

Martin Helps the Church

Written and Illustrated by Kevin Boozer

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Martin wanted to be a lawyer when he grew up.



One day Martin was scared during a bad storm.

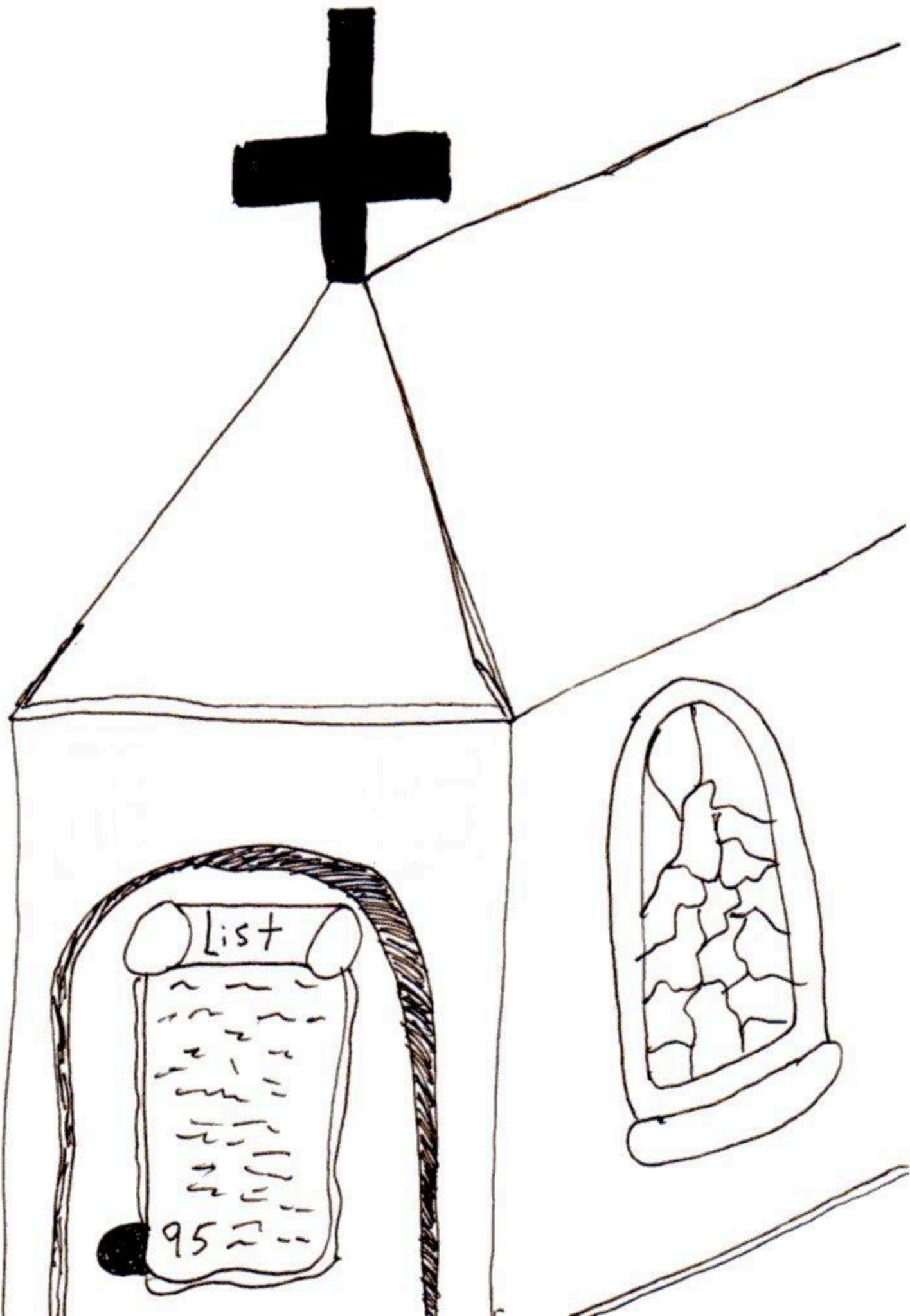
“Lord, if you let me live, I promise to become a priest!” he prayed.



The storm passed and Martin kept his promise to become a priest.

One day Martin wrote a list of things he believed would make the church better. The list was too long for a sermon.

“Hmmm. I will put the list on the church door where people can read it.”



The list made some people angry.

