

Commencement

May 2026



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY



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Bethel University

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BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

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

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Benson Great Hall

Presiding

Ross Allen, B.A., President

PROCESSIONAL

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

Cindy Reents (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m.)

Brian Falk (7 p.m.)

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

Brian Beecken, Ph.D., Professor of Physics (9 a.m.)

Chris Gehrz, Ph.D., Professor of History (11:30 a.m.)

Leo Gabriel, D.B.A., Professor of Business (2 p.m.)

Jennifer Nelson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Counseling (7 p.m.)

HONORING OF FACULTY EMERITI

Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., University Provost

GRADUATE REFLECTIONS

Aaron Thomas Grawe, B.A. Chemistry, B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biology (9 a.m.)

Anabelle Grace Linson, B.S. Physics, Applied Physics (9 a.m.)

Danielle Schmidt Buckenmeyer, B.A. Communication Studies (11:30 a.m.)

Elise Abigail Henry, B.A. History, Social Studies Education, Grades 5-12 (11:30 a.m.)

Isaac Timothy Regel, B.S.N. Nursing, (2 p.m.)

Grace Elaine Steffen, B.S.N. Nursing (2 p.m.)

Amanda Pendergast, M.S. Medical Sciences (7 p.m.)

Rodney Benjamin, M.S. Medical Sciences (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

Hoarding of Graduate School Candidates (7 p.m.)

Eydie Shypulski, D.Min., Professor of Social Work
Amy Evans, Ph.D., Professor of Counseling
Julie Ann Vingers, Ph.D., Clinical Professor of Nursing
Diane Dahl, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Dean of Nursing, Chief Nursing Administrator

BENEDICTION

Gretchen Wrobel, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology (9 a.m.)
Barrett Fisher, Ph.D., Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education (11:30 a.m.)
Diane Dahl, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Dean of Nursing, Chief Nursing Administrator (2 p.m.)
Katie Bonawitz, Ed.D., Associate Dean of Education, Program Director for M.A. Special Education (7 p.m.)

RECESSIONAL

“Tocatta” from *Symphony No. V*, Charles-Marie Widor
Cindy Reents (9 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m.)
Brian Falk (7 p.m.)

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:

Leah Jackson, D.P.T., Associate Professor of Applied Health Sciences | Laver (9 a.m.)
Joel Frederickson, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology | Ewer (9 a.m.)
Sara Shady, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy | Ewer (11:30 a.m.)
Katie Bonawitz, Ed.D., Associate Dean of Education, Program Director for M.A. Special Education | Laver (11:30 a.m.)
MaryAnn Harris, Ph.D., Professor of Business | Laver (2 p.m.)
Wendy Thompson, D.N.P., Associate Professor of Nursing | Ewer (2 p.m.)
Blair Nelson, M.D., Associate Professor of Medical Science | Laver (7 p.m.)
Mary Lindell, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education | Ewer (7 p.m.)

Our Commencement Marshals are:

Julie Finnern, Ed.D., Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning
Todd Harmening, Ed.D., Associate Provost for Academic Systems and Planning



Cords or medallions are 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.

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.

Bethel Student Government Directors wear blue and gold cords.

Bethel Student Government Executive Directors wear gold, white, and navy double cords.

Members of the Royals Investment Fund, an academic program where students make real-world financial investments, wear green and white cords.

Student Body President and Vice President, leaders of Bethel Student Government and the Student Body, wear a gold medallion with a red, white, and blue ribbon.

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 the National Association of Social Workers of Minnesota, a global organization that advocates for social workers, wear teal 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 in Brushaber Commons. Signs and hosts will direct you.

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

The Campus Store, also located in Brushaber Commons, will be open until 9 p.m..

If you need assistance, please ask event staff.

Candidates for Graduation

College of Arts & Sciences | 9 a.m. Bachelor's Degrees

APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Malia Heather Beilby
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science

Tahlia Grace Craft
B.S. Exercise Science
B.A. Psychology

Evan Robert Dallas
B.S. Exercise Science
Biology
cum laude

Marco Antonio Duronio
B.S. Human Bioenergetics
summa cum laude

Aaron Gregory Elseth
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science
summa cum laude

Anna Elizabeth Fischer
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science
summa cum laude

Drew Trenton Girtz
B.S. Exercise Science
magna cum laude

Emma Grace Hultman
B.S. Human Bioenergetics
summa cum laude

Meg Lauren Kretschmer
B.S. Exercise Science
summa cum laude

Landen Cheng-Hsin Liu
B.S. Biokinetics

Adam Steven Mattes
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

Hannah Rose Moe
B.S. Human Bioenergetics
magna cum laude

Aidan Patrick Nelson
B.S. Exercise Science

Elise Anne Nienow
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Emily Michelle Pearson
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science
summa cum laude

Joel Isaac Ross
B.S. Human Bioenergetics
summa cum laude

Jacob Michael Saathoff
B.S. Human Bioenergetics
summa cum laude

Preston Carl Schmeidel
B.S. Exercise Science

Sierra Joy Sedlacek
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science
B.Mus. Applied Performance
cum laude

Lucy Lynn Stay
B.S. Rehabilitation and
Movement Science
cum laude

Elias Solomon Studier
B.S. Human Bioenergetics
summa cum laude

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Grady Philip Anderson
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Jonathan Guy Anderson
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Sidney Laurel Bartels
B.S. Environmental Science
magna cum laude

Alexis Judith Bridell
B.S. Biology

Emily Rose Costa
B.S. Biology

Megan Riley Crawford
B.A. Biology
Art
summa cum laude

Tia Jean Eiden
B.S. Environmental Science
summa cum laude

Mia Ingrid Evans
B.S. Biology

Owen Michael Fadden
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Halle Alexis Cindera Foster
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Kayley Elizabeth Frenette
B.S. Biology

