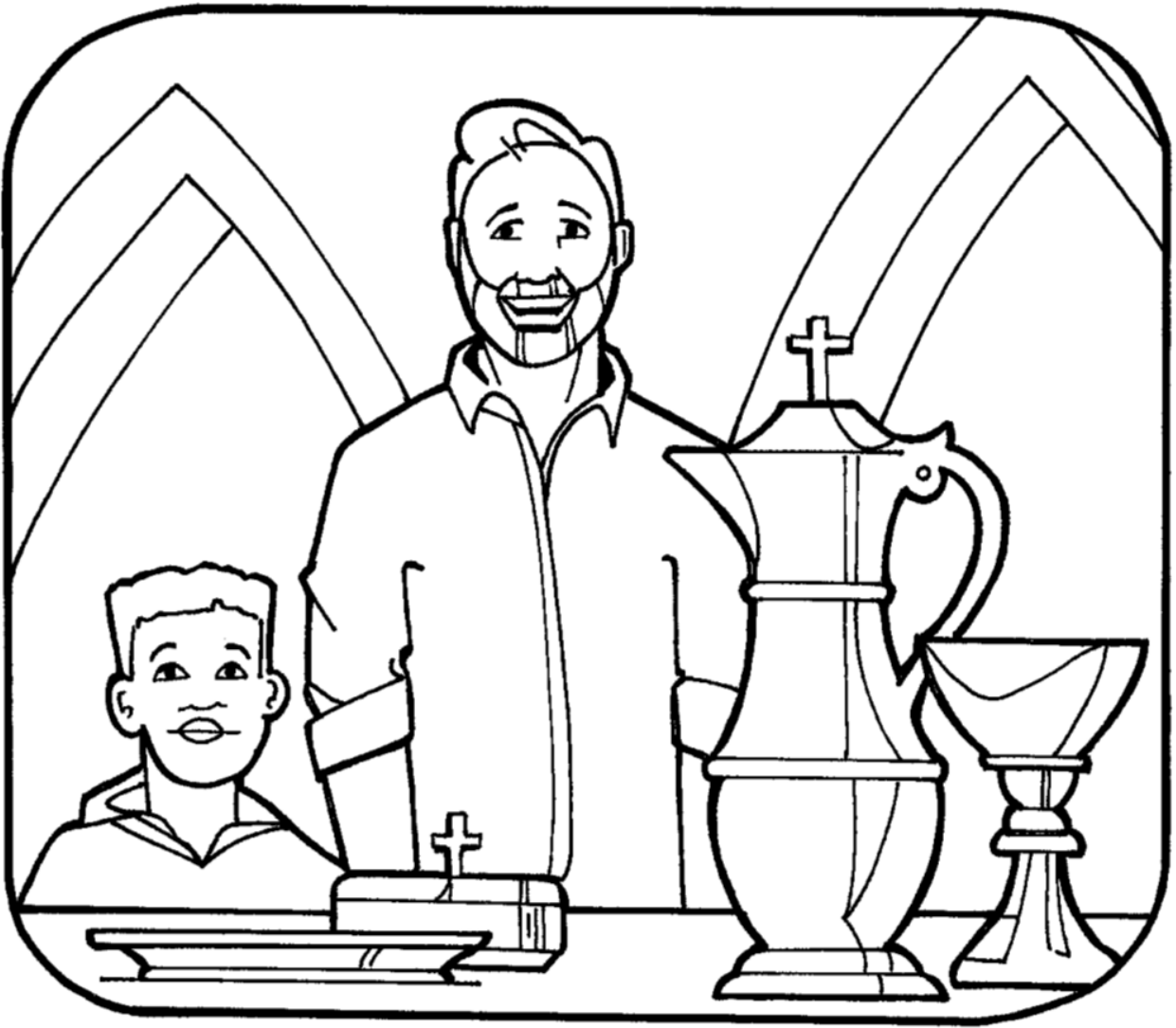
Pastor and Joe walked into the church sanctuary.

Pastor said, “I also learned how to preach a sermon and how to plan worship services and how to lead a congregation.”



