

Commencement

May 2025



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY



Table of Contents

Bethel University
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

- 6 College of Arts & Sciences Ceremony I
Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 9 a.m.
Graduates in Art and Design, Biblical and Theological Studies, BUILD, Communication Studies, Education, English and Journalism, General Studies, History, Philosophy and Political Science, Languages and Cultures, Music and Theatre, and Reconciliation Studies
- 9 College of Arts & Sciences Ceremony II
Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.
Graduates in Business, Nursing, Public and Community Health
- 10 College of Arts & Sciences Ceremony III
Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 2 p.m.
Graduates in Applied Health Sciences, Biological Sciences and Chemistry, Biological Sciences and Psychology, Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics and Engineering, Psychological Sciences and Social Work
- 12 College of Adult & Professional Studies and Graduate School Ceremony
Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 7 p.m.
All graduates
- 18 Bethel Seminary Ceremony
Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.
All graduates
- 20 Honoring 2025 Faculty Emeriti
- 21 A History of Bethel University
- 22 Academic Regalia and Symbols
- 23 A Note of Congratulation to Our Graduates



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF ADULT &
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES, AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

Saturday, May 24, 2025
Benson Great Hall

Presiding
Ross Allen, B.A., President

PROCESSIONAL
“March No. 1” from *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, Edward Elgar
Michael Ferguson

Order of Processional
Laver and Ewer Bearers
Marshals
Candidates for Certificates in Applied Studies
Candidates for Associate’s Degrees
Candidates for Bachelor’s Degrees
Candidates for Master’s Degrees
Candidates for Doctoral Degrees
Faculty and Administration
Program Personnel

WELCOME
Ross Allen

INVOCATION
Steve Thompson, Professor of Music Education (9 a.m.)
Brian Holland, Associate Professor of Business (11:30 a.m.)
Foster Graif, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education (2 p.m.)
Tracey Reimer, Program Director Leadership in K-12 Administration Doctoral Program
and Administrative Licensure Program (7 p.m.)

HONORING OF FACULTY EMERITI
Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., University Provost

GRADUATE REFLECTIONS
Mild Du, B.A. Business and Political Sciences, and Media Production (9 a.m.)
Caleb Briggity, Certificate in Applied Studies (9 a.m.)
Chris Oliver, B.A. Business (11:30 a.m.)
Maya Eidenschink B.S.N. Nursing (11:30 a.m.)
Caden DeWall, B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12 (2 p.m.)
Larissa Minshull, B.S. Biology and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (2 p.m.)
Ellen Gosswiller, B.S Psychology (7 p.m.)
Nathan Ziegler, Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration (7 p.m.)

WELCOME TO THE BETHEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Jennifer Scott, M.A., Senior Director of University Relations

CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS
Ross Allen
Robin Rylaarsdam

Assisted by
Cheryl Fisk, Ed.D., University Registrar

Hooding of Graduate School Candidates (7 p.m. only)

Jennifer Nelson, Associate Professor, Counseling
Deanna Towns, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Molly Wickam, Professor, Teaching
Nicholas Zeimet, M.S.W., Social Work Director of Field Education; Assistant Professor

BENEDICTION

Marion Larson, Ph.D., Professor of English Emerita (9 a.m.)
Ann Holland, Ph.D., Professor of Nursing Emerita (11:30 a.m.)
Sherryse Corrow, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology (2 p.m.)
Joel Frederickson, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology (7 p.m.)

RECESSIONAL

“Toccata” from *Symphony No. V*, Charles-Marie Widor
Michael Ferguson

Please remain at your seat until after the recessional.



The ewer and laver—in common vernacular, the pitcher and basin—are the academic symbols that lead Bethel University’s formal procession to cultivate selfless service, humility, and sacrificial love as stated in John 13:14 (NIV):
“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

Our laver and ewer bearers are:

Chris Shofner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies | Laver (9 a.m.)
Catherine Wright, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies | Ewer (9 a.m.)
Bethany Gerdin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Nursing | Laver (11:30 a.m.)
Jeff Jacob, Ph.D., Professor of Economics | Ewer (11:30 a.m.)
Paula Soneral, Ph.D., Professor of Biology | Laver (2 p.m.)
Seth Paradis, Ph.D., Professor of Applied Health Sciences | Ewer (2 p.m.)
Jeff Jacob, Ph.D., Professor, MBA, Graduate School, Management Information Systems (B.S.)
College of Adult and Professional Studies | Laver (7 p.m.)
Kristi Gustafson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Post-Baccalaureate Nursing | Ewer (7 p.m.)

Marshals are College of Arts & Sciences students who are chosen because of their outstanding academic achievement.

Our marshals are:

David Viecele, Class of 2027
Hannah Bentz, Class of 2027



Cords or medallions may be worn over the graduation gown to recognize outstanding academic or athletic achievement as follows:

The university awards gold honor cords to College of Arts & Sciences graduates at three levels of GPA standing using the Latin honor system:

cum laude, *magna cum laude*, and the highest level, *summa cum laude*.

In the College of Adult & Professional Studies, the university awards gold honor cords to graduates in bachelor’s degree programs based on cumulative GPA.

Members of the National Association of Social Workers of Minnesota, a global organization that advocates for social workers, wear teal cords.

Graduates in Bethel’s Pietas Honors Program wear a medallion on a blue ribbon.

Members of The 25, a leadership cohort, wear white and gold cords

The university awards navy and white cords to NCAA intercollegiate athletes.

Graduates who belong to a national or international society may choose to wear these insignia:

Members of Act Six, an academic society committed to servant leadership on campus and throughout the Twin Cities, wear golden medallions.

Members of Lambda Pi Eta, a communication honor society, wear crimson and silver cords.

Members of Phi Alpha, a social work honor society, wear blue and gold cords.

Members of Pi Sigma Alpha, a political science honor society, wear red, black, and white cords.

Members of Sigma Theta Tau, a nursing honor society, wear purple and white cords.

Members of Sigma Zeta, a science and mathematics honor society, wear a medallion on a gold ribbon.

Members of TriBeta, a biological honor society, wear red and green cords.



Following the recessional, everyone is invited to a reception on the second level of Brushaber Commons.

Signs and hosts will direct you.

Guests are encouraged to meet graduates and faculty by program banners at the reception.

If you need assistance, please ask event staff.