Ashley Marie Gustafson
B.S. Biology

Micah John Gustafson
B.A. Biology
Music
magna cum laude

Cosette Ambrise Henrikson
B.S. Biology

Faith Marie Hoffmann
B.S. Biology
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Alexis Marie Israelson
B.S. Biology

Noelle Elise Jacobsen
B.S. Biology
cum laude

Nicholas Everett Jarman
B.S. Biology
B.A. Spanish
summa cum laude

Aidan Mariah Lammie
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Dylan James Magistad
B.S. Biology

Faith Anne May
B.A. Biology

Caterina Mae Micheli
B.S. Biology
cum laude

Erica Lynn Norton
B.A. Biology

Madalyn Katherine O'Connor
B.S. Environmental Science

Ava Grace Randecker
B.A. Biology
magna cum laude

Corbin Zander Sams
B.S. Environmental Science

Kailey Susan Scheid
B.S. Biology

Jordan Faith Smith
B.S. Biology
Environmental Science
magna cum laude

Tinesha Ann Steuart
B.S. Biology

Anna Lee Tikkanen
B.S. Environmental Science
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Chloe Ellen Weber
B.S. Biology

Ashlyn Grace Wiltshire
B.S. Biology

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CHEMISTRY

George David Cinader
B.A. Biochemistry
B.S. Neuroscience
summa cum laude

Mandalyn Michelle Luanne Franks
B.S. Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Edgar Aaron Coronado
B.S. Neuroscience
Biology

Grace Lynn Fernelius
B.S. Neuroscience

CHEMISTRY

Jacob Thomas Anderson
B.S. Chemistry

Myra Ann Friese
B.S. Chemistry
magna cum laude

Aaron Thomas Grawe
B.A. Chemistry
B.S. Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
Biology
summa cum laude

Mya Sue Pederson
B.S. Chemistry
summa cum laude

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Peyton Cole Baker
B.A. Computer Science

Zackary Evan Chaffey
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
B.A. Computer Science
summa cum laude

Luke Henry Daenzer
B.S. Computer Science
cum laude

Cage Robert Dettbarn
B.S. Computer Science
summa cum laude

Trey Curtis Durbin
B.S. Computer Science
summa cum laude

Leonardo Christian Fay
B.A. Mathematics

Megan Joy Greenfield
B.A. Mathematics Education,
Grades 5-12
summa cum laude

Anthony Benson Haack
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
B.A. Computer Science
summa cum laude

Jadon Thadd Hanzal
B.A. Mathematics Education,
Grades 5-12

Christiana Sadie Kimbell
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Timothy James Machler
B.S. Actuarial Science and Finance

Kyle Eric Melby
B.A. Computer Science

Murphy James O'Malley
B.S. Software Engineering
B.A. Mathematics

Christian Coffee Poppie
B.A. Computer Science

Zachary Dean Pratt
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science

Katrina Jean Sanderson
B.A. Mathematics Education,
Grades 5-12
summa cum laude

Ryan Mark Shafer
B.S. Computer Science

Matthew David Washburn
B.S. Computer Science
cum laude

PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

Kennedi Jana Carey
B.S. Applied Physics
summa cum laude

Caleb Abisai Climaco
B.S. Computer Engineering
B.A. Computer Science

Nathan Paul Engman
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
Applied Physics
summa cum laude

Adam John Steven Hokanson
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics

Tyler Scott Jacobson
B.S. Applied Physics
B.A. Computer Science
summa cum laude

Frederick Huang Kehrer
B.S. Electrical Engineering

Anabelle Grace Linson
B.S. Physics
Applied Physics

Eli Perry McKown
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.A. Physics
cum laude

Micah Jacob Peterson
B.S. Computer Engineering
B.A. Computer Science
summa cum laude

Samuel Allan Reid
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
cum laude

Carter Michael Sheard
B.S. Computer Engineering
B.A. Physics
summa cum laude

Watson Scott Sheard
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.A. Physics
summa cum laude

Andrew Floyd Stephens
B.S. Mechanical Engineering

David Andrew Vickers
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
Applied Physics
B.A. Physics
cum laude

Nickolas Cole Zander
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.A. Physics

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Hannah Kairos Addink
B.S. Psychological Sciences

Sofia Rose Arana
B.S. Psychological Sciences
B.A. Spanish
cum laude

Toby Jacob Becvar
B.A. Psychology
magna cum laude

Sofia Danielle Boich
B.A. Psychology
cum laude

Jaelin Therese Boyd
B.A. Psychology

Madeline Margaret Braccini
B.A. Psychology

Grace Elizabeth Bryant
B.A. Psychology
summa cum laude

Caleb Alan Busse
B.A. Psychology
cum laude

Emily Christine Cox
B.S. Psychological Sciences
summa cum laude

Morgan Ann Dean
B.A. Psychology
magna cum laude

Julia Ann Helget
B.A. Psychology
magna cum laude

Seth Daniel Johnson
B.A. Psychology

Stormy Josiah Knight
B.A. Psychology

Natalie Rose Kremer
B.A. Psychology

Ethan James Lee
B.A. Psychology

Azariah Clarisse Lestage
B.A. Psychology

Anna Renae Michaud
B.S. Psychological Sciences

Gretchen Emmanuelle Mugglin
B.A. Psychology
History
magna cum laude

Alexander Jacob Palm
B.S. Psychological Sciences
magna cum laude

Alexandra Jane Piasecki
B.A. Psychology

Jaden Lee Ruegsegger
B.A. Psychology
cum laude

Austin Richard Ryman
B.A. Psychology

Madison Taylor Stackhouse
B.S. Psychological Sciences
B.A. Applied Philosophy
magna cum laude