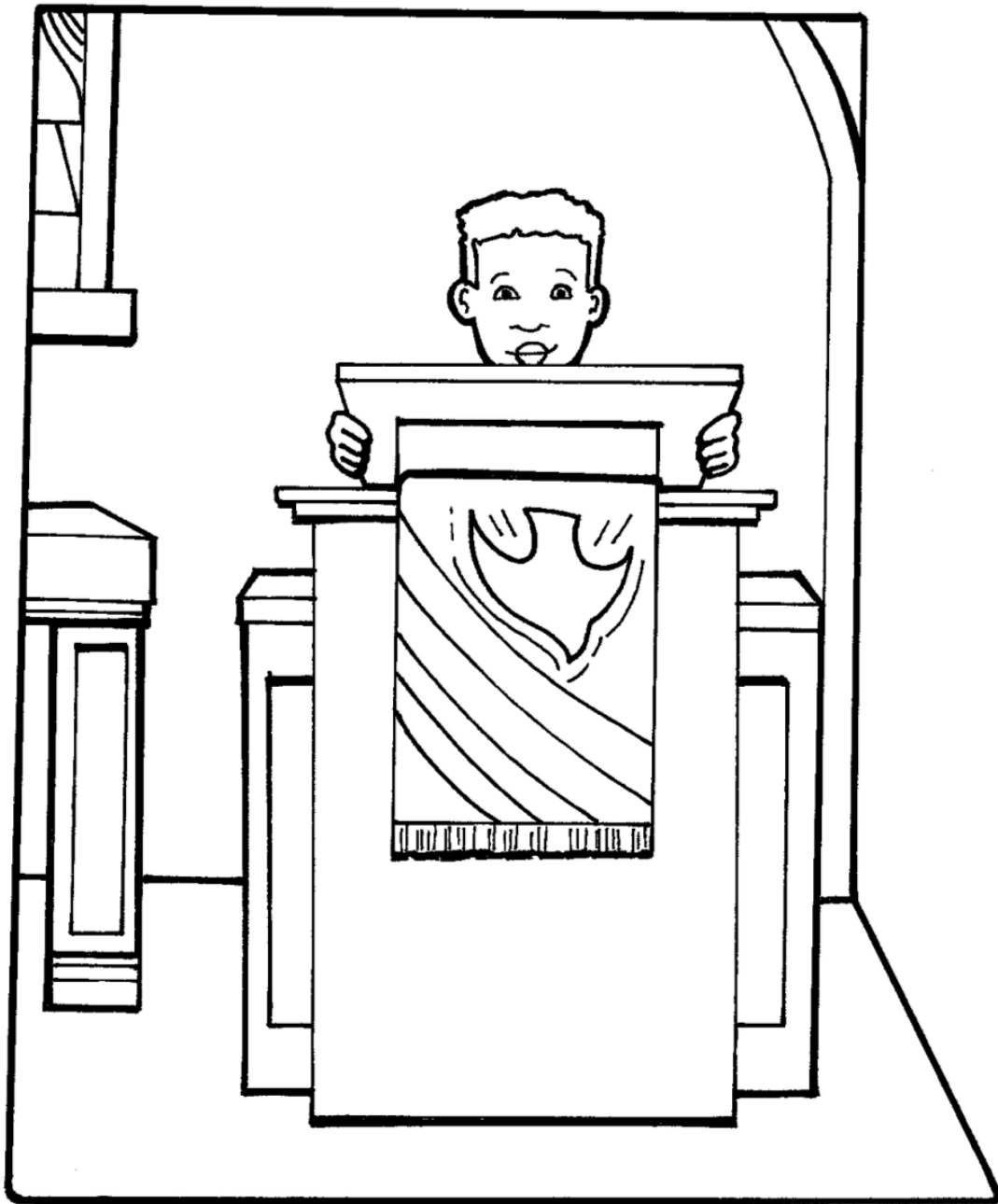
At the baptismal font, he said, “It makes me happy to think about all the little ones that the Holy Spirit brings to faith right here.”

Joe smiled as he remembered his younger brother’s baptism day.



Then they stepped to the altar.

“Here’s where we celebrate communion,” Pastor said.  
“Think about how the Holy Spirit strengthens people’s faith as they receive Jesus’ body and blood in the bread and wine.”



When Pastor Daniel invited Joe to stand in the pulpit and read from the Bible, he was excited—but nervous too. “Playing church is fun,” he said, “but I don’t know if I could talk in front of a whole church full of people.”