Candidates for Graduation

College of Arts & Sciences | 9 a.m. BUILD Program Certificates in Applied Studies

Jennifer N. Anderson
Certificate in Applied Studies

Madyson Bartsch
Certificate in Applied Studies

Caleb Lee Briggity
Certificate in Applied Studies

Hailey Anne Gilbertson
Certificate in Applied Studies

Mariana Lauren Patrica Grace
Certificate in Applied Studies

Ashton James Lafleur
Certificate in Applied Studies

Iris Scarlet Lee
Certificate in Applied Studies

Sophia Grace Meyers
Certificate in Applied Studies

Madeline Paige Nelson
Certificate in Applied Studies

Jenna Grace Perkins
Certificate in Applied Studies

Faith Lea Rono
Certificate in Applied Studies

Blake Schumacher
Certificate in Applied Studies

Alixandra Melisa Standish
Certificate in Applied Studies

Eleanor Rosalee Sturgis
Certificate in Applied Studies

Molly Denise Thompson
Certificate in Applied Studies

College of Arts & Sciences Associate’s and Bachelor’s Degrees

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Samantha R. Ebberts
A.A. General Studies

Taylor Suzanne Fruetel
A.A. General Studies

Ava Heide
In absentia
A.A. General Studies

Miliana Marie Hoffman
A.A. General Studies

Sofia Isabelle Ishanova
A.A. General Studies

Fiixoo Korme Koji
A.A. General Studies

Jordan Lee Lutgen
A.A. General Studies

Ava Mei Xu McClelland
A.A. General Studies

Ethan Lawrence McDermott
A.A. General Studies

Micah William Miller
A.A. General Studies

Rahma Abdullahi Mohamud
A.A. General Studies

Xandra Ruth Pull
A.A. General Studies

Selah Claire Sedlacek
A.A. General Studies

Autum Beverly Stryker
A.A. General Studies

Alexis Hope Thom
A.A. General Studies

Mackenzie Kathleen Thom
A.A. General Studies

Addison Grace Poppe
A.A. General Studies

ART AND DESIGN

Devanie Grace Andre
B.A. Graphic Design

Isabel Jean Byker
B.A. Art Therapy
cum laude

Savannah Jean Danz
B.A. Graphic Design

Raya Elizabeth Decker
B.A. Graphic Design
Art
magna cum laude

Nicolas Michael Hachey
B.A. Graphic Design
cum laude

Emma Renae Lovell
B.A. Graphic Design

Jon Duncan Nils Olson
B.A. Art Therapy

Kyle Matthew Peterson
B.A. Graphic Design
Art

Look Ler Paw Shwe
B.A. Art Therapy

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Thomas Julio Acosta
B.A. Missional Ministries

Elijah Michael Anderson
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies
summa cum laude

Claire Elizabeth Carlson
B.A. Missional Ministries

Emily Grace Hagen
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies
Elementary Education, Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Grace Domenica Johnson
B.A. Missional Ministries
Biblical and Theological Studies
magna cum laude

Thomas Joesph Kenison
B.A. Missional Ministries
summa cum laude

Gabrielle Margaret Kinzer
B.A. Missional Ministries
Communication Studies
magna cum laude

Daniil Magu
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies

Olivia Maurine March
B.A. Missional Ministries

Ashlee Marie Mortenson
B.A. Missional Ministries
summa cum laude

Kassidy Leigh Rouse
B.A. Missional Ministries
Biblical and Theological Studies

Kathryn Lynn Smith
B.A. Missional Ministries
Business
magna cum laude

Caleb Jeffrey Winter
B.A. Missional Ministries

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Katelyn Marie Bierma
B.A. Media Production

Erik Paul Brecheisen
B.A. Organizational Communication
Communication Studies

Abbie Ann DeLong
B.A. Organizational Communication
cum laude

Sidney Marie Falkenberg
B.A. Organizational Communication

Mercedes Ann Floerke
B.A. Organizational Communication
magna cum laude

Esther Mejia Gonzalez
B.A. Communication Studies

Gabriel James Kuecker
B.A. Communication Studies
summa cum laude

Lauren Kay Puncochar
B.A. Organizational Communication
Media Production
summa cum laude

Leah Kay Robinson
B.A. Communication Studies
Media Production
summa cum laude

Eli Benjamin Santelman
B.A. Organizational Communication
magna cum laude

Annika Grace Simpson
B.A. Media Production

Emma Troye Studenski
B.A. Media Production
summa cum laude

Bridget Marie Squiers
B.A. Communication Studies

Spencer Luke Vang
B.A. Organizational Communication

Aaron M. Vinje-Smallman
B.A. Communication Studies
Media Production

Christopher Paul Wrzesien
B.A. Organizational Communication

Michaela Jeanine Young
B.A. Communication Studies
summa cum laude

Kyle David Zwart
B.A. Media Production

EDUCATION

Katherine Bell Ahrens
B.A. Educational Studies
magna cum laude

Laura Mikkelt Beltman
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Megan Grace Bohlig
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Hailey Elizabeth Gregg
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12
summa cum laude

Eh Nay Hsar
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12
cum laude

Heidi Hutton
B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12
cum laude
Honors Program

Sarah Jagerson
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
Spanish

Natalie Joy Jones
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Lexie Kay Knutson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12

Anissa Anne Lee
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Joshua Edward Lee
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
History
magna cum laude

Elena Lor
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Brynn Rene Lugar
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Grace Amelia Miller
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
General Studies

Seth Davis Pierce
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Sierra Catherine Renkert
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Michaela Aliya Rosenthal
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
Psychology

Brittney Kristine Schoen
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Kaitlyn Grace Shireman
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Emma Grace Sima
B.A. Special Education
cum laude

Jenna Abbey Spatenka
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12

Abigail Mae Thorstad
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Ellie Marie Wiens
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Anna Kaye Wirtjes
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM

Audrey Lois Anderson
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12
cum laude

Brandt Caleb Botterill
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12

Ellie Marie Clennon
B.A. English

Abigail Therese Chalmers
B.A. English
summa cum laude

Amanda Lynn Holmberg
B.A. Journalism

Maya Delilah Phillips
B.A. English
History
summa cum laude

Annelise Karen Raisanen
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12
summa cum laude

Alyssa Grace Timmons
B.A. Special Education
summa cum laude

Maya Frances Weber
B.A. Special Education
summa cum laude

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Brody Erick Carlson
B.A. History

Mild Du
B.A. Business and Political Science
Media Production
magna cum laude

Joseph Ray Franzen
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
History

Amelie Kay Fumagalli
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
History
magna cum laude

Jonathan Eric Gibbons
B.A. History
Political Science

Colin James Heckman
B.A. Political Science

Colby Scott Johnson
B.A. Business and Political Science
Biblical and Theological Studies

William Peter Karkoc
B.A. Business and Political Science

Luke Paul Koehn
B.A. Political Science

Sarah Elizabeth Nienhaus
B.A. Applied Philosophy

Madison Rae Pelowski
B.A. Political Science
Spanish
magna cum laude

Noah Michael Schmit
B.A. History
Spanish
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Samuel Joseph Schulte
B.A. Political Science
Music

Julia Marie Van Geest
B.A. Political Science
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Grace Emma Walker
B.A. History

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Maren Faith Beaty
B.A. Spanish
magna cum laude

Allison Grace Magnuson
B.A. Spanish
Political Science
summa cum laude
Honors Program

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Kyla Annette Kirsch
B.Mus Applied Performance
summa cum laude