Hadassah Joy Thao
B.A. Psychology
Communication Studies

SOCIAL WORK

Emily Louise Barrett
B.A. Social Work
cum laude

Frances Memory Boerman-Cornell
B.A. Social Work
Spanish
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Michelle Diaz Castillo
B.A. Social Work

Skylar Elizabeth Gerads
B.A. Social Work
magna cum laude

Camryn Lorraine Johnson
B.A. Social Work Studies
cum laude

Mikiah Christine Louise Krieg
B.A. Social Work

Preston John Meyers
B.A. History
Social Work
cum laude

Kailyn Marie Pratt
B.A. Social Work
summa cum laude

Elizabeth Rachel Schmidt
B.A. Social Work
summa cum laude

Jessicah Elaine Schmidt
B.A. Social Work
summa cum laude

Kaylee Nicole Schrock
B.A. Social Work
magna cum laude

Olive Eleanor Strike
B.A. Social Work
magna cum laude

Sophia Josephine Marie Tonn
B.A. Social Work
cum laude

Aviya Joy Wadsager
B.A. Social Work
Psychology
magna cum laude

Candidates for Graduation

College of Arts & Sciences | 11:30 a.m. BUILD Program Certificates in Applied Studies

Brynn Morgan Aguirre
Certificate Applied Studies

Jack Gary Anderson
Certificate Applied Studies

Kamryn Rose Carlson
Certificate Applied Studies

Grace Marie Draxler
Certificate Applied Studies

Kallie Joyce Fahs
Certificate Applied Studies

Zachary David Finlayson
Certificate Applied Studies

Sarah Loren Graven
Certificate Applied Studies

Viktor Alexander Kattchee
Certificate Applied Studies

Anna Rachel Krahn
Certificate Applied Studies

Katherine Anne Langfeldt
Certificate Applied Studies

Belinda Sherlyn Morales Parra
Certificate Applied Studies

Elizabeth Marilyn Nielsen
Certificate Applied Studies

Thomas Bryan Putnam
Certificate Applied Studies

Cara Christine Scott
Certificate Applied Studies

Thea LeeAnn Stevens
Certificate Applied Studies

Easton Scott Zeidler
Certificate Applied Studies

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

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Makayla Rose Anderson
A.A. General Studies

Summer Kennedy Beale
A.A. General Studies

Lucia Louise Blechert
A.A. General Studies

Logan John Brask
A.A. General Studies

Mikayla Michelle Bullen
A.A. General Studies

Isaiah David Burdette
A.A. General Studies

Gabriel Robert Butek
A.A. General Studies

Charlotte Love Cavalier
A.A. General Studies

Caroline Grace Cushenberry
A.A. General Studies

Elizabeth Hadassah De La Pena
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Christian John Arthur Dickson
A.A. General Studies

Bashi Gameda Elemo
A.A. General Studies

Reagan Anders Erickson
A.A. General Studies

Keira Lynne Gallagher
A.A. General Studies

Jayden Christopher Giacomini
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Vivian Lee Gorman
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Hope Maddie Gustafson
A.A. General Studies

Lincoln August Hager
A.A. General Studies

Haifa Wajdi Hammouri
A.A. General Studies

Lily Grace Harper
A.A. General Studies

Isabella Grace Hegge
A.A. General Studies

Abigail Rose Hoeft
A.A. General Studies

Benjamin Alan Jahnke
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Natalie Lynn Jansen
A.A. General Studies

Abby Grace Johnson
A.A. General Studies

Nevan R. Johnson
A.A. General Studies

Hannah Elizabeth Kumpel
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Mira Claire Larson
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Noah Aaron Larson
A.A. General Studies

Svea Joy Leafblad
A.A. General Studies

Brooklyn Reese Linder
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Lillia Ann Mathias
A.A. General Studies

Madeline Joy Michaels
A.A. General Studies

Angelica Alice Mupelamumbi
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Josiah Hui-Hsin Naidl
A.A. General Studies

Shem Ley Paw
A.A. General Studies

Troy Thomas Pozinski
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Aletheia Miriam Pull
A.A. General Studies

Emma Rose Riley
A.A. General Studies

Anthony James Dennis Rosenthal
A.A. General Studies

Gracen Maeve Schmid
A.A. General Studies

Peter Nelson Severson
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Heather Serena Sheehy
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Charles Jeffrey Skogen
A.A. General Studies

Lauren Elise Stemper
A.A. General Studies

Stella Elizabeth Mercy Taylor
A.A. General Studies

Charles Lee Thompson
A.A. General Studies

Benjamin Raymond Truax
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Judah Michael Uggen
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Titus Nolan Ulferts
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Gabriel Titus Waldo
A.A. General Studies

Lillian Kahly Wright
A.A. General Studies

ART AND DESIGN

Olivia Mae Bailey
B.F.A. Art
B.A. Art Therapy
summa cum laude

Ella Joy Boelter
B.A. Graphic Design
Art
cum laude

Alea Kay Christopherson
B.A. Graphic Design
summa cum laude

Kaleb Michael Cramer
B.A. Graphic Design

Brianna Janean Good
B.A. Graphic Design
B.F.A. Art
magna cum laude

Isabella Sophia Haveman
B.A. Art
English

Emma Kathryn Hendrickson
B.A. Art Therapy
summa cum laude

Sophie Rae Jacques
B.A. Art Therapy
Psychology
cum laude

Molly Ellen Kraakevik
B.A. Art Therapy
Art

Eleanna Irene Pehrson
B.A. Art Therapy
cum laude

Alyse Alexandra Petersen
B.A. Graphic Design
magna cum laude

Madilyn Mae Peterson
B.A. Art Therapy

Sydney Lynne Roberts
B.A. Graphic Design
Business
summa cum laude

Olivia Dawn Schneider
B.A. Art Therapy

Emilie Margaret Schroeder
B.A. Graphic Design

Lexie Rae Smutka
B.A. Graphic Design
B.F.A. Art

Foua Zoe Vang
B.A. Art
Business

Stevi Younger Wolbrink
B.A. Art

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Johanna Theis Maxwell
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies
Missional Ministries
magna cum laude