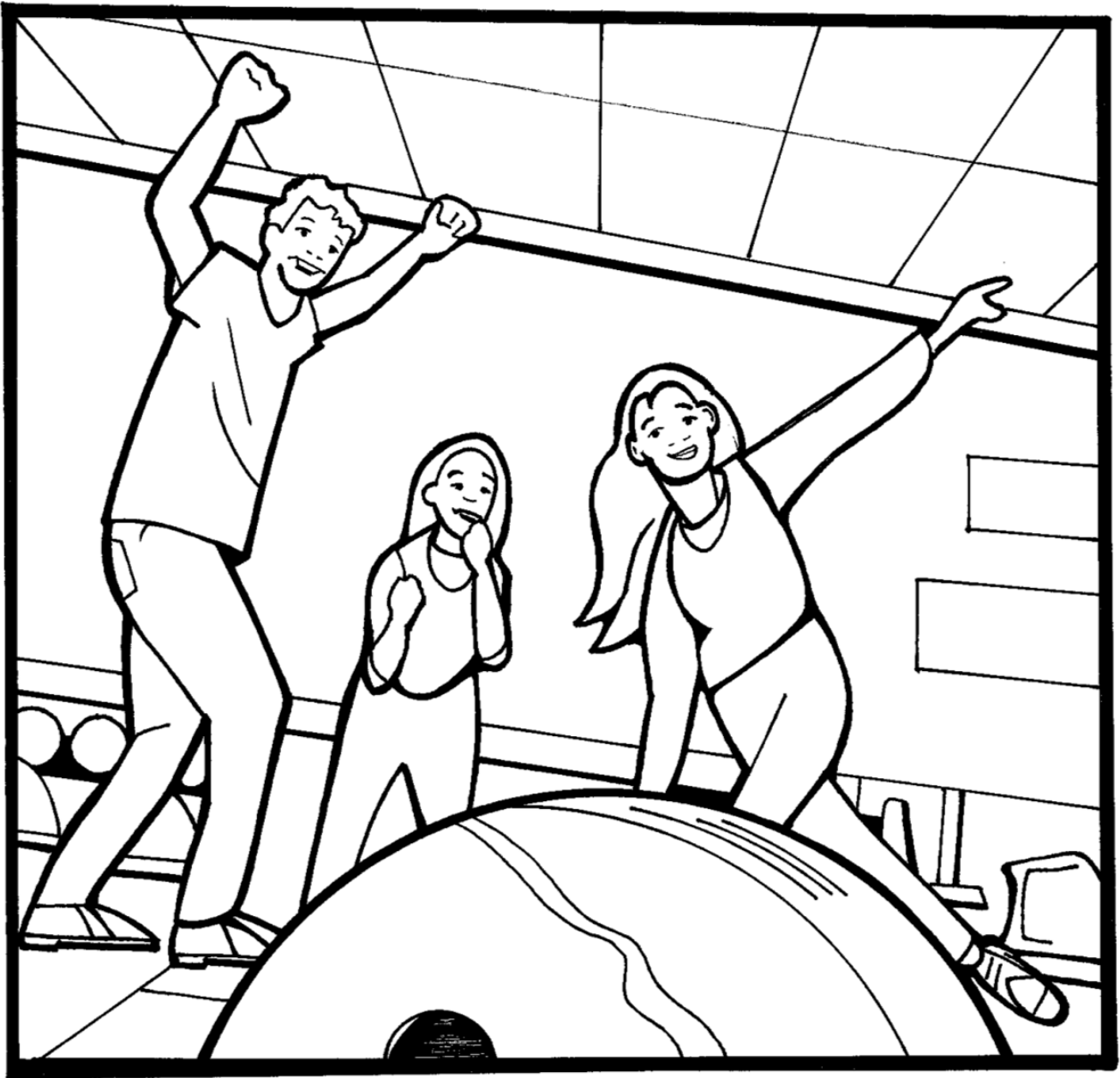
Pastor Daniel pointed to a nearby stained glass window.

He said, “Think about how regular men—fishermen, like Peter and John—boldly preached the good news of Jesus. God made them strong, and he’ll give you the gifts you need too.”





“There’s more to being a pastor than just leading church services,” Pastor said. “I also teach Bible studies on Sunday mornings and during the week. I teach catechism class to the upper-grade kids who will be confirmed and invited to receive the Lord’s Supper.”