Cadie Lauren Logston
B.Mus Applied Performance

Sabrina Victoria Mecicar
B.Mus Applied Performance

Ajah Narie Walker
B.A. Music

RECONCILIATION STUDIES

Respect Djunga
B.A. Reconciliation Studies
Community Health

Max Feliciano Lopez
B.A. Reconciliation Studies
B.A. Business

Caris Brooke Worsham
B.A. Reconciliation Studies
Psychology
summa cum laude

Candidates for Graduation

College of Arts & Sciences | 11:30 a.m. Bachelor’s Degrees

BUSINESS			
Ethan Simon Amelsberg B.A. Business	Eric Christopher Fouquette B.A. Business	Paige Diane Marie Landis B.A. Business	Ethan John Sailer B.A. Business
Benjamin Andersen B.A. Business	Derek Andrew Fromm B.S. Accounting and Finance <i>cum laude</i>	Isaac David Lange B.A. Business	Pamela Sanchez Medina B.A. Business
Collin Theodore Asplin B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Anna Grace Gardeen B.A. Business	Samantha Marie Lewandowski B.A. Business	Dahlia June Sandberg B.A. Business <i>summa cum laude</i>
Austin Matthew Auld B.A. Business	Andrew Steven Gibbons B.A. Business	Austin D. Magnuson B.A. Business <i>summa cum laude</i> <i>Honors Program</i>	Austin Theodore Schulte B.A. Business
Hailey Ann Baas B.A. Business	Mikaela Lynn Girard B.A. Business	Raymond Walter Maunu, Jr. B.A. Business	Jacob Ji-Sup Shin B.A. Business
Braeden Christopher Bartoo B.A. Business	Jared Michael Grandbois B.A. Business	Greta Elizabeth McArthur B.A. Business and Political Science <i>magna cum laude</i>	William David Sisson B.S. Accounting and Finance History <i>magna cum laude</i>
Jared Jesse Bentrud B.A. Business History <i>cum laude</i>	Dylan Nicole Grilz B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Emma Mae McMahan B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>	Annika Hui Soderlund B.A. Business
Wesley Vincent Brand B.A. Business	Madelyn Claire Hackett B.S. Accounting and Finance <i>magna cum laude</i> <i>Honors Program</i>	Andrew Lorin McMahan B.A. Business	Grace Katherine Solberg B.A. Business <i>summa cum laude</i>
Jonathon James Brand B.A. Business	Hunter Hadsock B.A. Business	Joel David Mekelburg B.A. Business	Gabrielle Lynn Stahl B.A. Business
Adam Maloney Bricker B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Kamilia Eliana Homchik B.A. Business General Studies	Jackson James Olimb B.A. Business	Sarah Karena Stellmach B.A. Business <i>summa cum laude</i>
Nicholas Howard Carlson B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>	Trace Whitley Jensen B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Christopher Andrew Oliver B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Max Anthony Sutter B.A. Business
Gabriel William Chambers B.S. Accounting and Finance <i>cum laude</i>	Isaiah Christopher Norman Johnson B.A. Business	Gelsey Tanisha Paredes-Paredes B.A. Business	Brynn Renee Swenson B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>
Alex Todd Cramer B.A. Business	Madelyn Faith Johnson B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>	Gabriel Walter Pearson B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>	Joshua James Thomsen B.A. Business
Esther Grace Davis B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Carter Matthew Johnson B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Brayden Jay Pitts B.A. Business	Emmalee Tollerud B.A. Business
Jessa Jayne Delich B.A. Business	Kyle Bradley Johnson B.A. Business	Collin David Potvin B.S. Accounting and Finance	Maria Tran B.A. Business <i>summa cum laude</i>
Elizabeth Mary Denchfield B.A. Business	Nolan Allen Jurgenson B.A. Business	David Michael Price B.A. Business	Pajouabri Vang B.S. Accounting and Finance
William Robert Eliason B.A. Business	Erik Robert Kargel B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>	Noah Craige Richards B.A. Business	Isaac Edward Vincent B.A. Business
Anna Grace Evans B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>	Joseph Micheal Kujawa B.A. Business	Katie Ann Rosa B.A. Business	April Marie Volkers B.A. Business
Talia Lucciana Fenn B.A. Business Missional Ministries	Samuel Xiaohu Lagerlund B.A. Business Psychology <i>cum laude</i>	Ethan M. Rud B.A. Business	Benjamin Matthew Weeldreyer B.A. Business
		Taaron Lee Rudzitis B.A. Business	Jack Allan Wellen B.A. Business Business Administration
		Chelby Elizabeth Runge B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	

Hannah Elizabeth West B.A. Business <i>summa cum laude</i>	Ashley Mae Cushman B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Isabel Eileen Johnson B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Josephine Grace Nicole Thomson B.S.N. Nursing <i>cum laude</i>
Emily Ellen Wiltse B.A. Business	Courtney Grace DeWall B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jenna Michele Lillard B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>	Karina Timoshenko B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>
Kyle Willard Woese B.A. Business	Hannah Christine Disbrow B.S.N. Nursing	Samuel John Mastenbrook B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Amelia Rose Torfin B.S.N. Nursing
Andrew David Wright B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Emily Anne Doriott B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Logan Scott Moe B.S.N. Nursing	Daphny Vang B.S.N. Nursing
Caley Theresa Wrzesien B.A. Business <i>magna cum laude</i>	Maya Kathryn Eidenschink B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Lauren Elizabeth Natwick B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Avina Nkaujzoo Vang B.S.N. Nursing Public and Community Health
Caitlyn Lee Wrzesien B.A. Business <i>summa cum laude</i>	Megan Elizabeth Ellerbeck B.S.N. Nursing <i>cum laude</i>	Leyton Robert Petersen B.S.N. Nursing	Madelyn Marie Wagendorf B.S.N. Nursing
Madison Gao Shang Xiong B.A. Business	Mikayla Marie Erlenborn B.S.N. Nursing <i>cum laude</i>	Emma Rose Revoir B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Emily Ann Wert B.S.N. Nursing <i>cum laude</i>
James Robert Yost B.A. Business General Studies	Madison Elaine Flickinger B.S.N. Nursing	Neneh LeeNeneh Saidy B.S.N. Nursing Pre-Nursing	Elle Sue Westhoff B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>
Jane MinJoo You B.A. Business	Hayden Michelle Glander B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>	Julia Elizabeth Sandberg B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Cambria Rose Marie Whalen B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>
Annika Grace Zachor B.A. Business <i>cum laude</i>	Grant Daniel Graber B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>	Christa Ann Sauer B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Brielle Whitman B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>
PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH	Madison Shae Graham B.S.N. Nursing	Emma Katherine Steen B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jonell Mary Wilson B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>
Erik Lewis Jamison B.A. Public and Community Health	Brianna June Haberman B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Apasara Thao B.S.N. Nursing	Gabriella Grace Winter B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>
NURSING	Isabel Bailon B.S.N. Nursing	Alexis June Thayer B.S.N. Nursing	Amy Shouana Xiong B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>
Luciana Elhen Balzer B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>	Brita Elizabeth Hagfors B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>	Faith Marie Thomas B.S.N. Nursing	Alex Paul Zhukouski B.S.N. Nursing <i>cum laude</i>
Abbey Lauryn Berg B.S.N. Nursing <i>Awarded Posthumously</i>	Kristine Lee Hammill B.S.N. Nursing	Sasha Irene Thompson B.S.N. Nursing	
Noah Isaac Carlson B.S.N. Nursing <i>magna cum laude</i>	Kirsten June Heiberg B.S.N. Nursing		
	Olivia Suzanne Hines B.S.N. Nursing <i>summa cum laude</i>		