Hudson Robert Parker
B.A. Missional Ministries
Biblical and Theological Studies

Mason James Rediger
B.A. Missional Ministries

Jayden Michael Richards
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies
cum laude

Avery Sue Verhoef
B.A. Missional Ministries
summa cum laude

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Jesus Alberto Arriaza-Lopez
B.A. Media Production

Danielle Schmidt Buckenmeyer
B.A. Communication Studies
summa cum laude

Abigail Anne Burbach
B.A. Organizational Communication
Media Production

Nicholas Augustine Burke
B.A. Organizational Communication

Elliot Lucille Dickson
B.A. Media Production
summa cum laude

Bryna Nicole Eigenfeld
B.A. Organizational Communication
summa cum laude

Amber Faith Gamer
B.A. Communication Studies
Organizational Communication
magna cum laude

Symone Elyse Harms
B.A. Media Production
summa cum laude

Lydia Rose Montalvo
B.A. Media Production

Kristin Kathleen O'Brien
B.A. Communication Studies
summa cum laude

Anna Frances Speratos
B.A. Organizational Communication
magna cum laude

Daniel Terrance Stark
B.A. Communication Studies
cum laude

Rebecca Anne Stephens
B.A. Communication Studies

Dylan Louis Taube
B.A. Organizational Communication
cum laude

Jackson Robert Taylor
B.A. Communication Studies

Devin Daniel Williams
B.A. Communication Studies

EDUCATION

Emily Linnae Anderson
B.A. Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12
cum laude

Hailey Mae Bergan
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Landon James Bjork
B.A. Special Education
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Grace Elizabeth Christensen
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Thomas Robert Coombe
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Gracie May Crowell
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Benjamin John Frey
B.A. Social Studies Education,
Grades 5-12
History

Chloe Grace Johnson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Julia Grace Kastner
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Chloe Berdena McCarthy
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Kayla MaryJane McLellan
B.A. Educational Studies
summa cum laude

Anna Faith McNeill
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Molly Ann Nelson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Julia Jane Peterson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
Special Education

Skylar Elizabeth Robinson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Eleanor Pauline Schuebel
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12

Faith Victoria Tverberg
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
Psychology

Kendall Rene Tweeten
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM

Sadie True Buteyn
B.A. English
cum laude

Megan Faith Hayton
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12
magna cum laude

Kathryn Elise Kovalenko
B.A. Journalism
Media Production
summa cum laude

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Joselyn Camacho Dominguez
B.A. Political Science
Applied Philosophy

Elise Abigail Henry
B.A. History
Social Studies Education,
Grades 5-12
summa cum laude

Sofia Isabelle Ishanova
B.A. Applied Philosophy
History
summa cum laude

Sophia Helen Kriz
B.A. Political Science
History

Kaleb John Miller
B.A. Political Science
History
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Sophia Mignette Najarian
B.A. Political Science
Business
magna cum laude

Lief Mark Smith
B.A. Political Science

Caleb Joshua Walls
B.A. Business and Political Science
International Relations

Ellie Grace Wasserman
B.A. Political Science

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Macy Marie Castilleja
B.Mus. Applied Performance
B.Mus.Ed. Music Education,
Grades K-12

Malachi Wayne Henderson
B.Mus. Applied Performance

Gracia Mae Lumppio
B.Mus. Applied Performance
cum laude

Candidates for Graduation

College of Arts & Sciences | 2 p.m. Bachelor's Degrees

BUSINESS

Ethan Keyon Ahrar

B.A. Business

Elom Marie-Jesica Amegatse

B.A. Business

Logan Douglas Anderson

B.A. Business

Ellie Lynn Baker

B.A. Business

Caden Dean Baty

B.A. Business
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Joseph Sylvester Beaudette