“Martin, you are wrong!” yelled a man named Tetzel.

“We believe that when people do something wrong they must buy papers saying they are forgiven. People must have these papers to help buy their way into heaven!”



“Tetzel, that is not true! Jesus’ love is free to all who believe in him. The Bible teaches that forgiveness is God’s gracious gift. It is not for sale.”



Tezel lost the argument, so Frederick the Wise argued with Martin. Frederick lost worse than Tetzel had.

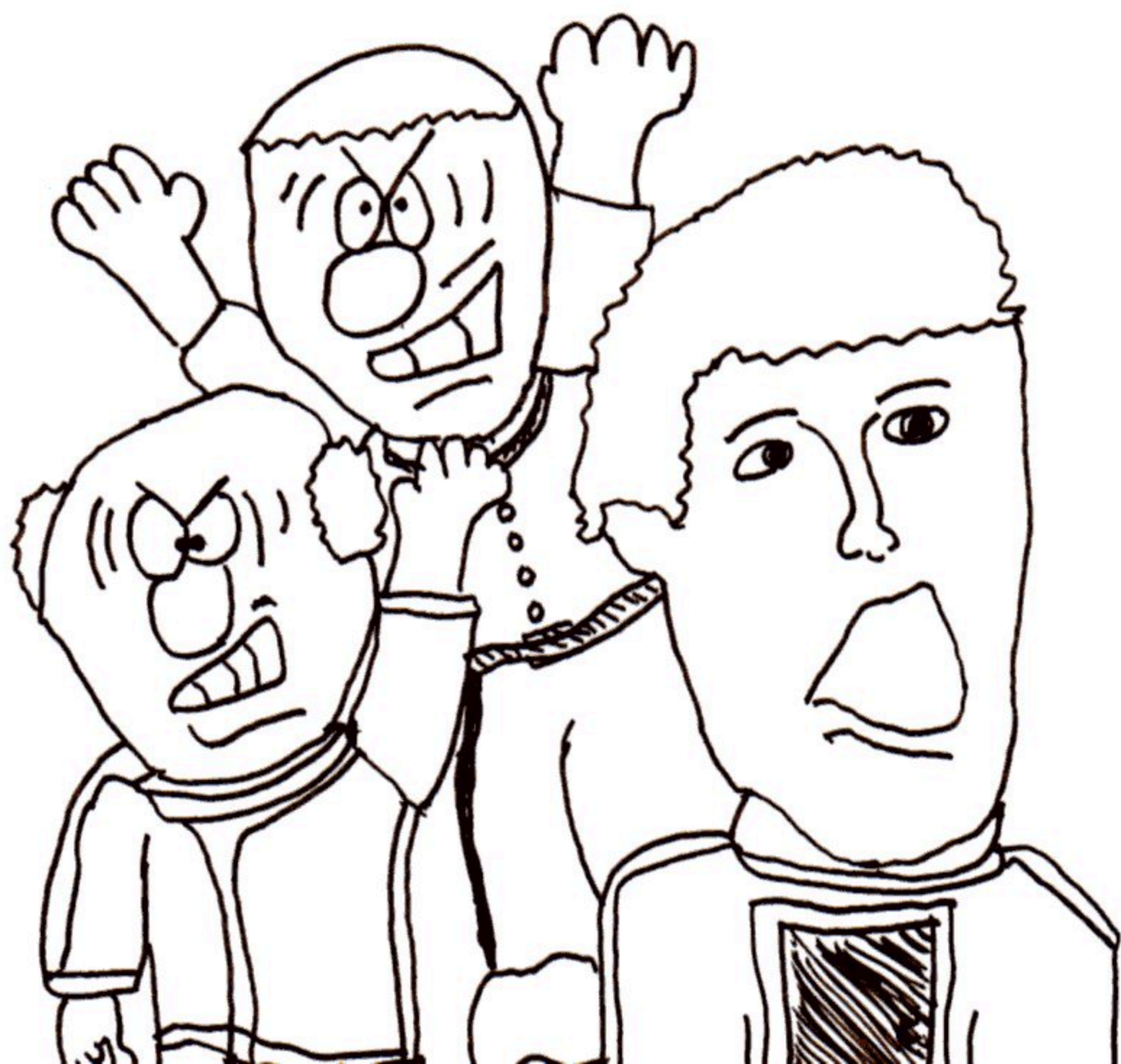


Some men hated Martin's list so much they wanted to kill him, but Martin's friends learned of the evil plans and hid him in a safe place.

