

Commencement

May 2024



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 25, 2024

Benson Great Hall

Presiding

Ross Allen, B.A., President

PROCESSIONAL

“March No. 1” from *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, Edward Elgar
Ju Young Lee, D.M.A., Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music

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

MaryAnn Harris, Ph.D., Professor of Business (9 a.m.)

Nicholas Zeimet, M.S.W., Assistant Professor of Social Work (11:30 a.m.)

Victor Ezigbo, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies (2 p.m.)

Joel Frederickson, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology (7 p.m.)

HONORING OF FACULTY EMERITI

Robin Rylaarsdam, Ph.D., University Provost

GRADUATE REFLECTIONS

Reese Aaron Braatz Thompson, B.A. Business (9 a.m.)

Tracelyn Janelle De Haan, B.S.N. Nursing (9 a.m.)

Makayla Maxine Schmidt, B.A. Physics and B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (11:30 a.m.)

Ruth Ivy Livingston, B.S. Mathematics and Data Science (11:30 a.m.)

Sarah Jo Bakeman, B.A. Organizational Communication and Journalism (2 p.m.)

Soraya Martha Keiser B.A. Journalism and International Relations (2 p.m.)

Andrew Jordan Hanson, B.A. Psychology (7 p.m.)

Brittaney Hebert Corso, M.S. Nurse-Midwifery (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. only)

Amy Evans, Ph.D., Program Director M.A. in Counseling and Additions Certificates

Peg McCormick, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Special Education

Tracy Reimer, Ph.D., Program Director for Doctoral of Education Leadership in K-12 Administration

Nicholas Zeimet, M.S.W., Social Work Director of Field Education; Assistant Professor

BENEDICTION

Debbie Solomon, D.N.P., Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing (9 a.m.)

Leah Jackson, D.P.T., Associate Professor of Applied Health Sciences (11:30 a.m.)

Betsy Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication Studies (2 p.m.)

Julie Ann Vingers, Ph.D., Professor of Nurse-Midwifery (7 p.m.)

RECESSIONAL

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

Ju Young Lee

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:

Laura Nugteren, Assistant Professor of Nursing | Laver (9 a.m.)

Drew Whitson, Associate Professor of Business | Ewer (9 a.m.)

Nathan Lindquist, Professor of Physics | Laver (11:30 a.m.)

Angela Stoeckman, Professor of Chemistry | Ewer (11:30 a.m.)

Charlie Goldberg, Associate Professor of History | Laver (2 p.m.)

Angela Preston, Associate Professor of English | Ewer (2 p.m.)

Blair Nelson, M.D., Program Director of Master of Science in Medical Sciences and Professor of Physician Assistant Program | Laver (7 p.m.)

Deanna Towns, Ph.D, Assistant Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling | Ewer (7 p.m.)

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



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 recession, 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. Bachelor's Degrees

BUSINESS

Youssef Ahmed Abdallah
B.A. Business

Blake Paul Almberg
B.A. Business
B.S. Computer Science

Jose Luis Aparicio Moreno
B.A. Business

Jordan John Axberg
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Dhiraj Basnet
B.A. Business

Kade Lawton Blankenship
B.S. Accounting and Finance
cum laude

Chase Carl Bocken
B.A. Business

Grace Marie Bonfig
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Daniel Bounds
B.A. Business
Non-Degree Seeking

Addison Bradway
B.A. Business

Joshua Jeffrey Brandt
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Annika Linnea Rose Brown
B.S. Accounting and Finance
magna cum laude

Eleanor Claire Brown
B.A. Business
Spanish
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Kaylyn B. Busch
B.A. Business

Kimberly Ann Bushard
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Christian Alexander Buzzard
B.A. Business
cum laude

Luke Henning Carlson
B.S. Accounting and Finance
magna cum laude

Bjorn Berg Charles
B.A. Business

Natalie Marie Conklin
B.A. Business

Delfin Richard Cruz
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Zachary Stephen Doely
B.A. Business

Jacob Evans
B.A. Business

Breck Pence Ferrin
B.A. Business

Riley Ann Flynn
B.A. Business

Diameshia Mykayla Jameila Ford
B.A. Business

Ellee Elizabeth Foster
B.A. Business

Danielle Kay Friedges
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Samuel Gary Gardeen
B.A. Business

Kate A. Gemuenden
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Kaden John Hackman
B.A. Business
cum laude

Evie Maria Hage
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Lydia Hagstrom
B.S. Accounting and Finance
cum laude

Chloe Moriah Harms
B.A. Business
cum laude

Josie Lynn Harms
B.A. Business
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Caleb John Harris
B.A. Business

Joshua Matthew Hoffman
B.A. Business

Masyn Rae Holland
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Travis James Jensen
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Lucas Cody Johnson
B.A. Business
cum laude

Nathan Victor Johnson
B.A. Business
cum laude

Isaac Jt Kapsner
B.A. Business

Justin Kelley
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Nolan James Kluempke
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Jordan Harold Krupke
B.A. Business

Sage Tristan Lang
B.A. Business
cum laude

Abigail Rose Larson
B.A. Business
cum laude

Cassie Marie Leland
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Andrew David Lindblom
in absentia
B.A. Business

Giselle Ntsa lab Lo
B.A. Business
Political Science
magna cum laude

Taylor Rose Lundberg
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

McKayla Kimberly Machlitt
B.A. Business
cum laude

Jedrek Paul Marchiniak
B.A. Business

Henry Marin Rojas
B.A. Business
cum laude

Erik Jon Martens
B.S. Accounting and Finance

Morgan Joy Martens
B.A. Business

Carson Daniel McCalvy
B.A. Business

Jacob Andrew McCullough
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Colin Dunne Mehren
B.A. Business

Samuel George Metcalf
B.S. Accounting and Finance
cum laude

Aaron Daniel Moots
B.A. Business

Ebubechukwu Oluwadamilola Mordi
B.A. Business

David Morton
B.A. Business
cum laude

Lindsey Christen Muntiferung
B.A. Business
cum laude

Michael Patrick Murphy
B.A. Business
Communication Studies
summa cum laude

Esther Ruth Nelson
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Jack Tanner Newstrom
B.A. Business