B.A. Business

**Matthew Theodore Elliot
Berezowski**

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Kylie Joy Bjork

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Calvin Marc Bloomquist

B.A. Business

Tyler Bryan Braccini

B.A. Business

Jack Carter Brown

B.A. Business
cum laude

Matthew James Burquest

B.A. Business

John Brody Bush

B.A. Business

Anita Butkova

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Alexander Matthew Call

B.A. Business

Jose Corbera

B.A. Business

Kenzi Rose Cox

B.A. Business
cum laude

Chase Philip D'Agostino

B.A. Business

Caden Scott DeJong

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Jocelyn Tabitha Devanesan

B.A. Business

Lauryn Alyse Douglas

B.A. Business
cum laude

Colette Paquay Duinick

B.A. Business
cum laude

Ashlyn Grace Erickson

B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Jonathon David Essen

B.A. Business

Abraham Aldrich Evenhouse

B.A. Business
cum laude

Jacob Alexander Ferrin

B.A. Business

Macie April Fisk

B.A. Business

Leo James Fleischhacker

B.A. Business

Lucas Meyer French

B.S. Accounting and Finance
summa cum laude

Daniel Jerome Gabrio

B.A. Business
cum laude

David Praise Geebli

B.A. Business

Justin Thomas Hanson

B.A. Business

Abigail Hannah Heinrich

B.S. Accounting and Finance
summa cum laude

Dylan Lance Highum

B.A. Business
cum laude

Calvin Roger Hove

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Will Anthony Jessup

B.A. Business

Carly Noelle Johnson

B.A. Business
cum laude

Greyson Samuel Johnson

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Owen Kevin Johnson

B.A. Business

Abby Lynn Jorgenrud

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Elise Anne Kalin

B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Raina Belle Kaping

B.S. Accounting and Finance
magna cum laude

Katherine Sue Kastner

B.A. Business
cum laude

Aaron Joel Kaul

B.A. Business

Avery Estelle Knutson

B.A. Business
cum laude

Allie Kristine Koch

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Spencer Mitchell Kring

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Luca Stefano Lombardi

B.A. Business

William Corey MacCloud

B.A. Business

Jacob Ryan Marziano

B.A. Business

Cameron James McConnell

B.A. Business

Conner Paul McCracken

B.A. Business

Noelle Kristina McNeill

B.A. Business
Psychology
summa cum laude

Michael Joshua Miller

B.A. Business

Michelle Morales Parra

B.A. Business

Aidan Jacob Mullen

B.A. Business

Grant Edward Nelson

B.A. Business
cum laude

Madison Meiyi Palmer

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Sophia Alexandra Pavlenko

B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Matthew Montgomery Payne

B.A. Business

Caden Joseph Persuitti

B.A. Business

Morgan Elle Peterman

B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Gunnar Jon Peterson

B.A. Business

Will Christian Poppe

B.A. Business

Ryan Scott Reid

B.A. Business

Nicolas Scott Richards

B.A. Business

Maxwell Richard Roelofs

B.A. Business

Brian Lewis Rogers

B.A. Business

Jordan Lee Ross

B.A. Business

Evan Dean Schimming

B.A. Business

Ryan Bennett Schulz

B.A. Business

Noah Paul Abbott Scott

B.A. Business

William Robert Selinger

B.A. Business
cum laude

Emerson J Shannon

B.A. Business

William Robert Skogen

B.A. Business

Allison Christina Soule

B.A. Business

Benjamin Jose Thomas Steinle

B.A. Business

Joshua Michael Taylor

B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Eleanor Hope Tebow
B.S. Accounting and Finance
magna cum laude

Camryn Paige Thurow
B.A. Business

Kiera Grace Thurston
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Vince Fiorendo Valentini
B.A. Business

Lyiafong Vang
B.A. Business

Croix Louisa Vavra
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Bethany Joy Vincent
B.A. Business

Bennett Carlson Wagenman
B.A. Business

Jacob Evan Wills
B.A. Business
cum laude

Matthew Nathan Wright
B.A. Business

NURSING

Bailey Marie Albrightson
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Abigail Clara Anderson
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Reagan Kate Aus
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Lindsey Gades Austin
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Evangeline Mattea Baty
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Cadence Alma Becker
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Amber Rose Bentz
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Ashley Annette Brecheisen
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Anna Rose Cargill
B.S.N. Nursing

Molly Jo Closser
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Claire Amelia Ekbom
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Krista Jayne Esch
B.S.N. Nursing

Edidiong Ime Etim
B.S.N. Nursing

Paige Michelle Fredrickson
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Lydia Rose Grotbo
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Lauren Rose Gruber
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Chad Ryley Hart
B.S.N. Nursing

Anna Christine Hay
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Alaina Noelle Hedlund
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Angel Zuagpaj Her
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Ellie Grace Hernes
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Rachelle JeAnne Herrmann
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Delaney Jo Hicok
B.S.N. Nursing

Danielle Nicole Hollar
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Pawlay Wah Htoo
B.S.N. Nursing

Ella Grace Kabe
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Phillip Vladimir Kishchun
B.S.N. Nursing

Jeana Rose Knuth
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Evan George Larsen
B.S.N. Nursing

Jordan Deanne Lee
B.S.N. Nursing

Emily Katherine Lewis
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Kara Inthong McKeague
B.S.N. Nursing

Ellie Louise Messerschmidt
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Jessica Ann Miller
B.S.N. Nursing

Camille LaVonne Minshull
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Penelope Helene Morales
B.S.N. Nursing

Abigail Joy Nelson
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Bronwyn Rae Perez
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Isaac Timothy Regel
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Olivia Nicole Ruis
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Kalli Dianne Sampson
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Kate Cyrilla Sanvick
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Stella Ann Scharber
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Grace Elaine Steffen
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Allison Lee Theisen
B.S.N. Nursing

Olivia Claire Yennie
B.S.N. Nursing

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Annie Elizabeth Fenner
B.A. Public and Community Health

Ava Grace Trombley
B.A. Public and Community Health

Candidates for Graduation

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

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Stephanie Modupe Anjuwon
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Amanda Muench
in absentia
A.A. General Students

Berenice Pelias Gracia
A.A. General Students

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Ty Robert Carpenter
in absentia
B.S. Business Management
with honors

Nicholas Walker Koppinger
B.S. Business Management

Christopher Lee Wayne Littles
B.S. Business Management

Connor James Smeed
in absentia
B.S. Business Management

Soniya Smith
B.S. Business Management

Katelyn Vang
B.S. Business Management
with honors

NURSING

Amir Ally
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing
with honors

Eleanor Arnold
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

Elizabeth Eggan
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

Abby Hoffmann
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

Matthew Janis
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing
with honors

Vanessa Kanaventi
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

Kalli Meis
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

James Melendez
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

Eniola Ogundipe
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing
with honors

Ashley Robak
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing
with honors

Devonte Malik Tanis
in absentia
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

Jasmine Nickole Watts
B.S.N. Post-Baccalaureate Nursing

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Rekita Ndumbe
B.A. Organizational Leadership

PSYCHOLOGY

Molly Adams
B.A. Psychology
with honors

Paul William Anderaos
B.A. Psychology
with honors

Alyssa Geiken
B.A. Psychology

Robert Joseph Seaton
in absentia
B.A. Psychology

Miaya Seisay
B.A. Psychology

SOCIAL WORK

Samantha Grace Wurm
in absentia
B.A. Social Work

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ryan Depew
B.A. Special Education
with honors

