

Gathering Speakers

Rev. Tyler Cronkright | Speaker

Rev. Tyler Cronkright 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. Laura Bauer | Sectional Leader (Heritage Room, St. Lorenz School)

Laura is mother to four energetic children, wife of an adventurous LCMS pastor, and a baptized child of God. Laura was introduced to Bible journaling in 2016 and has been amazed at the depth and richness it has added to her devotional time and prayer life. Creative, but not necessarily artistic, Laura enjoys working with groups of all sizes to share practical ways in which even the “artistically challenged” can benefit from the hope and peace that comes by spending time in God’s Word. She is also excited to share ways that families and youth can use visual faith to grow closer to each other and, more importantly, to Christ.

Sectional: Gathered by Grace: Created for Community

When we gather in the name of Jesus Christ, we can hear God’s word, receive the sacraments, pray, sing and give thanks. In this sectional, we will take the time to explore various greetings throughout the world in connection with any deeper meanings they hold. Together, we will use a variety of creative art materials to explore how the Bible addresses our ability to gather as a body of believers and what that means for our everyday life.

Mr. Billy Cmeyla | Sectional Leader (Band Room, St. Lorenz School)

Billy was born and raised in Shalimar, Fla. Following high school, he served eight years in the United States Air Force and then went to Concordia University River Forest (now Concordia University Chicago), graduating as a Director of Christian Education (DCE). From 1999 to 2023, he served as a DCE in a variety of congregations in Michigan and Indiana.

Billy currently serves as the Dean of Students at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw. He and his wife Sarah have five children.



Sectional: Better Together - Serving Like Jesus

In this breakout session, we’ll explore how God created us to live and serve together—not alone. Based on Hebrews 10:24–25, we’ll dive into what it means to encourage each other and stir one another up to love and good works. Through real-life examples, interactive discussion, and the example of Jesus Himself, we’ll see that serving isn’t something we have to do; it’s something we get to do. And it’s even better when we do it together!



Mr. Brian Horning | Sectional Leader (Atrium, The Rock)

Brian is the Director of Family and Youth Ministries at Zion, Petoskey where he has served for seven years. He is originally from Midland and graduated from Concordia University Ann Arbor. Brian has served congregations as a DFLM in Utah, Texas, Indiana, and Michigan.

Brian is married to Angie and they have an adopted son named Adam as well as a fluffy Great Pyrenees dog named Lola and a cat named Alice.

Sectional: I Want to Know What Love Is: The Love That Endures Forever

In this session, we’ll dive our heads, hearts, and hands into the big topic that is the L word! You’ve probably heard or asked questions like...What is love? What’s the difference between true love and what the world thinks love is? Why can love be so messy? How can I experience the kind of love that endures all things and endures forever? We’ll learn from God’s enduring Word what true love is, how much we need it, where and how we can receive it and experience it, and how our God works in and through us to bring His true love into the world. Get ready to laugh, think outside the box, and hopefully walk away feeling re-assured of your value and purpose.

Miss Hannah Walsh | Sectional Leader (Music Room, St. Lorenz School)

Hannah discovered her passion for serving youth while volunteering at the Jr. High Youth Gathering from 2011–2014. She attended Concordia University Ann Arbor, graduating in 2017 with a degree in Family Life Education. She serves as the Youth and Family Ministry Leader at Our Shepherd, Birmingham and is currently pursuing a Master of Social Work from Spring Arbor University. When Hannah is not writing papers or leading youth events, she enjoys tending to her jungle of houseplants, strolling through beautiful flower gardens, playing volleyball, and being the fun aunt to her 11 nieces and nephews.



Sectional: Building Each Other Up in Christ Through Real Encouragement

Encouragement — What is it? What is the difference between good encouragement and bad encouragement? In this session, we’ll talk honestly about the difference between **real encouragement** and the kind that doesn’t actually help (or might even hurt). We will look at how God uses us—yes, even in middle school—to “stir up one another to love and good works” as we follow Jesus together. You’ll learn how to support your friends when they’re struggling, speak words that bring hope, and reflect the love of Christ in everyday moments.

Jr. High Gathering Choir | Myles Hayden (Early Childhood Gym, St. Lorenz School)

Enjoy singing praises to the Lord? Join the Jr. High Gathering Choir! Rehearsal sessions will take place during the breakouts at 10:45–11:30 a.m. for Track 2 and 1:30–2:15 p.m. for Track 1. We will also gather at 7:10 p.m. to rehearse in the sanctuary before worship service.

Music

Swen & Dean | Music

Minneapolis, Minn.-based musicians Swen and Dean were born in the same family. As brothers, they offer a unique blend of vocals and an interactive acoustic stage vibe. On stage and off the stage, this captivating duo is all about faith-based relationships built on trust and Truth. While on the road, they are committed to supporting the local churches in their ministry to youth and families. When not on the road ... you can find them with their own families, in their churches, or in a local coffee shop.