Candidates for Graduation

College of Arts & Sciences | 2 p.m. Associate’s and Bachelor’s Degrees

APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES			
Katherine Elise Abrahamson B.S. Biokinetics	Constance Onyekachi Azonwu B.S. Biology	Riley Michael Mueller B.A. Biochemistry B.S. Biology magna cum laude	cum laude
Andru Hector Miguel Aybar B.S. Human Bioenergetics summa cum laude	Eric Isaiah Olson B.S. Exercise Science cum laude	Benjamin Michael Ostlie B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology B.A. Chemistry summa cum laude	Jenna Lillian Courneya B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12 cum laude
Alanah Kathryn Barnes B.S. Human Bioenergetics	Grant Alexander Olson B.S. Biokinetics	Caroline Hope Pauls B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Chemistry cum laude	Mya Olivia Decker B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12 magna cum laude
Taylor Malia Barrett B.S. Biokinetics	Autumn Raye Radkey-Earney B.S. Biokinetics	Abigail Christina Shearer B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Biology	Caden Cole Dewall B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12 magna cum laude
Alyssa Marcella Bergeron B.A. Biokinetics-Exercise Science	Isabella Kristine Schmitz B.S. Human Bioenergetics	Brian Gordon Smith B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Molecular Biology summa cum laude	Jamille Reine Edrial B.S. Computer Science
Caden Andrew Boettcher B.S. Rehabilitation and Movement Science cum laude	Emily Lauren Schoen B.S. Rehabilitation and Movement Science	Mirah Marie Stauffer B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology summa cum laude	Jayson Abraham Tiyprebi Ekiyor B.S. Computer Science
Braeden Christine Botterill B.S. Biokinetics magna cum laude	Godsword Amachukwu Simon B.S. Human Bioenergetics summa cum laude	Lydia Grace Marsh B.S. Biology summa cum laude Honors Program	Graci Kathrine Graham B.S. Mathematics and Data Science magna cum laude
Elsie Germaine Broersma B.S. Biokinetics B.A. Psychology	Nathan Douglas Smith B.S. Biokinetics	Larissa Janelle Minshull B.S. Biology Biochemistry and Molecular Biology magna cum laude	Ethan Michael Hall B.S. Computer Science
Dylan James Cieslak B.S. Exercise Science	Ashley Grace Stundahl B.S. Biokinetics	Jonathan Donald Rosenthal B.S. Biology Biochemistry and Molecular Biology summa cum laude	Sarah Marie Holst B.A. Computer Science
Nicholas Aaron Devine B.S. Human Bioenergetics summa cum laude Honors Program	Emma Rose Thole B.S. Human Bioenergetics summa cum laude	Caroline Grace Reding B.S. Biology	Graham Michael Johnson B.S. Computer Science
Georgia Rae Gallagher B.S. Human Bioenergetics cum laude	Luke David Ulbricht B.S. Rehabilitation and Movement Science	Hailey Greta Scholten B.S. Biology summa cum laude	Samuel Donald Johnson B.S. Mathematics and Data Science B.A. Computer Science
Ruby Marie Gernandt B.S. Rehabilitation and Movement Science magna cum laude	Sebastian Leighton Wellman B.S. Biokinetics cum laude	Isaac William Stark B.S. Biology cum laude	Kalin Melanie Johnson B.S. Computer Science B.A. Physics summa cum laude Honors Program
Anna Marie Hanson B.S. Rehabilitation and Movement Science	Megan Elise Wesolowski B.S. Biokinetics cum laude	Lindsey Kay Young B.S. Biology magna cum laude Honors Program	Abbie Renae Lohn B.S. Actuarial Science and Finance summa cum laude
Luke Edward Hoffmann B.S. Rehabilitation and Movement Science	Robert Morrison Whisler B.S. Biokinetics	Eve Cristina Lopez-Schultz B.S. Neuroscience B.A. Psychology magna cum laude Honors Program	David Truman Myres B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
Kennedy Nicole Kueber B.S. Biokinetics magna cum laude	Nora Brielle Wilhelm B.S. Biokinetics summa cum laude	Misgana D. Mamo B.S. Neuroscience Honors Program	Ethan Charles Neils B.A. Computer Science
Emma Catherine Linnett B.S. Human Bioenergetics magna cum laude	Trent Caleb Wilson B.S. Exercise Science	BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CHEMISTRY	Clark Albert Nelson B.S. Software Engineering cum laude
Michael Eule Massa B.S. Biokinetics	Marmonee Yeanee Zokruah B.S. Rehabilitation and Movement Science	Leah Rae Everson B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	
Michael Eule Massa B.S. Biokinetics			
Jamie Marie Alejandra Meier B.S. Exercise Science	Johnathan Michael Audette B.S. Biology	Jack William Hanson B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	

Candidates for Graduation

College of Adult & Professional Studies | 7 p.m. Associate’s and Bachelor’s Degrees

ASSOCIATE’S DEGREES	HUMAN SERVICES	Cindy Leilani Peek B.S. Nursing <i>with honors</i>	SOCIAL WORK
Trinity Rose Bigelbach <i>in absentia</i> A.A. General Studies	Shawna Nicole Orwoll B.A. Human Services		Chloe Jael Mick B.A. Social Work <i>with honors</i>
BACHELOR’S DEGREES	NURSING	Hannah Sarah Thomas B.S. Nursing	
ACCOUNTING	Sarah Rachelle Collins B.S. Nursing	Evelyn Idella Vincent <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Nursing <i>with honors</i>	SPECIAL EDUCATION
Anna Marie Walter <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Accounting	Christopher Echols Ernst B.S. Nursing		Fatuma Khalif Aden <i>in absentia</i> B.A. Special Education
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	Alexandra Kay Etheridge <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Nursing <i>with honors</i>	PSYCHOLOGY	Jazmin Perez Pineda B.A. Special Education
Melanie Blevins <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Business Management <i>with honors</i>	Grace Helena Gilkey <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Nursing	Ben Folen B.A. Psychology	SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDIES
Ciara Monet Kallevig <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Business Management	Marina Pa Houa Her B.S. Nursing	Ellen Gosswiller B.A. Psychology <i>with honors</i>	Jessica Marie Andrews B.A. Special Education Studies <i>with honors</i>
Ann Paulson B.S. Business Management	Emma Hoff <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Nursing <i>with honors</i>	Vanessa Hinrichs B.A. Psychology	Tonya Boyers B.A. Special Education Studies
Jared Rohwer B.S. Business Management		Richelle Renee Roithner-Soderberg <i>in absentia</i> B.S. Nursing	Cinnamon Bragg B.A. Special Education Studies
CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES	Robsan Moroda B.S. Nursing <i>with honors</i>	Alexandra Runyon B.A. Psychology <i>with honors</i>	Alison Oslin B.A. Special Education Studies <i>with honors</i>
Teresa Bardon B.A. Christian Ministries		Susan Stella Shannon B.A. Psychology <i>with honors</i>	Nicolette Rheude B.A. Special Education Studies <i>with honors</i>