Martin Luther Koehn
B.A. Special Education

Falyn Rebecca Maus
B.A. Special Education

Naomi Miranda
B.A. Special Education Studies

Graduate School Master's Degrees

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Jireh Obanlanijesu Babalola
MBA

Corey LaShawn Boyd
MBA

David Robert Cushing
in absentia
MBA

Samuel Perez Driz
MBA

Brian Gabrio
MBA

Thomas Glidden
MBA

Allison Goodrich
MBA

Fatu Conneh Harmon
MBA

Julia Sauve
MBA

Fucheng Song
MBA

Merrick James Stacy
in absentia
MBA

Jennifer Lyn Stirk
MBA

Matthew James Sund
in absentia
MBA

COUNSELLING

Arabella Collins
M.A. Counseling

Vanessa Cox
M.A. Counseling

Joshua De Leon
M.A. Counseling

Corissa Hedrick
M.A. Counseling

Kendall Kramar
M.A. Counseling

Michael Kristensen
M.A. Counseling

Michelle Morris
M.A. Counseling

Josiah Nossier
M.A. Counseling

Jason Pensa
M.A. Counseling

Nicole Rauzi
M.A. Counseling

Elise Ringen
M.A. Counseling

Kayla Saltis
M.A. Counseling

Lisa Schumacher
M.A. Counseling

Tzia Vang
M.A. Counseling

Micah James Zawistowski
in absentia
M.A. Counseling

MEDICAL SCIENCES

Emmanuel Abankwa
M.S. Medical Sciences

Samuel Oladapo Babalola
in absentia
M.S. Medical Sciences

Rodney Benjamin
M.S. Medical Sciences

Beneng Malle
in absentia
M.S. Medical Sciences

Mica Nepstad
M.S. Medical Sciences

Long Phi Nguyen
M.S. Medical Sciences

Amanda Pendergast
M.S. Medical Sciences

Cyanne Marie Quitangon
M.S. Medical Sciences

Alyssa Rae Snider
M.S. Medical Sciences

Bogilles Cees Verboom
M.S. Medical Sciences

NURSE-MIDWIFERY

Charline Fast
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Melissa Haraway
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Mary Elizabeth Hillaker
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Nehemie Blot Hypolite
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Jennifer Kay Jacobitz
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Kathy Lambright
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Laurena Lepp
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Michelle McManus
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Abigail Mobilia
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Melissa Paul
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Ashley Payne
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Allyson Zadlo Sensor
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Shenelle Keisha Smith
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Kaidynce Ruth Sweazy
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Kirstin Alice Wylly
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Ashlynn Grisim
M.S. Physician Assistant

Emma Mentz
M.S. Physician Assistant

Lauren Mittlestadt
M.S. Physician Assistant

Jensina Pasker
M.S. Physician Assistant

SOCIAL WORK

Christy LeVell DuPree
MSW

Jamaira Escobar
MSW

Rachel Gaulke
MSW

Grace LeeAnne Harre
MSW

Ashley Haugen
MSW

Nathan Edward Hibbs
MSW

Lucretia Hoffman
MSW

Madeline Hutchinson
MSW

Andrea Grace Jendro
MSW

Rachel Ann Lane
MSW

Karie Lauwagie
MSW

Ava Mein
MSW

Chloe Jael Mick
MSW

Shakeelah Morss
MSW

Teriah Moss
MSW

Anushka Shiell
MSW

Tami Sibben
MSW

Mary Elizabeth Ssegirinya
MSW

Miranda Jo Wayne
MSW

Alexis Rebecca Zappa
MSW

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Parker Bakke
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Cassandra Christiansen
M.A. Special Education

Thomas Coughlin
M.A. Special Education

Cheryl Jackson-Davis
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Beth Moran
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Maureen Therese Morrow
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Alyson Renee Reeves
M.A. Special Education

Sean Trewin
M.A. Special Education

Casey Anne Vanyo
M.A. Special Education

TEACHING

Samson Ghirmai
M.A. Teaching

Violeta Morelos Gomez
M.A. Teaching

Chue Seng Her
M.A. Teaching

Hannah Jacott
M.A. Teaching

Quinn Longueville
M.A. Teaching

Melissa Andrina McKinnon
M.A. Teaching

Katherine Mitzner
M.A. Teaching

Reagan Montross
M.A. Teaching

Michelle Victoria Schutz
in absentia
M.A. Teaching

Caleb Nathaniel Stiles
M.A. Teaching

Ashley Marie Storck
M.A. Teaching

Graduate School

Doctoral Degrees

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Rett Aaron Asbury

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *Navigating Faith and Duty: A Phenomenological Study of Christian Leadership in Public Schools*
B.S., Purdue University
M.S., Indiana University

Frank Ayim

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *A Quantitative Analysis Of The Relationship Between Mentoring And Professional Development Outcomes Of Public Senior High School Teachers In Ghana's Central Region*
B.S., University of Cape Coast, Ghana
M.Ed., University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Abdiqani Abdullahi Elmi

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *The Impact of Somali Parental Involvement on Elementary Education in Minnesota: Opportunities and Challenges*
B.S., Metropolitan State University
M.A., St. Thomas University

Tara Falasco

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *The Role Of Mentorship In Women's Pathways To Senior Superintendency Positions In K-12 Public Education*
B.A., Marist College
M.S., Dowling College

GiGi Marie Krause

in absentia
Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *Lived Experiences Of Special Education Teachers Of Color In Minnesota Charter Schools: A Phenomenological Study Of Factors Influencing Retention*
B.A., University of Minnesota
M.A., Bethel University

