### Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church Milwaukee, WI

# Rev 7 2025 BE NOT AFRAID

JUNE 13<sup>™</sup> - 15TH









#### AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS BOOKLET

With all of the events happening in the world around us, one question is coming to the forefront more than perhaps it has in recent years: What is the role of the Church?

The history of the Church from the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to the time of the Apostles and throughout history highlights what the Church is called to be. Salt and light. Ambassadors of the gospel. Those who embrace face over fear. The Bible clearly tells us that we'll be known by our love for one another (John 13:35). God's love also invites us to speak truth and work through challenges instead of pushing our way around them. Through this, we also highlight the glory of God as we live in this world but not of it, and make the hope of the gospel known, knocking down the barriers that would seek to hide the gospel's beauty.

Welcome to Be Not Afraid, otherwise known as Rev 7 2025. In this booklet, you'll find information about some of the highlights of this conference.

In this conference, you'll find a safe place to engage, learn, and grow. You'll find more than a conference—a community of others who share your passion for the gospel and for community and for walking with those God has placed in our lives, both those who sit next to us in our various ministry contexts and those who have yet to fill the empty seat.

Have any questions about Rev 7 2025 that aren't covered in this booklet? Reach out to Voice of the Middle Ground by emailing admin@voiceofthemiddleground.com or message us on Facebook at Voice of the Middle Ground or on Instagram at @votmg. We look forward to connecting with you soon.

#### SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

Embrace faith over fear with these speaker highlights for Rev 7 2025. Each of these highlighted speakers is coming to this year's Rev 7 conference to help equip you as you prepare to live as an ambassador of the gospel in your ministry and community setting. Here's just a few of the speakers you'll have the opportunity to connect with.



#### PASTOR/PROFESSOR AARON ROBINSON

Pastor Professor Aaron Robinson was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he attended St. Marcus Lutheran Church. Following this, he attended Northwestern Prep in Watertown, Wisconsin where he spent 7 incredible years.

He then completed his undergraduate degree in New Ulm, Minnesota before receiving his Masters degree from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin and spent three years in New York establishing Sure Foundation Lutheran Church along with Pastor Steven Gabb. Since then, Professor Robinson has served in various roles including pastor of Fairview Lutheran Church, teacher at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, and Director of Discipleship at





Wisconsin Lutheran High School. These decades of experience now continue with Professor Robinson's role as an English Professor and as Cultural Diversity Coordinator at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota.

#### **NEW MISSION ROLLOUT**

Looking for ways to equip those in your ministry setting for diverse and cross-cultural ministry? Embrace this mission and prepare to connect with your new partner in ministry, the ARK Project, led by Pastor Aaron Robinson. Discover more when you connect with this project during Voice of the Middle Ground's new mission rollout.



#### DR. VICTOR VIETH

Victor Vieth JD, MA, is the Chief Program
Officer for Education & Research for Zero
Abuse Project, a founding board member
of GRACE, and a board member for Voice
of the Middle Ground. He is a former child
abuse prosecutor and spearheaded the

implementation of 22 state and international forensic interviewing courses and in the development of the developing Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) undergraduate and graduate programs.

Christian courage has always meant living out the gospel in the spirit of both truth and love. What does this mean in our modern era? Join us at Rev 7 2025 to hear Dr. Victor Vieth speak on this topic as he serves as our keynote speaker. Find out more about Dr. Victor Vieth here.







#### DR. SCOTT GOSTCHOCK

In his 30+ years of educational and community service, Scott has served cross-cultural, inner city, and urban education settings as a teacher, administrator, and community activist. He has also served as a full-time professor of

education and currently is an adjunct professor for a number of universities and colleges. These unique settings and wealth of experiences have provided a tremendous backdrop for Scott's educational presentations on CliftonStrengths (formerly StrengthsFinder), transformative leadership work, executive coaching, global leadership and more. Find out more about Dr. Scott Gostchock here.

Ministry is more effective when each member of that ministry operates according to the strengths God has given and when we don't shy away from the partner up opportunities ahead of us. In this presentation by Dr. Scott Gostchock, discover what this could look like in your unique context. Save your seat for Rev 7 2025 today.







#### JESSICA GEHRKE

Jessica Gehrke studies the intersection of public memory, race, and popular culture. She is currently working on her dissertation at the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee, focusing on the public memory of Martin Luther King, Jr.

in sitcoms. Previously, she taught at Wisconsin Lutheran College in the communication department. She enjoys teaching Sunday School, attending plays, and reading in her free time.

Language is the portal of meaning. As we learn to navigate this portal well, we become greater communicators both in the way that we hear what others are saying and thereby also in the way that we speak and communicate care and our desire to be ambassadors of the gospel in an ever more rapidly changing world. The messages your church doesn't send both internally and externally are just as important as the ones you send internally.

Our understanding of how language has been used historically, including in the way the Church in America has used language to put up barriers to the gospel message, helps equip us to avoid these pitfalls







going forward. It matters how we love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. And, it matters how we love our community. In both of these capacities, we are serving as ambassadors of the gospel. In both, it is a profound calling to work through the challenges that occur at the intersection of faith and race as opposed to remaining quiet or attempting to tiptoe around them. Learn more when you join us for Rev 7 2025. Register now to save your seat.





#### WORSHIP

When we connect in worship, we grow together as community. This is an important principle for each Rev 7 Conference. Rev 7 2025 is no different. Friday and Saturday of Rev 7, we'll connect in the afternoon for worship. On Sunday, we'll attend morning worship at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church and close out the conference with a closing ceremony and devotion after the service.

#### READINGS TO HELP IN PREPARATION

- Genesis Chapters 37-50
- Isaiah 6:1-7
- Revelation 7:9-11

#### **VIZIO GROUPS**

Conference fatigue is real. Vizio Groups are Voice of the Middle Ground's answer to this. Step into conference sessions uniquely designed to help you process, decompress, and prepare to engage your ministry setting and community. Vision + Action = Impact. Get ready to step into that impact now when you register and save your seat for Rev 7 2025. One key focus for Vizio Groups this year is Christian anthropology.



## **REGISTER NOW**

Your next step to stepping into embracing community starts here today when you register for Rev 7 2025. Prepare to take that step now. Have questions? Email admin@voiceofthemiddlegroun d.com or message us on Facebook or Instagram.