“I organize Bible studies and fun activities for the high school students. Last week we went bowling, and next month we’re going to a paintball course.”



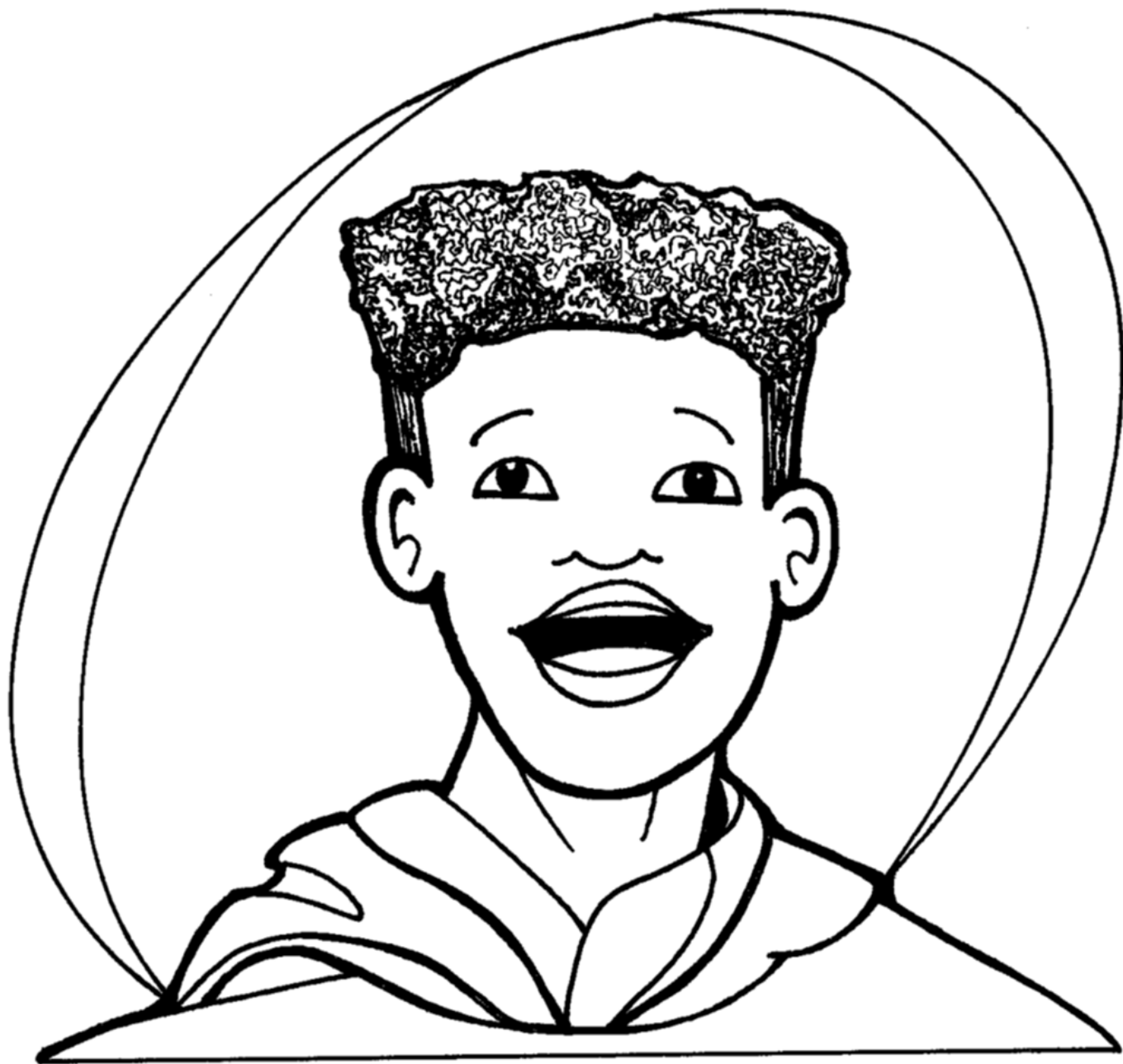
“I pray with people who are in the hospital and remind them that God is with them. I visit older members who can’t get to church and have little worship services with them at their homes.”