Kara Martin

Ed.D. Leadership in Higher
Education
Dissertation: *Transgender and Gender Diverse Alumni Sense of Belonging in Christian Higher Education: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis*
B.S., Cornerstone University
M.B.A., Cornerstone University

Grace Ngozim Mobosi-Enwesi

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *A Phenomenological Study: Understanding The Lived Experiences Of Teachers In The Age Of Smartphones In The Classroom— a Most Timely Topic*
B.A., University of Minnesota
M.A., Concordia University Saint Paul

La Tonya Elizabeth Overton

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *Leading Schools Effectively During a Crisis: Lessons Learned From the COVID-19 Pandemic*
B.A., University of Phoenix
M.A., California State University

Hannah Pagel

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *The Relationship Between School Climate And Academics, Discipline, And Attendance At Rural Midwest Middle Schools*
B.A., University of Minnesota
M.A., Concordia University
Ed.S., Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Miranda Joy Powers

Ed.D. Leadership in Higher
Education
Dissertation: *Social Perspective Taking, the Search for Meaning, And a Sense of Belonging in Emerging Adults*
B.A., Seattle Pacific University
M.A., Bethel University

Theresa Marie Widen

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *The Relationship Between Principals' Servant Leadership And The Retention Of Mid-to-late-career Elementary Teachers In Minnesota Public Schools*
B.A., Bethel University
M.A., Hamline University

Brandon Wolf

in absentia
Ed.D. Leadership in K-12
Administration
Dissertation: *Antecedents of Trust: Emotional Intelligence and Organizational Justice as Predictors of Faculty Trust in Principals*
B.A. Grand View University
M.A. Concordia University

BETHEL SEMINARY
Commencement Exercises

Saturday, May 23, 2026

Benson Great Hall

Presiding

Ross Allen, B.A., President

PROCESSIONAL

“Trumpet Voluntary,” Jeremiah Clarke

Brian Falk

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

Clarissa Jayne Hutcheson, D.Min. Transformational Leadership

WELCOME TO THE BETHEL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Jennifer Scott, M.A., Senior Director of University Relations

SONG OF PROCLAMATION*

How Great Thou Art, by Stuart K. Hine

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!”

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

GRADUATE REFLECTION

Amy Wells, M.Div.

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
John Dunne, Ph.D., Associate Professor of New Testament
DesAnne Hippe, Ph.D., Professor of Theology
Peter Jankowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy

COMMUNION MEDITATION

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

BLESSINGS

Joshua Carroll, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Formation
Herb Grant, Ph.D., Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy
Denise Muir-Kjesbo, Ph.D., Professor, Director of the Corey Center

BENEDICTION

Denise Muir-Kjesbo, Ph.D., Professor, Director of Cory Center

RECESSIONAL†

“Toccata” from *Symphony No. V*, Charles-Marie Widor
Brian Falk

**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:

Donna Johnson, D.Min., Director of Seminary Internship and Placement | Laver
Jeff Sanders, M.Div., Associate Dean of Formation and Professional Development | Ewer

Our Commencement Marshals are:

Julie Finnern, Ed.D. Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning
Todd Harmening, Ed.D. Associate Provost for Academic Systems and Planning



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

Josephine Lumfusina Achuade
in absentia
Certificate in Biblical Studies

Paul Duane Brinkman
in absentia
Certificate in Biblical Studies

Sarah Kersten Holty
in absentia
Certificate in Biblical Studies

Esther Lau
in absentia
Certificate in Children's, Youth,
and Family Ministry

Nicholas Carl Norgaard
in absentia
Certificate in Biblical Studies

Kaleb Saucer
in absentia
Certificate in Children's, Youth,
and Family Ministry

Naomi Gabriella Vielma-Soto
in absentia
Certificate in Children's, Youth,
and Family Ministry

Bethel Seminary Master's Degrees

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

MASTER OF ARTS (CHRISTIAN THOUGHT)

Mark Edward Baudler
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Sarah Disher
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

James Odell Griffin
M.A. (Christian Thought)
magna cum laude

Monica Sarkar Matheny
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Justin Eric Patton
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHILDREN'S, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Sheryl Bane
in absentia
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Chrysanthi Bliati
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Carrie Boyum
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
magna cum laude

Rebecca Christiansen
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Valerie Cristine Gill
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Nuam Lun
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry

Hilary Carmichael McCracken
in absentia
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Amans Ntakarutimana
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry

Sharon Louise Osborn
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry

Madilyn Ross
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry

Eh Thekawpaw Shwe
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry

CarrieAnne Stark
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
summa cum laude

James Lee Tressen
in absentia
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry

Carrie Michelle Wiley
in absentia
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
magna cum laude

Janet Szeman Wong Yip
M.A. Children's, Youth, and
Family Ministry
cum laude

MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Adam Dommeyer
M.A. Transformational Leadership

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

Jennifer Rebecca Emert
M.A. (Theological Studies)
summa cum laude

Phillip Steven Emery
M.A. (Theological Studies)

Logan Pat Esposito
in absentia
M.A. (Theological Studies)
magna cum laude

Robin Marquez Haskell
M.A. (Theological Studies)
cum laude

Dan Johnson
M.A. (Theological Studies)

Robert Ryan Mackey
in absentia
M.A. (Theological Studies)

Brent Sheridan
M.A. (Theological Studies)
cum laude

Samuel Hailemichael Tumebo
M.A. (Theological Studies)

Brie Anna Wiltsie
M.A. (Theological Studies)
summa cum laude

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY

Jayson Scott Cardwell
in absentia
M.A. Ministry
summa cum laude

Ann Lees
M.A. Ministry
cum laude

Emmett Rogers
M.A. Ministry

MASTER OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Emma Mary Dangers
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Nathanael Farm
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Sheila Shaine Larson
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Tanya Camille Larson
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
magna cum laude

Brooke Lindquist
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Kiera McGinness
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy

Croix Menzel
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Joshua Sampson
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
magna cum laude

Katelyn Scherping
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
magna cum laude

Marah Lorraine Smith
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Kieran Avery Stemm
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
summa cum laude

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Folashade Adewole
M.Div.

