

Gathering Speakers

Rev. Tyler Cronkright | Speaker

Rev. Tyler Cronkright lives in Mt. Clemens with his wife Brandi and serves as the Associate Pastor of Discipleship at St. John, Rochester. He previously served for nearly 11 years at Family of God, Detroit. As a complement to teaching, preaching, and writing, he also co-hosts the Suffering Servants podcast. In his down time, he loves cycling, reading and learning, traveling up north, and cheering for the Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Tigers, and Michigan Wolverines.



Mrs. Rose Ferguson | Sectional Leader (Music Room)

Rose Ferguson served as Minister of Family Life and Youth at St. Mark, Flint, for 12 years before her call changed to being full-time Mom to her three kids. She and her husband Steve live in constant states of chaos, confession, and contentment as they attempt to raise those kids to be Christ followers and decent human beings. Her favorite family activities include taking walks while playing Pokémon Go, visiting the park or children’s museum, and doing craft projects with her kids.

Sectional: Be a Fisher of Men, Not a Man in a Fish

Have you ever been swallowed by a fish? Have you ever disobeyed directions? If you answered yes to either of those questions, this one is for you! Find out how God could already be calling you at this stage of your life, and how to follow His path instead of getting stuck in the muck of your own decisions. You may be more of a Jonah than you think, and you too may find some fishy business waiting for you at this session.

Rev. Christopher Jung | Sectional Leader (Heritage Room)

Rev. Christopher Jung went to Lutheran grade school, high school, and college. After earning a Master’s Degree in Hispanic Language and Culture from Wayne State University in 2011, Chris went on to Concordia Seminary St. Louis to earn a M.Div. and STM in Practical Theology. Chris thrives by studying languages and teaching Bible Studies. After extensive traveling, he recently accepted a call at St. Matthew, Lexington, Mich., where he lives with his wife and daughter. Chris’s life goal is to teach others the beauty and action of God’s Word in their daily lives.



Sectional: So what now?

Now that we know that Jesus has died for us because we are sinners, we have been called to be Christians. However, *knowing something* and *doing something* are two separate things. In this session, youth will individually practice the things that Christians should do: praying, reading the Bible, being the Church with each other and in community. Be emboldened to practice the faith that God has given to you! Bring your Bibles!



Mrs. Karen Kempin | Sectional Leader (Band Room)

Karen Kempin lives in Midland with her pastor husband Dan, and they have been blessed with four children. She has served as a D.C.E. and as a classroom teacher, and currently serves as St. John’s Director of Worship Music. Her family roots are in Chicago, so don’t expect her to root against the Cubs and the Bears, but she has lived in Michigan for

twenty-five years and considers it her home. Karen is very excited to be a part of the Jr. High Gathering!

Sectional: What a Mess!

God created a beautiful, perfect world. When sin entered the world, things got messy. Fast forward to today—the world is messier than it has ever been. How is a Christian to live in the mess—to be in the world, but not of the world? We will explore examples in Scripture of young people who were able to stand firm in the messy culture in which they lived. We will discover ways that we can follow their examples and be the light of the world!

Mrs. Ashley Paavola | Sectional Leader (The Rock)

Ashley Paavola is the Youth and Family Ministry Director at St. Mark, Battle Creek. She is passionate about helping people experience Jesus through racial reconciliation, trauma-informed care, and ministry with people of all abilities. She has served in every area of ministry to families, from infancy to college to parent support, and in a variety of ministry styles, from established suburban ministry to urban church planting. Ashley and her husband Chris have a multicultural family of seven built through adoption and foster care.



Sectional: Make a Mess of Your Bible

You know that Bible you packed for this trip? Bring it to this breakout session! We’ll unpack how the Bible is a super helpful tool when life gets messy. And we’ll use a color-coded system to highlight passages in your Bible so you can easily flip to helpful verses based on your current messy situation in life. You will bring your own Bible, but all other supplies for this hands-on interactive session will be provided for you!

Music

Swenless | Music

Meet Alex, John, Stephen, and Dean. These brothers in Christ can’t wait to lead high-energy worship and seek the Lord with you in Frankenmuth this summer. Each of these guys have spent years leading youth and families to know Jesus. Trivia: Get to know Swenless Band: Which one is a chiropractor? Who played for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame? Who has 2 garage cats that are brothers? Who has met 2 presidents?