Graduate School Master’s Degrees

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	Bonita Peters M.A. Counseling	Nicole Muzik M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	Penny Doty M.A. Special Education
Maryn Fay Barrett MBA Business Administration	Julianne Revell M.A. Counseling	Ann Niedermayer M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	Jordan Arthur Gustafson <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Special Education
Megan Carlson MBA Business Administration	Courtney Danielle Rinehart M.A. Counseling	Laura Orrock M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	Lauren Johnson M.A. Special Education
Elizabeth Agnes Marie <i>in absentia</i> MBA Business Administration	Emma Rogers M.A. Counseling	Casey Workman M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	Charlene Loverink <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Special Education
Benjamin Matthew Maurer <i>in absentia</i> MBA Business Administration	Morgan Jean Sanbeck M.A. Counseling	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	Mikayla Heidi Magnuson <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Special Education
Tatiana Potapenko MBA Business Administration	CeCelia Simmonds M.A. Counseling	Isabel Lopez M.S. Physician Assistant	
Andrew Radford MBA Business Administration	Mary Michelle Stahl M.A. Counseling	Tiffany Tran M.S. Physician Assistant	Caleb Quernemoen <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Special Education
Katelyn Grace Strand MBA Business Administration	EDUCATION K-12		Martha Roberts M.A. Special Education
Faith Tholkes MBA Business Administration	Natalia Noemi Jankowski M.A. Education K-12	Cassandra Nicole Bade <i>in absentia</i> MSW Social Work	STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP
William John Toomey MBA Business Administration	Alexis Sorbo M.A. Education K-12	Hannah Marie Baker MSW Social Work	Stanley Her M.A. Strategic Leadership
Theodore Barkley Wahl MBA Business Administration	Denise Joy Syverson M.A. Education K-12	James K. David MSW Social Work	Rebecca Lynn Sola <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Strategic Leadership
Heather Wang MBA Business Administration	Carrie Joy Webber M.A. Education K-12	Victoria Horstmann MSW Social Work	TEACHING
Nathan Wilson MBA Business Administration	Kathleen Wittig M.A. Education K-12	Lydia Killoran MSW Social Work	Rebecca Diaz M.A. Teaching
Morgan Wittner MBA Business Administration	Xiaojing Zhou <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Education K-12	Brenda Mix MSW Social Work	Benjamin William Jasmer <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Teaching
Alicia Yang MBA Business Administration	MEDICAL SCIENCES	Chloe Rain Nossyr MSW Social Work	Joseph Stephen Matia <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Teaching
COUNSELING	Jharna Adhikari M.S. Medical Sciences	Juanita Reichstadt MSW Social Work	Efe Mensah-Brown M.A. Teaching
Ellie Allen M.A. Counseling	Joseph Cornelius M.S. Medical Sciences	Kayla Renney MSW Social Work	Krystal Murphy M.A. Teaching
Mason DeCambaliza M.A. Counseling	Swedes Klogber M.S. Medical Sciences	Hayden Paige Rusco MSW Social Work	Melody Shryock M.A. Teaching
Susan Diekman M.A. Counseling	Kateland Rindy M.S. Medical Sciences	Bryn Aurora Soland MSW Social Work	Lindsay Simons-Lide M.A. Teaching
Tracy Grochow M.A. Counseling	Yongyee Yang M.S. Medical Sciences	Ashley Solheim MSW Social Work	Alan Daniel Swanson <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Teaching
Cayla Halloran M.A. Counseling	NURSE-MIDWIFERY	Riley Stegman MSW Social Work	Kayla Tromborg M.A. Teaching
Rebecca Hanson M.A. Counseling	Melissa Andersson M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	Nikki Thomas MSW Social Work	
Karli Monahan M.A. Counseling	Ericka Lynn Dalton M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	SPECIALEDUCATION	Kate Irene Trosen <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Teaching
Maggie Nolby M.A. Counseling	Tabatha Erlandson M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	Elizabeth Bloom M.A. Special Education	
Andrew Oster M.A. Counseling	Taylar Hash M.S. Nurse-Midwifery	Molly Kathleen Boss <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Special Education	
	Anesha Martin M.S. Nurse-Midwifery		

Graduate School Doctoral Degrees		
Krista Lynn Aadland Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration Dissertation: <i>Equitable Educational Outcomes for New-To-Country SLIFE Students in Minnesota: The Student Perspective</i> B.A., Bethel University M.A., Bethel University	Cheng Her Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration Dissertation: <i>Hmong American Caregivers and Kindergarten Readiness</i> B.S., Crown College M.A. Ed., Hamline University	Joel Edward Olson Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration Dissertation: <i>Understanding the Lived Experiences of Minnesota's PSEO Students: A Qualitative Exploration</i> B.A., Gustavus Adolphus College M.A., Bethel University
Joseph Bakker Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education Dissertation: <i>A Phenomenological Study of the Lived Experiences of Online Business Faculty During the Transition to Offering Online Programs</i> B.A., Dordt University M.Ed., Dordt University	Sarah Michelle Kofler Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education Dissertation: <i>Navigating the Crossroads: Peer Academic Support, On-Campus Work Experiences, and the Journey Toward Self-Authorship</i> B.S.E., University of Wisconsin Oshkosh M.S., University of Wisconsin Oshkosh	Jessica Lane Phelps Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education Dissertation: <i>Investigating the Relationship Between Discovery Learning and Student Engagement and Knowledge Acquisition in Montessori and Traditional Schools</i> B.A., Texas Tech M.Ed., Bethel University, Tennessee
Karen Balmer Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration Dissertation: <i>From Teacher Attrition to Teacher Retention: The Role of School Principals</i> B.A., Taylor University	Rachel Meixner Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education Dissertation: <i>Why I Stay: A Qualitative Appreciative Inquiry Study Exploring Teacher Longevity in an Urban Educational Setting</i> B.A., K-8 Education, Communication Arts Concentration, Augsburg University M.Ed. Special Education, Augsburg University	Jaclyn Rehmke Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration Dissertation: <i>The Association Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Professional Quality of Life: Assessing Secondary Traumatic Stress, Burnout, and Compassion Satisfaction in Minnesota Teachers</i> B.S., University of Wisconsin M.Ed., University of Minnesota
Cassie Castro Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration Dissertation: <i>Special Education Student Success Factors for the Online K-12 Learning Setting</i> B.A., Huron University M.A., University of St. Thomas	Anna Malaika Muhovich Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education Dissertation: <i>More Than Just a Seat at the Table: Examining the Relationship Between Campus Climate, Intergroup Interaction, and Retention in Christian Higher Education</i> B.A., Bethel University M.A., University of Northwestern St. Paul	Norma Gina Lombardi Sciarra Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration Dissertation: <i>The Relationship between Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) Training, Teachers' Children's Book Choices and Perceptions of Censorship in Kuwait</i> M.A., University of Minnesota M.Ed., University of Minnesota Ed.S., University of St. Thomas
Brooke Inez Ellingson Eischens Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education Dissertation: <i>Uncovering the Links: Drug Use, Mental Health, and Undergraduate Student Academic Success Using Data From the 2022â€“2023 Healthy Minds Study</i> B.S.N., Bethel University M.S., Nurse Midwifery Bethel University		