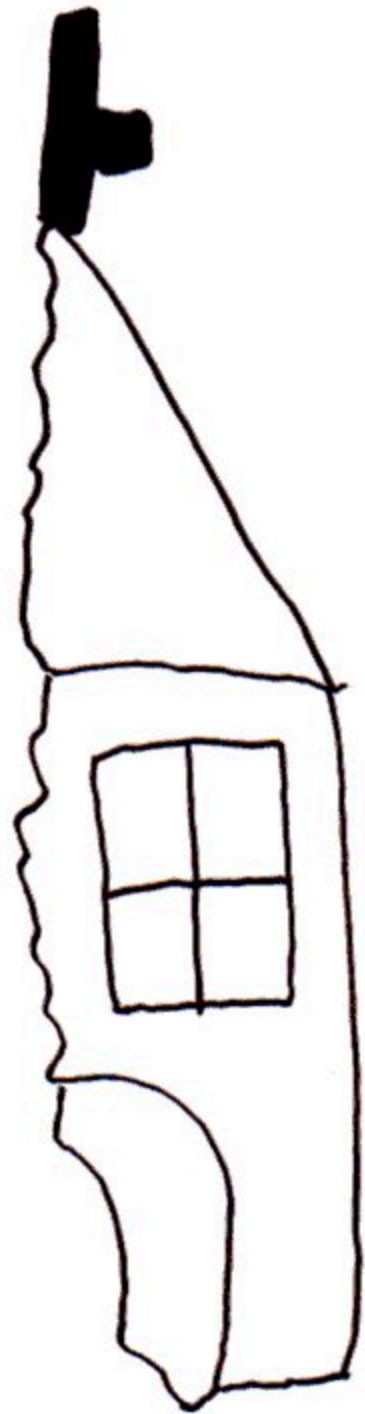
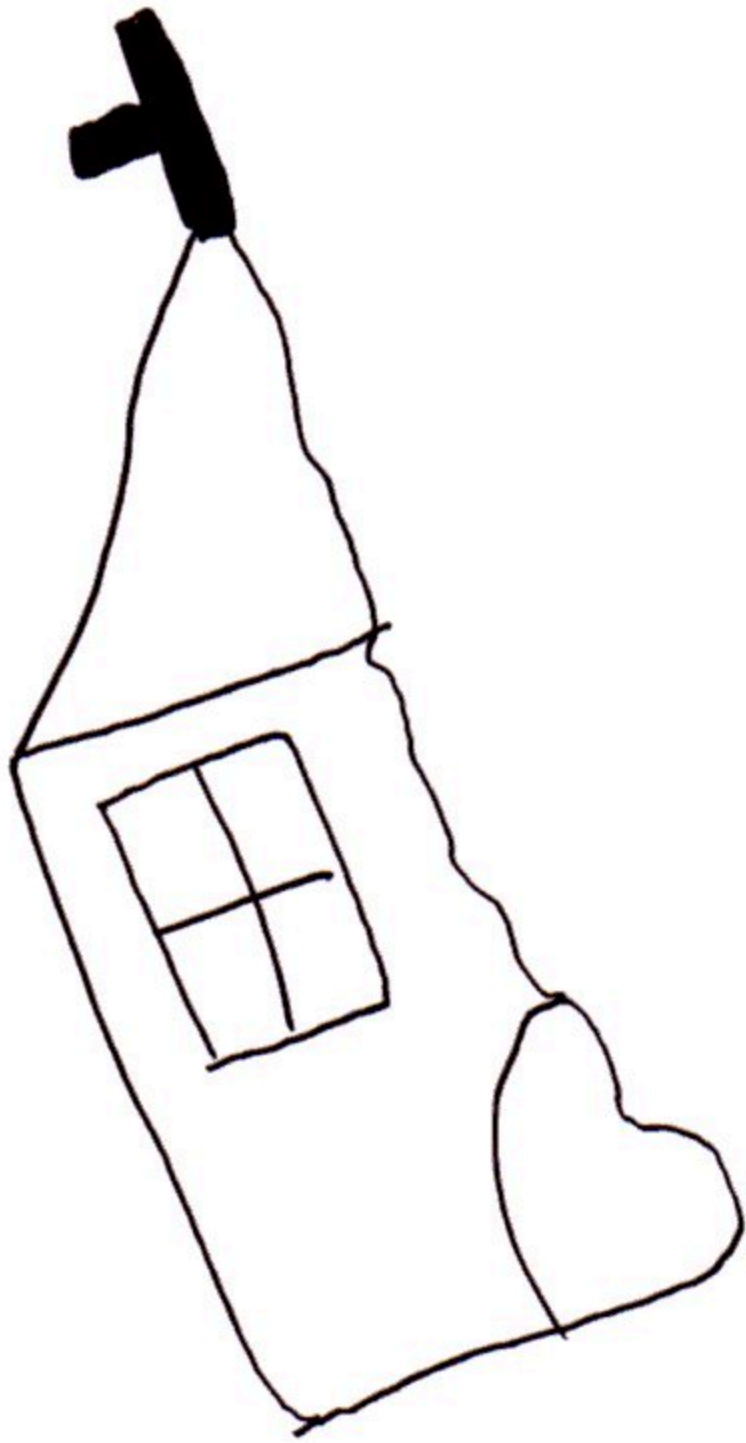
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More people argued about Martin's list.