Tyler Joseph Nicoski
B.A. Business

Abigail Noel Natcher
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Isaac James O'Brien
B.A. Business

Danah Abigail Esperida Ocsan
B.A. Business

Jeffrey Thomas Oliver
B.S. Accounting and Finance
summa cum laude

Jacob Hunter Petersen
B.A. Business

Lukas Lowell Peterson
B.S. Accounting and Finance

Anna Grace Petrov
B.A. Business

Morgan Lynn Pukal
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Sarah Naomi Rey
B.A. Business
cum laude

Candidates for Graduation

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

Grace Elizabeth Robinson
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Madeline Jane Ross
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Jakob Shanan Ryden
B.A. Business

Chloe Jade Smith
B.A. Business

Jersain Solis Clara
B.A. Business

Puthea Song
B.A. Business

Ian David Stelter
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Madison Taylor Stensven
B.A. Business
magna cum laude

Brady Burkhardt Stoner
B.A. Business

Andrea Joy Swalve
B.A. Business

Ava Mae Thiewes
B.A. Business

Joshua Kyle Thoen
B.A. Business

Reese Aaron Braatz Thompson
B.A. Business
Spanish
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Juan Daniel Valdivia Cortes
B.A. Business

Breanna Ruth Vermeer
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Nora Mary Waffensmith
B.A. Business
cum laude

Marley Grace Webb
B.A. Business
summa cum laude

Noah E. Wenberg
B.A. Business

Carter Daniel Wrede
B.S. Accounting and Finance

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Esther Joy Adeniyi
B.A. Community Health

Sadie Louise Dorn
B.A. Community Health

Ebaisin Abdisa Fessa
B.A. Community Health

Caroline Eliza Jane Hogg
B.A. Community Health

Jennah Joelle Keith
B.A. Community Health

Cheyenne Caitlin Waalen
B.A. Community Health

Madeline Karen Wilson
B.A. Community Health

NURSING

Lindsey Ann Albers
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Jordyn Grace Allen
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

McKenna Louise Barrows
B.S.N. Nursing

Alexandra Ashlan Belde
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Kelsey Marie Bergan
B.S.N. Nursing

Anna Paige Boeve
B.S.N. Nursing

Andrew Micheal Calcutt
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Ally Rene Carlsen
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Jocelyn Abigail Coffler
B.S.N. Nursing
B.A. Reconciliation Studies

Megan Elizabeth Cullen
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Tracelyn Janelle De Haan
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Isabel Grace Deane
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Anna Fayth Decker
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Ruth Nocete Domingo
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Abigail Faith Drury
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Stephanie Nicole Filek
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Abigail Lynn Fors
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Olivia Celle Frobom
B.S.N. Nursing

Ashley Beth Hansen
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Tara Jane Hinz
B.S.N. Nursing

Isabella Grace Hoppe
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Erica Marie Horwath
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Lindsey Jo Hunt
B.S.N. Nursing

Erin Marie Huyett
B.S.N. Nursing

Isabel Maureen Joecks
B.S.N. Nursing

Anna Caroline Jordan
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Julia Kotelevskaya
B.S.N. Nursing

Lacey Lee
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Kaitlin Jean Macklin
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Heather Christine McKoskey
B.S.N. Nursing

Taylor Nicole Menth
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Raina Ashley Moorjani
B.S.N. Nursing

Alexa Hope Murphy
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Camren Jean Neegaard
B.S.N. Nursing

Joy Bonareri Otieno
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Emma Leigh Partington
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Mariah Rose Rickard
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Allison Marie Saunders
B.S.N. Nursing
B.A. Spanish
summa cum laude

Kelsie Rose Sealock
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Kylee Jeanette Stoner
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Marielle Bower Thomas
B.S.N. Nursing
cum laude

Morgan Elizabeth Trierweiler
B.S.N. Nursing
magna cum laude

Brianna Chee Cha Vang
B.S.N. Nursing

Anna Mackenzie Vetsch
B.S.N. Nursing
summa cum laude

Thomas William Welch
B.S.N. Nursing

Maylah Kate Williams
B.S.N. Nursing

Benjamin David Wright
B.S.N. Nursing

Faith Charlotte Thrun
B.A. Organizational Communication
Communication Studies

APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Evan Robert Braesch
B.S. Biokinetics

Hugo Jairzinho Cifuentes
B.S. Biokinetics

Benjamin Timothy Doherty
B.S. Biokinetics
cum laude

Drake Robert Fraser
B.S. Biokinetics
magna cum laude

Lucas Eric Johnson
B.S. Biokinetics

Joseph Todd Kidder
B.S. Biokinetics

Matthew John Kremer
B.S. Biokinetics

Sam Mark Linderbaum
B.S. Biokinetics

Aaron James Loe
B.S. Biokinetics
cum laude

Katelyn Renae Mehr
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

Sonia Grace Meyer
B.S. Biokinetics

Cade Richard Montgomery
B.S. Biokinetics
magna cum laude

Reese Micheal Pantila
B.S. Biokinetics

Jacob John Parent
B.S. Biokinetics
magna cum laude

Ryan Joseph Parker
B.S. Biokinetics

Morgan Montgomery Payne
B.S. Biokinetics

Gavin Ray Rataj
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

Madelyn Marie Roiger
B.S. Biokinetics
magna cum laude

Brody Rychly Schneider
B.S. Biokinetics

Isabelle Rose Smith
B.S. Biokinetics

APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Jessica Marie Smith
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

Nathan Douglas Smith
B.S. Biokinetics

Emily Ann Noel Snider
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

Elisa Mae Stewart
B.S. Biokinetics
summa cum laude

Aidan Eric Thomas
B.S. Biokinetics

Zachary Troy Thompson
B.S. Biokinetics

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Georgi Anna Aus
B.S. Biology

Andrew Harrison Fossum
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Grace Elizabeth Ginter
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Benjamin William Hannay
B.S. Biology

Laura Kathryn Hardwick
B.S. Environmental Science
cum laude

Anthony Hockett
B.A. Environmental Studies

Aaleaha Marie Juszczak
B.S. Biology

Callie Olea Knapp
B.S. Biology

Caleb William Johansen Meeker
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Mara Colleen Miller
B.S. Biology
magna cum laude

Kaelyne Sean Yean Moua
B.A. Biology

Emma Grace Nelson
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Cullen Isaac Olsen
B.A. Biology
Biblical and Theological Studies

Cady Grace Peterson
B.S. Environmental Science
B.A. Spanish
magna cum laude

Eric Michael Puumala
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Andrew Dennis Revering
B.S. Biology
summa cum laude

Emma Grace Ryks
B.A. Biology
History
cum laude

Bryan Tran
B.A. Biology

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND CHEMISTRY

Brenner Joseph Klein
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology
Chemistry
summa cum laude

Vivian Marie Marchan
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology
B.A. Applied Philosophy
cum laude

Calista Elizabeth Shearer
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology
B.A. Biochemistry
cum laude

Harrison Grant Simmonds
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology

Tristan Thomas Rudolph
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology
B.A. Chemistry
summa cum laude

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND PSYCHOLOGY

Joshua Jae-Hoon Hahn
Biochemistry
B.S. Neuroscience
summa cum laude

Natalie June Henneberg
B.S. Neuroscience

Elisabeth Jill Avara Johnson
B.S. Neuroscience
cum laude

Marryn Elise Morris
B.S. Neuroscience

Emily Elizabeth Schmidt
B.S. Neuroscience
magna cum laude

CHEMISTRY

Lily Mei-mei Rose Mesyk
B.A. Biochemistry
summa cum laude

Laura Charlotte Underwood
B.S. Chemistry
summa cum laude
Honors Program

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Abenezer Endale Bekele
B.A. Computer Science
Digital Humanities

Emma Joy Benson
B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12
cum laude

Kaitlyn Braun
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
summa cum laude

Luke Robert Chapman
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science

Samuel Isaias Climaco
B.S. Software Engineering

Jordan Paul Eddy
B.A. Computer Science

Anna Lynn Garfield
B.S. Computer Science

Anna Caroline Heebsh
B.S. Computer Science
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Josh Clark Helling
B.A. Mathematics
Computer Science
magna cum laude

Naomi Esther Henderson
B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12
Music
summa cum laude

Justin Howard Homme
B.S. Computer Engineering

Christelle Deborah Iranezereza
B.A. Mathematics

Ruth Ivy Livingston
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
magna cum laude

Darby Grey Oleary
B.S. Computer Science

Michael David Opheim
B.A. Mathematics
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
B.S. Neuroscience
B.S. Computer Science
B.A. History
summa cum laude

Christopher Philip Paffel
B.S. Computer Engineering

Benjamin Dague Shull
B.S. Computer Science
magna cum laude

Sadie Marie Raitz
B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12
magna cum laude

Caleb Michael Vollhaber
B.A. Math Education, Grades 5-12
summa cum laude

Kristianna Marie Kyllikki Woller
B.S. Mathematics and Data Science
B.Mus. Applied Performance

PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

Trey Nathaniel Adelsman
B.S. Physics
Applied Physics
B.A. Psychology
summa cum laude

Travis Michael Allen
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.A. Physics
cum laude

Joshua Mark Anderson
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
magna cum laude

Xavier Stewart Blasingame
B.S. Applied Physics
Physics
summa cum laude

Matthew Brian Carlsen
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
summa cum laude

Samuel John Carlson
B.S. Physics
Applied Physics
summa cum laude

Owen Treptau Freebersyser
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
magna cum laude

Christopher David Hahn
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics

Gabriel Michael Hjelle
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
magna cum laude

Megan Linnea Johnson
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
magna cum laude

Andrew Christopher Kirzeder
B.S. Applied Physics
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Brianna Christine Kirzeder
B.A. History
Digital Humanities
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Alex Iuri Mecicar
B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Samuel Jacob Mellema
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics

Ian Xavier Mugglin
B.A. Physics
B.S. Electrical Engineering
cum laude

Jacob Andrew Oachs
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics

Elijah John Posavad
B.S. Applied Physics

Luke Richard Posner
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
cum laude

Makayla Maxine Schmidt
B.A. Physics
B.S. Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology
summa cum laude

Ellesa Rose St. George
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.A. Physics
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Luke Samuel Wiltshire
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.A. Physics

Philip David Workman
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.A. Physics
summa cum laude

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Timothy Lee Anderson
B.A. Psychology

Greenleaf Elanor Baker
B.A. Psychology

Lydia Rose Bostrom
B.A. Psychology
cum laude

Shelby Kate Christopher
B.A. Psychology
summa cum laude

Margaret A. Findlay
B.A. Psychology

Allison Mary Gerads
B.A. Psychology
cum laude

David Lawrence Grant
B.A. Psychology

Natalie Joy Hallstrom
B.A. Psychology

Isabella Marie Harvey
B.A. Psychology

Emma Lynn Jacob
B.A. Psychology
summa cum laude

Mackenzie Rose Klasen
B.A. Psychology

Allison Marie LaRock
B.A. Psychology
magna cum laude

Elizabeth Victoria Meiners
B.A. Psychology

Aiyanna Mae Mitchell
B.A. Psychology

Sarah Lynn Nunemaker
B.A. Psychology

Ashley Marie Palmieri
B.A. Psychology

Olivia Alice Llewellyn Parker
B.A. Psychology
cum laude

Carter Wesley Slaton
in absentia
B.A. Psychology

Abbie Marie Swenson
B.A. Psychology
B.S. Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
magna cum laude