BETHEL SEMINARY

Commencement Exercises

Saturday, May 24, 2025
Benson Great Hall

Presiding
Ross Allen, B.A., President

PROCESSIONAL
“Trumpet Voluntary,” Jeremiah Clarke
Cindy Reents

Order of Processional
Laver and Ewer Bearers
Marshals
Candidates for Master’s Degrees
Candidates for Doctoral Degrees
Faculty and Administration
Program Personnel

WELCOME
Ross Allen

PRAYER OF INVOCATION
Peter T. Vogt, Ph.D., Dean of Bethel Seminary

HONORING OF FACULTY EMERITI
Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., University Provost

GRADUATE REFLECTION
Tate Harrison, M.Div. Candidate

WELCOME TO THE BETHEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Jennifer Scott, M.A., Senior Director of University Relations

SONG OF PROCLAMATION*
“Be Thou My Vision,” Traditional Irish

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.	Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and Thou only, first in my heart High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
--	--

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word, I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord. Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.	High King of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heaven’s joys, bright heaven’s sun. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O ruler of all.
--	---

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

– Translated by Eleanor Hull

GRADUATE REFLECTION

Lisa Welter, D.Min. Candidate
Tate Harrison, M.A., Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry

CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Ross Allen
Robin Rylaarsdam

Assisted by

Cheryl Fisk, Ed.D., University Registrar

Hooding of Seminary School Candidates

Jeannine Brown, Ph.D., Professor of the New Testament
Peter Jankowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy
Denise Muir Kjesbo, Ph.D., Program Director, Professor, Director of The Cory Center for Children’s Ministry
Jeff Sanders, M.Div., Associate Dean of Formation and Professional Development

INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNION

Andy Rowell, Th.D., Associate Professor of Ministry Leadership

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Kaz Hayashi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Old Testament

BLESSINGS

Katie Friesen Smith, D.Min., Adjunct Faculty, Thesis Advisor
Denise Muir Kjesbo, Ph.D., Program Director, Professor, Director of The Cory Center for Children’s Ministry
Herb Grant, Ph.D., Professor of Marriage & Family Therapy
Donna Johnson, D.Min., Director of Internship and Placement

BENEDICTION

Donna Johnson, D.Min., Director of Internship and Placement

RECESSIONAL†

“Toccata” from *Symphony No. V*, Charles-Marie Widor
Cindy Reents

**Please stand if you are able.*

†Please remain at your seat until after the recessional.



The ewer and laver—in common vernacular, the pitcher and basin—are the academic symbols that lead Bethel University’s formal procession to cultivate selfless service, humility, and sacrificial love as stated in John 13:14 (NIV):
“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

Our laver and ewer bearers are:
Sandy Oslund, M.L.I.S., Resource Sharing Librarian | Laver
DesAnne Hippe, Ph.D., Professor of Theology | Ewer

Marshals are College of Arts & Sciences students who are chosen because of their outstanding academic achievement.
Our marshals are:
Amia Hall, Class of 2025
David Viececi, Class of 2026



To recognize outstanding academic achievement, Bethel Seminary awards gold honor cords to master’s degree candidates at three levels of GPA standing using the Latin honor system:
cum laude, *magna cum laude*, and the highest level, *summa cum laude*.



Following the recessional, everyone is invited to a reception on the second level of Brushaber Commons.
Signs and hosts will direct you.

Guests are encouraged to meet graduates and faculty by program banners at the reception.
If you need assistance, please ask event staff.

Candidates for Graduation

Bethel Seminary | 4:30 p.m. Certificates in Biblical Studies

Nicole M. Bogert <i>in absentia</i> Certificate in Biblical Studies	Dana Minor Certificate in Biblical Studies	Christopher M. Snyder <i>in absentia</i> Certificate in Biblical Studies	Lorraine V. Snyder <i>in absentia</i> Certificate in Biblical Studies
Tony Murdock Greer <i>in absentia</i> Certificate in Biblical Studies			

Bethel Seminary Certificates in Theological Studies

Theresa Marie Kojetin <i>in absentia</i> Certificate in Theological Studies	Maria Estelle Toomey <i>in absentia</i> Certificate in Theological Studies	Janet Szeman Wong Yip <i>in absentia</i> Certificate in Theological Studies
--	---	--

Bethel Seminary Master’s Degrees

In keeping with Seminary history, master’s graduates are listed in order by the number of credits required per degree and then by last name.

MASTER OF ARTS (CHRISTIAN THOUGHT)	Rebecca Dawn Canny <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry	Tammy Scott M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry	Alexandra Arias M.A. (Theological Studies)
Whitney Dodds <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Christian Thought)	Marta Sara Cortez M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	Samantha Starner M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	Lora Gilb <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Theological Studies) <i>magna cum laude</i>
Shelly Marie Gaddis M.A. (Christian Thought)		Erica Nicole Stricklen M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	Katy Lynn Graham M.A. (Theological Studies) <i>summa cum laude</i>
Brad Hoadley <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Christian Thought)	Tate Harrison M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>magna cum laude</i>		Karl Hanson M.A. (Theological Studies)
Megan Cecilia Remer <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Christian Thought)	Kelly Hensley M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>cum laude</i>	Rebecca Thompson M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	Philip Hinman <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Theological Studies) <i>magna cum laude</i>
Donald Phillip Schlenbecker <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Christian Thought)	Kimberly Dare Jackson M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP	Esa Jan Hytti M.A. (Theological Studies) <i>summa cum laude</i>
Jessica Walk M.A. (Christian Thought) <i>magna cum laude</i>	Rebecca Sue Nelson M.A. Children’s, Youth, and F amily Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	Andrew David Needham <i>in absentia</i> M.A. Transformational Leadership <i>summa cum laude</i>	Richard Dakina Johnson M.A. (Theological Studies) M.Div.
MASTER OF ARTS IN CHILDREN’S, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY		Camellie Zovar M.A. Transformational Leadership <i>summa cum laude</i>	Michelle Marie Kniess <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Theological Studies)
Ana Almanza M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry	Leah Nicole Palmer M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	MASTER OF ARTS THEOLOGICAL STUDIES	Katelyn Rose Mapes M.A. (Theological Studies)
Tanya Area M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>cum laude</i>	Lori Pepiton M.A. Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry <i>summa cum laude</i>	Jeffrey Allan Arias <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Theological Studies)	Thelma Yvonne Pillay <i>in absentia</i> M.A. (Theological Studies)