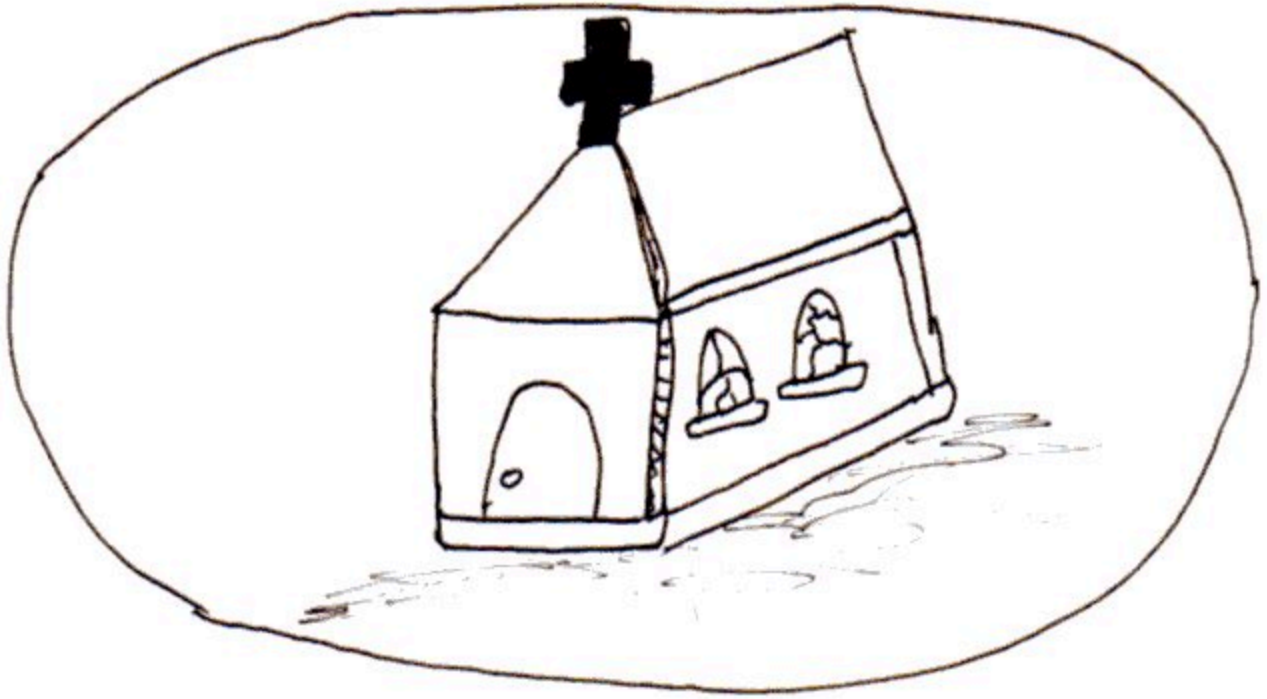
"He should no longer be a priest," they said.



Martin and his friends were sad. They wanted to fix the church, but the church was breaking.



“It is time to start a new church,” they said.



They used hymns and books from the old church, but in their new church, people read the Bible Luther translated in their own language.



More churches like theirs began when people read Martin's list and learned about God's forgiveness.



They were named Lutheran churches after Martin Luther, the man who helped people read the Bible and taught them that Jesus' love is free to all people who believe in Him.