Nick Cocalis
in absentia
M.Div.

Caleb Patrick Hollenkamp
M.Div.

Anthony Michael Hunt
in absentia
M.Div.
cum laude

Nicolas Andrew Johnson
M.Div.

Joshua Paul King
in absentia
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Matte Laurila
in absentia
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Carolyn Joyce Le
in absentia
M.Div.
cum laude

Travis Victor Leinonen
in absentia
M.Div.
cum laude

Andria Joy Messelt
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Jonathan Patrick Phillips
M.Div.
cum laude

Brittany Sessum
M.Div.

Douglas Andrew Sloan
in absentia
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Amy Wells
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Hawah LaToya Brown
M.Div.

Marcus Knight
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Bethel Seminary Doctoral Degrees

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Robert Michael Burke
in absentia
D.Min. *Transformational Leadership*
Thesis: *Raising Not So Little Leaders*
B.A., University of Southern California
M.A., Bethel Seminary

Julio Contreras
D.Min. *Transformational Leadership*
Thesis: *Best Practices for Developing Effective Transformational Leadership Formation Processes in Pastoral Teams in Latin America*
B. A., Luther Rice College
M.A., Luther Rice Seminary

Grace Ella Emmert
D.Min. *Biblical and Theological Engagement*
Thesis: *Exploring Deficiencies in Leadership Accountability Standards & Protocols in the U.S. Church*
M.Div., Bethel Seminary
B.S., University of Vermont

Delores Hansel
D.Min. *Congregation and Family Care*
Thesis: *Sustaining the Call: A Multi-Dimensional Support Framework for Preventing Ministry Leader Burnout*
A.S., Genesee Community College
M.A., Bethel Seminary

Jonathon Hansel
D.Min. *Transformational Leadership*
Thesis: *Understanding and Avoiding Institutional Betrayal of Congregants When Accusations of Domineering Pastoral Leadership Are Made*
M.A., Westminster Theological Seminary.
B.S., Capella University

Octavia Denise Hardaway
in absentia
D.Min. *Transformational Leadership*
Thesis: *The Case Study of the Strengths and Gaps of Servant Leadership Within the Ohio Pentecostal Churches*
B.A., University of Akron
M.A., University of Akron
M.A., Bethel Seminary

Seth William Hinrichs
D.Min. *Church Leadership*
Thesis: *Pastors In Crisis: A Proactive Prayer Life As A Measure Against Pastoral Burnout*
B.A., Bethel University
M.Div. Bethel University

Clarissa Jayne Hutcheson
D.Min. *Transformational Leadership*
Thesis: *The Role of Leadership in the Diocese of San Diego California: Servant Leadership Theory*
B.A. University of LaVerne
M.A. Catholic International University

Rita Lekova
D.Min. *Church Leadership*
Thesis: *The Need To Identify An Assessment Method To Evaluate Narcissistic Leadership Traits In Christian Churches In The Minneapolis Area And Determining Their Impact On Assemblies From The Perspective Of Congregants*
M.A., Bethel University
B.A., Bethel University
A.A., North Hennepin Community College

Jane Nell Morgan
D.Min. *Biblical and Theological Engagement*
Thesis: *Finding Meaning and Value in Old Age*
M.A., Bethel Seminary
M.Ed., Mankato State University
B.S., Bemidji State University

Brian Kwalela Mungandi
D.Min. *Congregation and Family Care*
Thesis: *Towards a Transformative Church: The Role of Elders in Church Growth in the Seventh-day Adventist Church*
M. Div., Berrien Springs Andrews University
B. A., Berrien Springs Andrews University

David Macharia Njau
D.Min. *Transformational Leadership*
Thesis: *Authentic Transformational Leadership: A Model For Empowerment And Organizational Effectiveness For Training Modern Ministry Leaders*
B.A., Kenyatta University
M. Tech., Carnegie Mellon University
Master of Divinity, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Margaret Ruth Taylor Read
in absentia
D.Min. *Congregation and Family Care*
Thesis: *The Identification of Best Practices Related To Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care in East Tennessee*
M.Div., Bethel Seminary
M.S., East Tennessee State University
B.A., East Tennessee State University

Yared Kassa Woldemariam
የጌድ ካሳ ወልደግርጌም
D.Min. *Biblical and Theological Engagement*
Thesis: *Breaking Barriers: A Ministry Approach To Understanding And Addressing The Needs Of Somali Immigrants In The Twin Cities*
B.S., Addis Ababa University
M.Div., Bethel Seminary

Honoring 2026 Emeriti Faculty

Brian Beecken, Professor of Physics Emeritus

Diane Dahl, Academic Dean Emerita

Barrett Fisher, Academic Dean Emeritus

Leo Gabriel, Professor of Business Emeritus

Gretchen Miller Wrobel, University Professor of Psychological Sciences Emerita

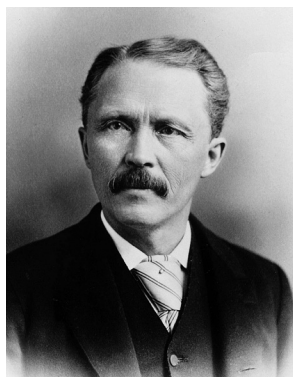


Bethel Campus Store will be open
10 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 23.



BETHEL
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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 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.



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