Austin Tyler Reichow M.A. (Theological Studies) <i>cum laude</i>	Laytopoe Wonzon Daidii M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy	Julia Verene Suppes M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>magna cum laude</i>	Jacob Huang 黃兆崙 M.Div. <i>cum laude</i>
Christian Walk M.A. (Theological Studies) <i>summa cum laude</i>	Kelly Ann Deisinger M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>summa cum laude</i>	Aaron Chad Wellmann M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>summa cum laude</i>	Paul Loescher M.Div. <i>cum laude</i>
Chee Yang M.A. (Theological Studies)	Garland Rose Irene Douglas-Ching M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>summa cum laude</i>	MASTER OF DIVINITY	Chad McDermott M.Div. <i>magna cum laude</i>
MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY	Grace Holst M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>cum laude</i>	Samuel Edward Abu <i>in absentia</i> M.Div.	Timothy Pelczar <i>in absentia</i> M.Div.
Bethany Joy Beck M.A. Ministry	Yelena Lipinskiy M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>summa cum laude</i>	Christopher Aldrich M.Div. <i>summa cum laude</i>	Jacob Gerald Martin Rohrer <i>in absentia</i> M.Div.
Kreg Kastelz M.A. Ministry	Isakar Phab-Ej Lopez M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy	Nick Cocalis M.Div.	Peter Shea M.Div. <i>cum laude</i>
Jill Phillips M.A. Ministry <i>magna cum laude</i>	Katherine Anne Moberg M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>cum laude</i>	Jason Robert Delisle <i>in absentia</i> M.Div. <i>cum laude</i>	Rachel Younis M.Div. <i>summa cum laude</i>
MASTER OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY	Brianna Nelson M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>magna cum laude</i>	Quoc Ngoc Dinh <i>in absentia</i> M.Div.	Seth Navin Zielicke <i>in absentia</i> M.Div. <i>magna cum laude</i>
Natalie Anderl M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy <i>magna cum laude</i>			

Bethel Seminary Doctoral Degrees

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY	Tammie Jean Haveman D.Min. Transformational Leadership Thesis: <i>Emotional Health as a Preventive Measure To Reduce Abuse In Evangelical Ministries</i> B.S., University of Wisconsin M.A., Bethel University, M.A., University of St. Thomas	Pamela Rane Ngunjiri D.Min. Church Leadership Thesis: <i>Barriers to Churches Understanding How They Are Impacted by White Supremacy Culture</i> B.S., Texas College M.T.S., Southern Methodist University M.S.S.W., University of Texas at Arlington	Lisa J. Welter D.Min. Transformational Leadership Thesis: <i>Understanding the Effect of Restorative Leadership Development in Parent or Caregiver Differentiation of Self in Chronically Conflicted Family Systems Experiencing Chronic Absenteeism/Truancy</i> M.A., Bethel Seminary
Brian Allen Brunke D.Min. Biblical and Theological Engagement Thesis: <i>Barriers to Spiritual Growth</i> B.S., Johnson University M.A., Cincinnati Christian University M.S., Indiana Wesleyan University	Paul Andrew Hennings D.Min. Biblical and Theological Engagement Thesis: <i>Measuring Change Readiness In Congregations Searching for a Pastor During A Pastoral Vacancy</i> B.A., Concordia University M.Div., Concordia Seminary	Patrick Kenneth Prentice D.Min. Biblical and Theological Engagement Thesis: <i>A Model for Understanding Anxiety and Practices to Alleviate it as it Relates to Divine Sovereignty and Human Free Will</i> B.C.M., Wayland Baptist University M.Div., Bethel University	Marguerite Williams D.Min. Church Leadership Thesis: <i>The Bridge Builder Project: Social Justice Bridge Builders - A Model For Addressing Racial Justice</i> B.A., University of Houston M.B.A., LeTourneau University
Melanie Cole D.Min. Congregation and Family Care Thesis: <i>Embodying Jesus’ Mission: Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care</i> B.A., Seattle Pacific University M.A., George Fox Evangelical Seminary	Sandra Ives D.Min. Biblical and Theological Engagement Thesis: <i>Vocational Leader Burnout: Exploring the Effects of the Spiritual Discipline of Resting In Solitude on the Mitigation of Burnout for Vocational Ministry Leaders in South Florida</i> M. A., Bethel Seminary		
Cynthia Claypool de Neve D.Min. Transformational Leadership Thesis: <i>Emulating God’s Heart in Embracing and Regulating Our God-Given Emotions</i> A.A., Palomar College B.A., San Diego State University M.A., Trinity College			

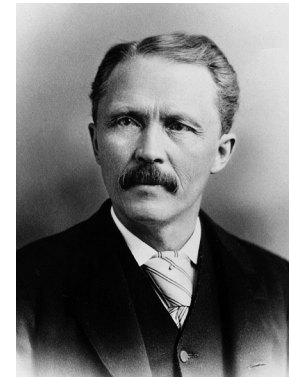
Honoring 2025 Emeriti Faculty

Ann Holland, Professor of Nursing Emerita
Brian Holland, Associate Professor of Business Emeritus
Marion Larson, Professor of English Emerita
Chad Osgood, Academic Dean Emeritus
Mark Strauss, University Professor of New Testament Emeritus
Steven Thompson, Professor of Music Emeritus

Bethel Campus Store will be open
10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday, May 24.



A History of Bethel University



John Alexis Edgren, founder of what is now Bethel University, wrote a letter to Christopher Silene, his first student, and convinced the young Swedish immigrant from Minnesota to attend the new school for preachers by simply stating, “Come, brother; God will provide.” Silene arrived in Chicago in October 1871 to find the city in ruins, the result of a fire only two days before. In the wake of the Great Chicago Fire, the determined teacher and the aspiring student forged ahead in their calling to Christian theological education and ministry preparation.

A fellowship of churches—which became the Baptist General Conference (now Converge), Bethel’s sponsoring denomination—originated in the late 19th century among stalwart Swedish settlers who were scattered across the northern United States. They were pietistic Christians characterized by simple worship, an irenic spirit, and a vital and personal relationship with Christ.