Blake Wickam
B.A. Psychology

SOCIAL WORK

Tania Acevedo Garcia
B.A. Social Work
Community Health
cum laude

Ayomide Adesanya
B.A. Social Work
Reconciliation Studies

Aleia Paige Durston
B.A. Social Work
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Kelsie Joy Fettig
B.A. Social Work
magna cum laude

Emily Elise Schmechel
B.A. Social Work
magna cum laude

Emily Judith Stauter
B.A. Social Work
cum laude

Candidates for Graduation

College of Arts & Sciences | 2 p.m. BUILD Program Certificates in Applied Studies

Margaret Elizabeth Allen
Certificate in Applied Studies

Maylon Anne Anderson
Certificate in Applied Studies

Mia Lynn Camp
Certificate in Applied Studies

Belinda Ann Hamlin
Certificate in Applied Studies

Connor Holcomb
Certificate in Applied Studies

Marguerite Katherine Holland
Certificate in Applied Studies

Grace Marie Kohlhofer
Certificate in Applied Studies

Aiden Richard Larson
Certificate in Applied Studies

Benjamin Lee Warren
Certificate in Applied Studies

Peter Anthony Wilson
Certificate in Applied Studies

Bradyn John Zak
Certificate in Applied Studies

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

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Grant Leiran Bennett
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Zoe Sakura Brown
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Kaylee Joy Bunnell
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Brynn Deneige Campbell
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Ava Mei-Xin Chew
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Noah Christopher Graber
A.A. Associate of Arts

Carter Greenwald
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Olivia Catherine Gorman
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Jenna Naomi Hockert
A.A. Associate of Arts

Luke Timothy Hoven
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Gavin Robert Kirschbaum
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Serra Vanessa Kroll
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Ty Steven Lovcik
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Eli James Marvel
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Antonio Lucas Miller
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Jackson S. Mueller
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Nadia Owens
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Omar Eduardo Pacheco
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Ty Theodore Peckels
A.A. Associate of Arts

Sebastian Zane Petersen
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Emily Anne Sampson
A.A. Associate of Arts

Matthew Singh
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

William Sorrensen
A.A. Associate of Arts

Isabella Stenstrom
A.A. Associates of Arts

Alexandra Abigail Stocke
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Cherubim Cherish Toby
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

Sophia Tonn
A.A. Associate of Arts

Kate Faith Truax
in absentia
A.A. Associate of Arts

ART AND DESIGN

Elizabeth Mae Berry
B.A. Graphic Design
cum laude

Annah Jessalee Chriske
B.A. Art
B.S. Biology
magna cum laude

Ariel Michelle Dunleavy
B.A. Graphic Design

Lauren Annelise Feldick
B.A. Art Education, Grades K-12

Madisen Mackenzie Herman
B.A. Art

Annika Lyn Hillstrom
B.A. Graphic Design

Maddie Nicole LaPanta
B.A. Graphic Design

Elizabeth Anne Schwitters
B.A. Graphic Design

Kate Dawn Osgood
B.A. Art Therapy
Psychology
magna cum laude

Kayla Kim Simacek
B.A. Graphic Design

Amelia Karen Wright
B.A. Art Therapy
cum laude

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Grace Elizabeth Alpers
B.A. Missional Ministries

Joseph Gregory Baumgarn
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies

Juston Rhodes Del Eddy
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies

Andrew James Hansen
B.A. Missional Ministries

Benjamin David Henry
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies
Missional Ministries
cum laude

Johanna Grace Johnson
B.A. Missional Ministries
summa cum laude

Heather Ann Long
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies
summa cum laude

Noah Charles Meissner
B.A. Missional Ministries
magna cum laude

Harrison Samuel Nistler
B.A. Missional Ministries

Elizabeth Grace Sheehan
B.A. Missional Ministries

William Holden Swanda
B.A. History
Missional Ministries
summa cum laude

Lynzy Bich Ngoc Tran
B.A. Missional Ministries

Addison L. Wagenman
B.A. Missional Ministries

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Sarah Jo Bakeman
B.A. Organizational Communication
Journalism
summa cum laude

Abbigail Marie Bates
B.A. Organizational Communication
cum laude

Luke Charles Brandt
B.A. Communication Studies

Erik Paul Brecheisen
B.A. Organizational Communication
Communication Studies

Camile Yvette Bunker
B.A. Communication Studies
magna cum laude

Nicholas Alexander Cravaack
B.A. Media Production
History

Clark Nicholas Frederickson
B.A. Organizational Communication

Isaac H. Hebeisen-Verdoorn
B.A. Communication Studies

Hannah Rose Hunhoff
B.A. Organizational Communication
summa cum laude

Miriam Joy Johnson
B.A. Communication Studies
cum laude

Kenton Carl LaDoux
B.A. Media Production

Sydney Alene Lapp
B.A. Communication Studies
summa cum laude

Ashlyn Rose McClintock
B.A. Communication Studies
cum laude

Ella Ann McLaughlin
B.A. Media Production
magna cum laude

Matthew Carroll Monseth
B.A. Communication Studies
magna cum laude

Anna Grace Christine Nelson
B.A. Communication Studies
Psychology
summa cum laude

Abby Li Xue Rau
B.A. Organizational Communication
Communication Studies
cum laude

Ally Lynn Stackhouse
B.A. Communication Studies

Allison Marie Stone
B.A. Organizational Communication

Abigail Julia Tesch
B.A. Communication Studies
Organizational Communication
magna cum laude

Faith Charlotte Thrun
in absentia
B.A. Organizational Communication
Communication Studies

EDUCATION

Daisy Malyn Audette
B.A. Special Education

Christina Rachael Castaneda
B.A. Special Education

Emely Andrea Castillo-Hernandez
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Eva Corinne Forsline
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Miriam Noel Fromm
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Josephine Gillette Harris
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Sophie Marie Johnson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Kaylinh Haau-Yi Kwan
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Anna Elizabeth Larson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
summa cum laude

Makaylah Paige Legel
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Haley Marie Nenovich
B.A. Special Education

Elvira A. Obada
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Ava Elizabeth Patnode
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Htoo Ku Paw
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
magna cum laude

Melissa Frances Peterson
B.A. Art Education, Grades K-12
Music
cum laude

Peyton Reo Peterson
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Amber Lynn Pomeroy
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Taylor Rae Schmidt
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Lydia Joy Stoll
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
cum laude

Olivia Lin Terveen
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6
Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12
cum laude

Rebekah Anne Towns
B.A. Elementary Education,
Grades K-6

Vanessa Lee Whitehead
B.A. Education Studies: English
as a Second Language

Michael Rhema Williams
B.A. Science Education, Grades 5-8:
General Science

ENGLISH AND JOURNALISM

Rachel Sophie Blood
B.A. Journalism
English Literature and Writing
summa cum laude

Annika Marie Carr
B.A. English Literature and Writing
Journalism
cum laude

Lydia Elizabeth Gessner
B.A. English
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Angela Rubi Gonzalez
B.A. English
Journalism
cum laude

Anna Serene Kapsner
B.A. English
summa cum laude

Soraya Martha Keiser
B.A. Journalism
International Relations
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Talia McWright
B.A. Journalism

Grace Elizabeth Morningstar
B.A. Communication Arts and
Literacy Education, Grades 5-12
summa cum laude

Merrina Jean O'Malley
B.A. English

Anna Lee Pearson
B.A. Journalism
Psychology
magna cum laude

Ella Marie Roberts
B.A. Journalism
Organizational Communication
Communication Studies
magna cum laude

Cyrus J. Ruch
B.A. English Literature and Writing
cum laude
Honors Program

Molly Rose Wilson
B.A. Journalism
Political Science

HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Ryleeann Eve Andre
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
History
summa cum laude

Cristian Eliseo Arias Cisneros
B.A. History
Biblical and Theological Studies
magna cum laude

Brady James Barnes
B.A. Political Science
Business

Zachary James Beilby
B.A. History
Philosophy
magna cum laude

Jonathan Tracy Boll
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
Political Science

Samuel Jeffrey Cottingham
B.A. History
Social Studies, Grades 5-12

Sam Gregory Derfus
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
Political Science
summa cum laude

Hannah Grace Flanders
B.A. International Relations
cum laude

Andrew Vincent Gmyrek
B.A. History
Political Science

Samuel Mark Grussing
B.A. Philosophy
History
summa cum laude

Paul Joseph Hartmann
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
History

Trey Allen Henry
B.A. Philosophy
Political Science
summa cum laude

Annessa Grace Ihde
B.A. International Relations
Spanish
History
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Brianna Christine Kirzeder
in absentia
B.A. History
Digital Humanities
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Kelsey Marie Lindell
B.A. History
magna cum laude

Grace Elizabeth Linnett
B.A. Social Studies, Grades 5-12
History
summa cum laude

Giselle Ntsa lab Lo
B.A. Political Science
Business
magna cum laude

Karina Ruth Nelson
B.A. International Relations
Business and Political Science
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Sydney Noelle Rasmussen
B.A. Political Science
summa cum laude
Honors Program

Emma Grace Ryks
B.A. History
Biology
cum laude

Laurel Ruth Steffenson
B.A. Business and Political Science
Communication Studies
magna cum laude

Connor Dean Soule
B.A. History

Trevor Jacob Wellman
B.A. Political Science

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Ana Crystal Garcia Balmaceda
B.A. Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12

Bailey Nicole Guggisberg
B.A. Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12
magna cum laude
Honors Program

Andrew James Kovalenko
B.A. Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12

Connor Dean Soule
B.A. History

Natalie Ann Lietz
B.A. Teaching English as a Second
Language, Grades K-12
summa cum laude

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Rueben Sebastian Carbajal
B.Mus. Applied Performance
cum laude

Elizabeth Anne Gerken
B.Mus. Applied Performance
magna cum laude

Micah Anthony Lopez
B.Mus.Ed. Music Education,
Grades K-12

Taylor Grace McKeever
B.Mus. Applied Performance
B.A. Biblical and Theological Studies
summa cum laude

Christian Bjork Swenson
B.Mus. Applied Performance

Candidates for Graduation

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

ASSOCIATE’S DEGREES

Alexander Edward Koenig
A.A. General Studies

Marvin L. Roseman
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

Lindsey Elaine Stoltzman
in absentia
A.A. General Studies

ACCOUNTING

Michael Wayne Johnson
in absentia
B.S. Accounting

Katie Tsampis
B.S. Accounting

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Joshua Michael Bridell
in absentia
B.S. Business Management

HUMAN SERVICES

Olufemi Cyril Akinwande
in absentia
B.A. Human Services

Nenseh Mamie Sakpeider
B.A. Human Services

NURSING

Rhonda Rochelle Eccles
B.S.N Nursing

Danielle Nicole Keller
in absentia
B.S.N Nursing

Talitha Marie Lundgren
B.S.N Nursing
with honors

Allison Nicolle Martin
in absentia
B.S.N Nursing

Autumn Tiana Nelson
in absentia
B.S.N Nursing
with honors

Annette Michelle Peterson
B.S.N Nursing
with honors

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Regina Mancilla
B.A. Organizational Leadership

PSYCHOLOGY

Emma M. Darst
B.A. Psychology
with honors

Andrew Jordan Hanson
B.A. Psychology
with honors

Emma Lee Poncin
B.A. Psychology

Lauren Corrine Rogina
in absentia
B.A. Psychology

SOCIAL WORK

Nathan E. Hibbs
B.A. Social Work

Grace Michelle Marohn
B.A. Social Work
with honors

Bonnie Nicole Thomas
B.A. Social Work
with honors

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Madison Kelly Matherly
in absentia
B.A. Special Education

Madison Ann Stevens
B.A. Special Education

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDIES

Eva Jachymowski
B.A. Special Education Studies
with honors

Madeline Grace Benfer
M.S. Medical Sciences

Reece Kathleen Cowan
M.S. Medical Sciences

Rhea Rajendra Dhamapurkar
M.S. Medical Sciences

Theresa Maria Doan
in absentia
M.S. Medical Sciences

Natalie Bassam Hamdan
M.S. Medical Sciences

Navneet Kaur
in absentia
M.S. Medical Sciences

Charlesetta Kebeh Kobo
M.S. Medical Sciences

Nicholas Allen LeDoux
M.S. Medical Sciences

Kayla Jane McLoughlin
M.S. Medical Sciences

Hanna S. Mekonnen
M.S. Medical Sciences

Ivan Enrique Nunez Carrasco
M.S. Medical Sciences

NURSE-MIDWIFERY

Jennifer Lee Botelho
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Nandi Brown
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Brittaney Hebert Corso
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Lydia Caroline Flikkema
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Maddison Riley Frisbie
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Kayla Joan Gosnell
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Jolene Jakubowsky
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Shannon Lea Kramer
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Wendy Lotegeluaki
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Laiken Kay Noble
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Cha’Dania Regina Page
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Meghan Perrodin
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Tiffany Robinson
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Jounia Sara Saint-Juste
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Jamie Lyn Shelley
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Kasey Tousignant
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Erin Jeanne Dwyer Trisko
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Susan Renae Turner
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

Courtney Leigh Vega
M.S. Nurse-Midwifery

SOCIAL WORK

Krista Marie Bayne
MSW Social Work

Bridgette Darenea Crisp
MSW Social Work

Jessica Emerson
MSW Social Work

Kate Kristina Hansen
MSW Social Work

George Vandi Moijueh
MSW Social Work

Abigail M. Olson
MSW Social Work

Hailemariam Beyene Seyoum
MSW Social Work

Veronica Yama Swen
MSW Social Work

Heidi Rose Theobald
MSW Social Work

SPEICAL ECUATION

Ryan John Abrahamson
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Anna Simone Cook
M.A. Special Education

Michaela Marie Teigen Duncan
M.A. Special Education

Jacqueline Gonzalez Ozuna
M.A. Special Education

Rachael Elizabeth Petersen
M.A. Special Education

Laura Elaine Ramberg
M.A. Special Education

Nikolas Sell
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Sydney Anne Steen
in absentia
M.A. Special Education

Alicia Chong Teeter
M.A. Special Education

John Webb
M.A. Special Education

Paige Olivia Wildenauer
M.A. Special Education

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Christopher Donald Blauert
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Alexis Kathleen DeBace
in absentia
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Ariel A. Freiborg
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Anne Olsen
in absentia
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Christopher Duane Pocta
in absentia
M.A. Strategic Leadership

Neabei Woart Toah
M.A. Strategic Leadership

TEACHING

Wayne Flenniken
M.A. Teaching

Matthew Richard Kenutis
in absentia
M.A. Teaching

Daniel Joseph St John Moe
M.A. Teaching

Sumaya A. Mohamed
M.A. Teaching

Brian James Remington
in absentia
M.A. Teaching

Graduate School Master’s Degrees

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Michelle M. Anderson
MBA Business Administration

Cassandra Rose Brennan
MBA Business Administration

Casey Flynn Campbell
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Mark Andrew Curtin
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Trenton Michael Danner
MBA Business Administration

Grace Dietz
MBA Business Administration

Lisa Marie Estevez
MBA Business Administration

Jessica Gutierrez
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Loren Paul Muraca
MBA Business Administration

Khanh Xong Nguyen
MBA Business Administration

Benjamin Andrew Richburg
MBA Business Administration

Paula Rush
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Tyler Skeate
MBA Business Administration

Alexia Lorraine Skoog
MBA Business Administration

Samuel Allen Stevens
in absentia
MBA Business Administration

Ia Vang
MBA Business Administration

COUNSELING

Sophie Rose Bergquist
M.A. Counseling

Kenzie Anne Boozikee
M.A. Counseling

Allyson Elizabeth Case
M.A. Counseling

Sarah Lucille Boudreau Ebner
M.A. Counseling

Kathryn E. Fischer
M.A. Counseling

Maria Furness
M.A. Counseling

Jocelyn Marie Gamble
M.A. Counseling

Allison Hope Kilgore
M.A. Counseling

Melani Kompelien
M.A. Counseling

Abigail Kathleen Peterson
M.A. Counseling

Ryan John Poeschl
M.A. Counseling

Claire Evelina Radatz
M.A. Counseling

Kaitlynn Elizabeth Rivers
M.A. Counseling

Lauren Elizabeth Schwen
M.A. Counseling

Kyle John Severson
M.A. Counseling

Toluwalope Victor Toluhi
M.A. Counseling

Amelia Clare Weightman-Bragg
M.A. Counseling

Susan Christina Wold
M.A. Counseling

EDUCATION K-12

Jessica Dubie
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

Colin Bryce Howell
M.A. Education K-12

YuTing Shuai
in absentia
M.A. Education K-12

MEDICAL SCIENCES

Mickenzie Louise Babb
M.S. Medical Sciences

Graduate School Doctoral Degrees

Emmanuel Adewusi

in absentia

Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education

Dissertation: *A Quantitative Examination of Teachers' Perception of Children's Socio-emotional Development in Reggio Emilia and Alberta Flight Framework-Driven Early Childhood Education and Care Centers*
BSc., University of Jos, Nigeria
M.S.I.T., Clark University, Boston
M.I.S.S.M., Concordia University of Edmonton

Andrea A. Carroll-Glover

Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education

Dissertation: *Divorcing your OPM: Moving From an Outsourced Online Program Management Model to a New Online Program Management Model: A Qualitative Descriptive Case Study*

B.S., University of Minnesota
MBA, Capella University

Karra Marie Cheruiyot

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration

Dissertation: *Facing History: A Systematic Literature Review of the Intersection of Trauma-Informed Education, Critical Race Theory, and Ubuntu in K-12 History Classrooms*
B.M., Roosevelt University
M.A.T., Roosevelt University

K Christine Collins-Otto

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration

Dissertation: *Divorcing Values: A Quantitative Study of Religious K-12 Leaders in the Public Sphere*
B.A., University of Arizona
M.S., University of Texas

Elizabeth Gail DenHartigh

Ed.D. Educational Leadership Administration

Dissertation: *Measuring International School Early Year Teachers' Actual and Perceived Knowledge of Strategies to Support Oral Language Development in Early Years*
B.A., Bethel University
M.A., Minnesota State University-Mankato

Darlene Antonette Denmark-Brown

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration

Dissertation: *Exploring the Lived Experiences of People with Adverse Childhood Experiences who have Graduated from College and Broken the Cycle of Generational Poverty*
B.S., Bloomfield College
M.A., Northwestern University

Joshua Stephen Mahan

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration

Dissertation: *The Rise in Racial Tension: Metropolitan High School Administrators' Perceptions of School Resource Officers*
B.A., University of Dallas
M.A., Bethel University

Jennifer Marie Niska

Ed.D. Educational Leadership

Dissertation: *A Phenomenological Case Study of Key Characteristics of a Successful Presidential Transition*
B.A., Univeristy of Sioux Falls
M.A., North American Baptist Seminary

Jennifer Lane Pare

in absentia

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration

Dissertation: *Teacher Perceptions of the Support Received When Working with English Language*
B.A., University of Minnesota
M.A., University of Minnesota

Ann Senn

Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education

Dissertation: *Talking Leadership: Voices of High School Athletes (and Coaches)*
B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison
MBA, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Amanda Tegels

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration

Dissertation: *Exploring the Current Reality of Support for Multilingual Learners in Greater Minnesota: Bridging Practice and Policy to Plan Forward*
B.A., Minnesota State University Moorhead
M.A., St. Cloud State University
Ed.S., Minnesota State University Moorhead

Kelvin Kian Teck Teo

in absentia

Ed.D. Leadership in Higher Education

Dissertation: *The Perception of Asian Students Enrolled in an Online Theological Degree Program on their Learning Experience Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*
B.A., National University of Singapore
M.Div., TCA College (Singapore)

Lee Thao

Ed.D. Leadership in K-12 Administration

Dissertation: *The Experiences of Hmong American Parents and Guardians Who Navigate the U.S. Public School System Through Hmong American Charter Schools*
B.A., University of Minnesota-Morris
M.Ed., University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Ed.S., Minnesota State University-Mankato

BETHEL SEMINARY
Commencement Exercises

Saturday, May 25, 2024
Benson Great Hall

Presiding
Ross Allen, B.A., President

PROCESSIONAL
“Trumpet Voluntary,” Jeremiah Clarke
Ju Young Lee, D.M.A., Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music

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
Terri Russell, 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.

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.

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.

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
Titus Wanyonyi, D.Min. Candidate

CONFERRING OF DEGREES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS
Ross Allen
Robin Rylaarsdam

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

Hooding of Seminary School Candidates
DesAnne Hippe, Ph.D., Professor of Theology
Peter Jankowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy
Andy Rowell, Th.D., Associate Professor of Ministry Leadership
Jeff Sanders, M.Div., Associate Dean of Formation and Professional Development

INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNION
Donna Johnson, D.Min., Director of Internship and Placement

COMMUNION MEDITATION
Jeannine Brown, Ph.D., The David Price Professor of Biblical and Theological Foundations

BLESSINGS
John Dunne, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Program Director of Doctor of Ministry
Denise Muir Kjesbo, Ph.D., Program Director, Professor, Director of The Cory Center for Children’s Ministry
Peter Jankowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy
Kaz Hayashi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Old Testament

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

RECESSIONAL†
“Toccata” from *Symphony No. V*, Charles-Marie Widor
Ju Young Lee

**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:
Peter Vogt, Ph.D., Dean of Bethel Seminary | Laver
Denise Muir Kjesbo, Ph.D., Program Director, Professor, Director of The Cory Center for Children’s Ministry | 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 Vieceli, 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

Katelyn Killgore
in absentia
Certificate in Biblical Studies

Bethel Seminary Certificates in Theological Studies

Sonya Leigh Anderson
in absentia
Certificate in Theological Studies

Roxanne Marie Popelka
in absentia
Certificate in Theological Studies

Sharon April Sommerfeld
in absentia
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)

Alem Taddele Bishu
M.A. (Christian Thought)
cum laude

Mark Allen Bjorlo
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)

Ashley Erin Christopherson
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

John Martin Connerton
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Andrew John Dvorak
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Renée Lynn Gibbens
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Cortney Tranby Hokanson
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)

Anthony Richard Lanza
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)
cum laude

Lindsay Beth Leffel
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Todd Jonathan Loken
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)
magna cum laude

Kathryn Esther Magnuson
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

LaToya Danielle Moore
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)

Elizabeth Denson Riedman
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)

Rebekah Lyn Rogers
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Kyle Schanbacher
in absentia
M.A. (Christian Thought)
summa cum laude

Lise Farah Uzodinma
M.A. (Christian Thought)

Grant Waldo Wennerberg
M.A. (Christian Thought)

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

James David Hyden
M.A. Children's and Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Krista Kaye Krause
M.A. Children's and Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Jacqueline Sarauer
M.A. Children's and Family Ministry
magna cum laude

Kristi J. Schelhaas
M.A. Children's and Family Ministry
summa cum laude

Jessica Lynn Seelye
M.A. Children's and Family Ministry
magna cum laude

MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Alex Scott Baker
in absentia
M.A. Transformational Leadership
cum laude

Ryan Ezekiel King
M.A. Transformational Leadership
magna cum laude

Steven Olan
in absentia
M.A. Transformational Leadership

Andrea Nicole Ratfield
in absentia
M.A. Transformational Leadership
magna cum laude

Jesse Shannon Sampson
M.A. Transformational Leadership

Jordan DeWayne Williams
M.A. Transformational Leadership

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

Andrew W. Bramsen
M.A. (Theological Studies)
summa cum laude

Nathaniel Kenton Klein
in absentia
M.A. (Theological Studies)
magna cum laude

Samanthah Kudzanayi Kumbula
M.A. (Theological Studies)

Taylor Patz
M.A. (Theological Studies)
summa cum laude

Patrick J. Redelings
in absentia
M.A. (Theological Studies)
magna cum laude

Dustin Jon Thompson
in absentia
M.A. (Theological Studies)
summa cum laude

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY

Kalli Elisabeth Franz
M.A. Ministry
magna cum laude

Tahje Shenitra Heard
M.A. Ministry

Karen Elise Jensen
M.A. Ministry
cum laude

Adegbola Fola Ogundipe
M.A. Ministry

MASTER OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

Phillip Russell Buganski
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
cum laude

Alexis Marjorie Evertz
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Jamie Ann Horn
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
magna cum laude

Christian Ann Larson
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
cum laude

Trevor Matthias Limberg
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Shawn Ramon Moore
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy

Jessica Canada Poffenbaugh
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
summa cum laude

Dean Edward Smith
in absentia
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
magna cum laude

Jennie Marie Stein
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
magna cum laude

Michelle Mieto-Mdellel Young
M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy
cum laude

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Zachary Anderson
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Christopher Raymond Auer
M.Div.

Jason Andrew Clark
in absentia
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Joseph Donnaldd Dunnwald
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Xristian Alexander Escala
in absentia
M.Div.

Michael Bradley Fahrenbruch
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Wendy Theresa Green
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Mary Shirley Harrison
in absentia
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Jaclyn Rose Hicks
M.Div.
cum laude

Isaac Maxwell Holst
M.Div.

Matthew Hosea Kadlec
M.Div.

Daniel Kuelbs
in absentia
M.Div.

Travis Victor Leinonen
in absentia
M.Div.
cum laude

Angelo David Lopez
M.Div.

Kenichiro Murashima
in absentia
M.Div.
cum laude

Rose Marie Nelessen
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Robert Roland Neumann
M.Div.
magna cum laude

Erik Jacob Nygren
in absentia
M.Div.
cum laude

John Patton
M.Div.

Terri Michelle Russell
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Amy Jo Fredman Staley
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Michael Ross Wahlstrom
M.Div.
summa cum laude

Honoring 2024 Emeriti Faculty

Bryan Anderson, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences

Herbert Johnson, D.M.A., Professor of Music

Jason Ting Li, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

Bruce Olsen, Associate Professor of Business

David Ray Stewart, M.Div./Th.M., Director of the University Library

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Visit the Bethel Campus Store
on Saturday, May 25 from 10:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Bethel Seminary Doctoral Degrees

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Karen Jean Beaumont
D.Min. Biblical and Theological
Engagement
Thesis: *Developing a Leadership
Model that Encourages Racial Equity
in the Church*
M.Div., Regent University

Tara Phleshette Bulger
D.Min. Congregation and
Family Care
Thesis: *Bridging the Gap:
Effective Strategies to Engage
Emerging Adults in the Church*
B.A., Clayton State University
M.A., Ohio Christian Univeristy

Deborah Jacqueline Carter
D.Min. Biblical and Theological
Engagement
Thesis: *Diversity and Inclusion in
Historical White Church The Great
Experiment*
B.S., Southern Connecticut State
University
B.S., Southern Illinois University -
Carbondale
M.A., Hartford International
University for Religion and Peace

Marie Elizabeth Hofmann
in absentia
D.Min. Transformational Leadership
Thesis: *Transformational Leadership
Characteristics of Gjergj Kastrioti
Skanderbeg*
B.S., Tennessee Technological
University
M.A., Oral Roberts University

**Regina Claudette Jeanpierre-
Bryant**
D.Min. Biblical and Theological
Engagement
Thesis: *Restorative Practices Lead to
Turnaround Presbyterian Churches
in Nebraska*
B.A., University of Nebraska at
Lincoln
M.H.A., Bellevue University
M.A., Grace University

Gaylen Sheree Pearl Jones
D.Min. Church Leadership
Thesis: *The Role of a Leader:
Establishing Psychological Safety
in the Church*
A.S., Cuyamaca College
B.S., Springfield College
M.A., Bethel University

Jerry Kelvin Maynard
D.Min. Transformational
Leadership
Thesis: *Ministry Formation:
An African American Pastor's
Perspective on the Use of Non-
seminary and Secular Work
Training for Pastoral Leadership*
M.Div., Shaw University

Evelyn Nsisong Nwani
D.Min. Transformational
Leadership
Thesis: *How to Empower Women
to Use Their Gifts in Ministry*
M.A., Life Pacific University

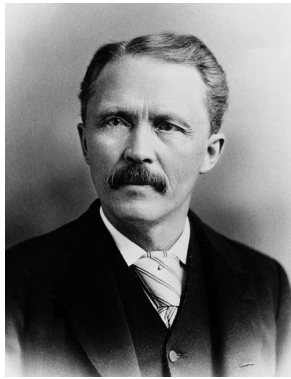
Molly Katherine Schroeder
D.Min. Transformational
Leadership
Thesis: *Christian Leadership
Development: A Christian
Leadership Development Curriculum
to Increase Emotional Intelligence
(EQ) Using a Multi-Facueted
Approach*
M.A., Luther Seminary

Titus Wafula Wanyonyi
D.Min. Biblical and Theological
Engagement
Thesis: *Effective Practices in the
Pulpit Mimistry that Mitigate
Ecclesial Adoption of Popular Culture
Among Converge Worldwide
Churches in Minneapolis and St. Paul*
Bachelor of Commerce, Univerisy
of Nairobi, Kenya
M.A., Bethel University



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

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 4,500 students from all 50 states and 32 countries in undergraduate, graduate, seminary, and adult undergraduate programs. Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bethel University offers rigorous majors and programs in more than 80 relevant fields.

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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