“Sometimes people just come to talk to me when they’re worried about something. We talk about God’s love and promises, and we pray together.”



“And I find ways to meet people who don’t go to church so that I can tell them that God loves them and so do we. If they want to become members of our church, I teach them all the important teachings of the Bible—especially about Jesus, who died to save them.”

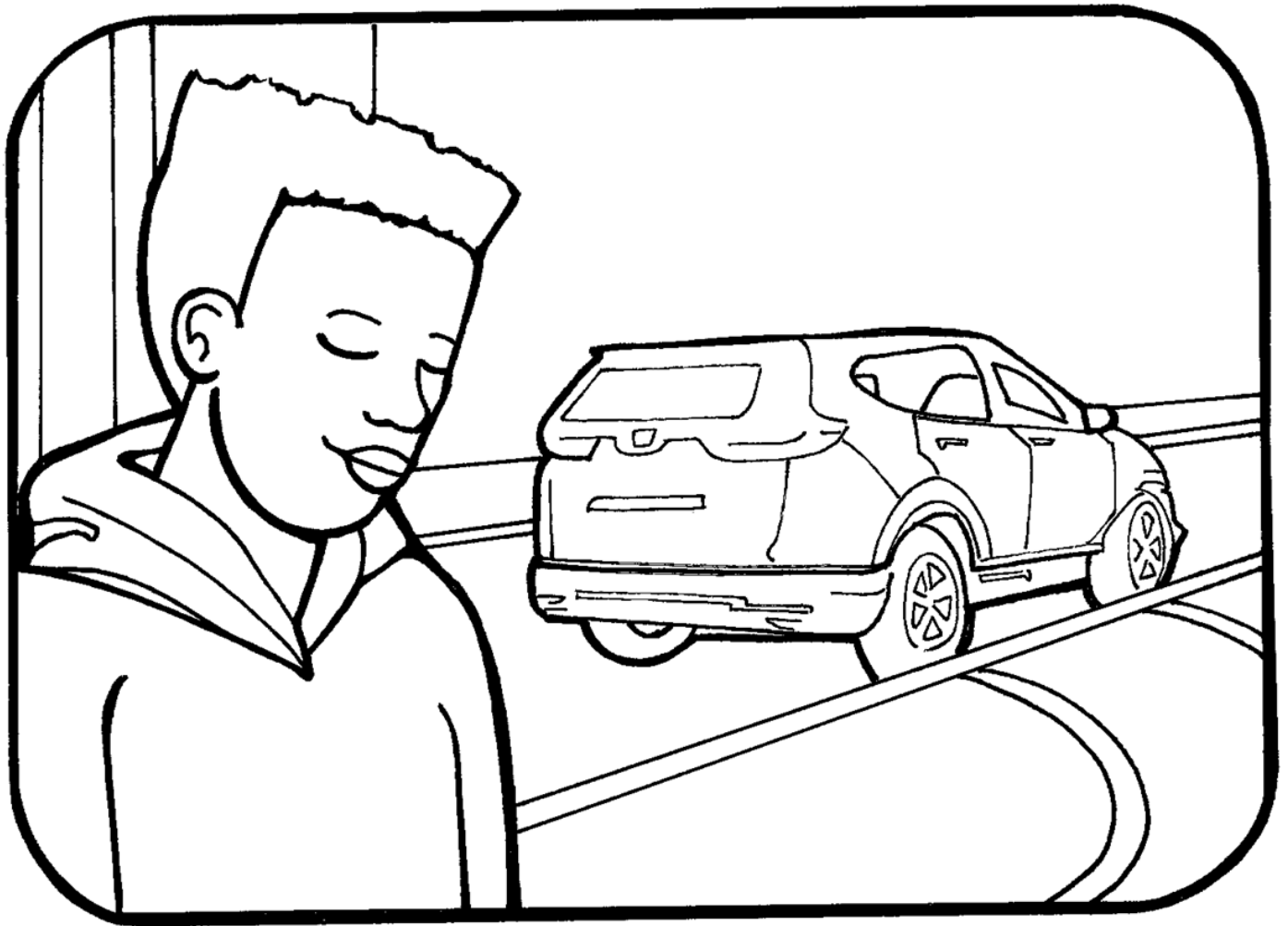


“Pastors help a lot of people,” said Joe. “I didn’t know about all of these important things that you do.”



“There’s nothing more important!” said Pastor Daniel.  
“Pastors use the Word of God to guide and encourage people through this life on earth, and to get them ready for the next life—where they’ll be for eternity!”



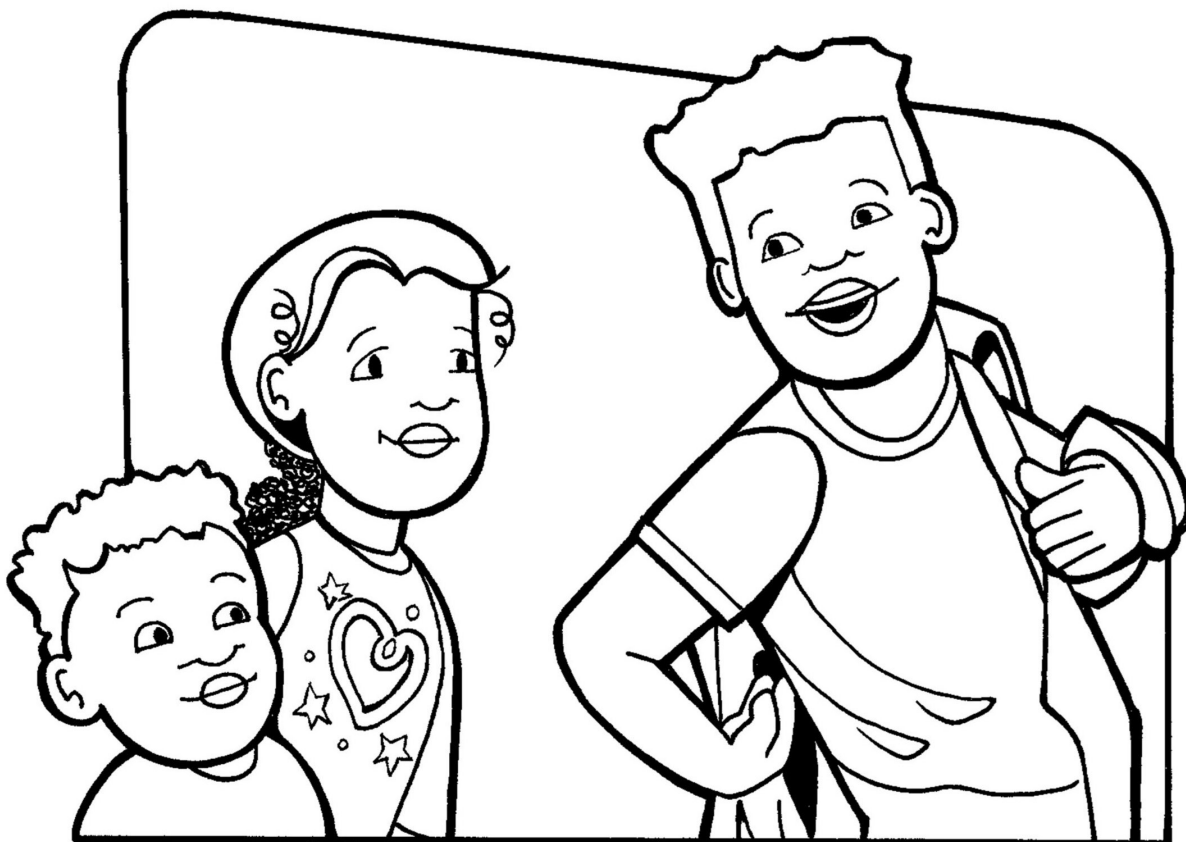


Pastor Daniel had given Joseph a lot to think about. As he headed to the car, where Mom was waiting for him, he said a prayer in his heart:





“Dear God, I want to serve you and tell people about Jesus.  
Help me to become a pastor. Amen.”



When Joe got home, he said to his sister and brother,  
“Hey, let’s go play church!”

## **Let's Talk About Pastors!**

1. Pastors are very busy! What are some things they do?
2. Where do they go to school to learn how to be Lutheran pastors?
3. What are the two Bible languages that pastors learn?
4. Boys, what would you enjoy about being a pastor?
5. Let's pray for our pastors . . . and for more boys to become pastors!



Coloring book written and illustrated  
by Peter Schaewe DMLC '87  
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