Edgren, born in Sweden in 1839, stands out clearly as the pivotal figure of the third and fourth decades of Swedish Baptist life in America. A gifted linguist, theologian, sea captain, artist, and educator, he had a passion for life and a commitment to excellence in both preparation and service.

Edgren founded what became known as the Scandinavian Department of the Baptist Union Theological Seminary, which was associated with the University of Chicago. From the beginning, he made clear his desire for Swedish Baptists to

have an academy and a college, as well as a ministry training school. His vision was realized when, after brief relocations to Minnesota in 1884 and Nebraska in 1886, the seminary made a permanent move to St. Paul in 1914. The seminary then joined with Bethel Academy, a high school opened in 1905 in Minneapolis by the Swedish Baptist Conference, to become Bethel Academy and Theological Seminary. A campus was constructed on Snelling Avenue adjacent to the state fairgrounds.

In 1931, Bethel Junior College opened, and subsequent to the phasing out of the academy, expanded its academic program to become a four-year liberal arts college in 1947. By 1959, with the awarding of accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, it became evident that room was needed to house the growing schools. Land was purchased, and a new campus was built in the present Arden Hills location. The seminary relocated to the new location in 1965 and the college in 1972. Many enhancements have been made to the facilities over the years to meet the changing needs of the schools.

On July 1, 2004, the corporate name was changed from Bethel College & Seminary to Bethel University, with the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Adult & Professional Studies, the Graduate School, and Bethel Seminary as component schools. Bethel University enrolls more than 4,300 students from all 48 states and 29 countries in undergraduate, graduate, seminary, and adult undergraduate programs. Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bethel University offers rigorous majors and programs in more than 100 areas of study.

Throughout the years, Bethel has remembered its rich heritage and held to the guiding principles of its founder while forging a Christ-led vision for the future.



Bethel Academy and Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN, in 1920.

Academic Regalia and Symbols

Academic Regalia

Academic regalia lend dignity and pageantry to commencements and other college and university ceremonial occasions, and reveal academic achievements through styles of gowns, hoods, and varying colors. The custom of wearing distinctive dress for academic ceremonies dates to the Middle Ages.

In the 12th century, universities took form under the jurisdiction of the church. Most of those studying were clerics in holy orders, monks, or priests. They wore woolen cloaks or habits for warmth in unheated quarters. Attached to the cloaks were cowls or hoods, used to warm their tonsured heads or thrown back in mild weather. Sometimes these hoods served the purpose of holding food or the alms that were dropped in by passersby.

As European commerce began to flourish, persons of the same trade or pursuit formed associations called guilds. Their dress was an outward sign of privilege and responsibility, designed to distinguish the wearer from other guilds and other townspeople. The teaching guild was for the master of arts, and the bachelor was the apprentice of the master.

The styles and colors of academic garb came to vary greatly in Europe. In 1894, most American universities and colleges adopted a uniform code of academic attire drawn up by a convention of representatives called together by Princeton University. The underlying concept was that the academic costume is a uniform that unites a given group of persons (academics) while distinguishing among them by significant variations. Each part of the uniform is therefore significant in characterizing the level of the degree and the institution and discipline conferring it.

Principal features of academic dress are the cap, gown, and hood. The cap worn almost universally in academic processions is the Oxford cap, better known as the mortarboard. From poetry we learn that the cap of scholarship is square to symbolize a book. Another style, called the Cambridge cap, resembles a large beret. Caps and gowns representing degrees from foreign universities may vary noticeably from those in the United States—the most obvious difference being the cap, which is often a soft, round hat of the style worn by medieval scholars.

The use of a dark robe in academic processions is thought to have arisen from the clerical practice of wearing a cape or mantle in religious processions during the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities arose from cathedral schools. Traditionally, commencement gowns have been black. In recent years, however, a number of universities have adopted other hues that signify the school's traditional colors.

The bachelor's gown has long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown has crescent-shaped sleeves descending from the elbows. The doctor's robe has very full sleeves with three horizontal bars of velvet on each sleeve and two vertical velvet bars down the middle of the front. The velvet is either black or the degree color.

Hoods are the most significant conveyors of degree identification. The bachelor's hood is pointed, three feet long, with a two-inch border. The master's hood is pointed, three-and-one-half feet in length, with a three-inch border. The doctor's hood is four feet long, rounded at the bottom, with a five-inch border. The hoods have velvet borders and are lined in silk or satin in the official color of the institution that conferred the degree, with a chevron used for a second color if needed. The color of the velvet border represents the discipline. Investiture with the hood signifies the conferral of the degree.

In practice, the bachelor's hood is rarely worn. Instead, conferral of the baccalaureate degree is signified by moving the tassel from the right to the left side of the cap. All persons possessing at least a bachelor's degree wear the tassel on the left side of the cap.

The president's apparel is notably different from that of the faculty. It is a doctoral-style robe with four horizontal bars on the sleeve. The president wears a pendant medallion, in the form of the school seal, that bears the names of previous presidents.

Academic Symbols

One hundred fifty years ago, John Alexis Edgren founded a seminary that would become today's Bethel University. To celebrate the milestone, and to function as a symbol of servant leadership into the future, Bethel Provost Robin Rylaarsdam commissioned the creation of new academic symbols to be used in commencement ceremonies. In a collaboration between two students and a faculty member, a ewer and laver—in common vernacular, pitcher and basin—were created and now serve as the academic symbols that lead Bethel University's formal processions. The simplicity of these two symbols suggests that the loving act of footwashing be a humble, simple, and common manifestation of faith in action. The decision to place the university's insignia in the bottom of the laver, where one would place their feet for washing, communicates the concepts of servant leadership from Mark 10:43-44. The ewer remains without insignia to represent the selfless love that each graduate is ceremonially encouraged to practice in both their professional and personal lives. The collaborative creation of these symbols lives out one of Edgren's core principles of education:

The relation between teacher and students should not be that of superior and subordinate, but one of real friendship and helpfulness, remembering that One is our Master, and we are all brethren.

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation from Bethel University, an institution with a great past and an exciting future. We have built upon the legacy of John Alexis Edgren, who envisioned a school that educated students by first rooting them in God's Word. With that foundation, students' education equipped them for service, grounded them in Christ, encouraged them in spiritual growth, and guided them through mentoring friendships with faculty and staff.

Today Bethel stands fully within Edgren's vision, offering an education that is excellent, globally engaged, and superior in equipping you to make exceptional contributions for God in the world. We look forward to the significant ways you will make a difference as you live faithfully in the years ahead!

It has been our privilege to have you study at Bethel University in the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Adult & Professional Studies, Bethel Seminary, or the Graduate School. Our prayer is that your Bethel education has taught you what it means to be an adventurous Christ-follower and instilled in you a commitment to help transform the world.



Ross Allen
President



Robin Rylaarsdam
University Provost

The information included in this program is accurate as of the time of publication.



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY