

Bethel Celebration

Please help yourself to treats.
Program begins at 1:20



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Welcome!

Today, we are celebrating

The service milestones of those who
started at Bethel between August 1
and December 31

Important to know:

- Everyone* was contacted
- Some opted out

What's in the box?

- Blue = 5, 10, 15 years
- Gold = 20 years and up
- "Dinner on Us"
- Milestone Magnet

5 YEARS



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Brooke Eischens

5



Assistant Professor of Nursing

Brooke is an incredibly effective leader and colleague who inspires respect from everyone.

She is known for her integrity, brilliance, and shared passion for faith-based justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and excellence in nursing.

We recognize Brooke for her conscientious character, intelligence, exceptional organizational skills, and the ability to lead with excellence while fostering growth in those around her.



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Amy Evans

5



**Program Director,
Counseling GS & Faculty**

Dr. Evans is the epitome of a counselor-educator who truly bridges theory and practice.

Her extensive and varied clinical background, spanning private practice, college counseling, and inpatient substance use treatment, ensures that her classroom teaching is always grounded in real-world experience, making her an invaluable mentor for our students.



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Amy Fokken

5



**Director of Academic
Operations**

Amy has the innate ability to laugh in the face of challenge and find a way to get the work done.

A significant accomplishment was learning the operations behind our adult undergraduate and graduate programs simultaneous with restructuring of the Operations unit and processes

And, most of all, she has exhibited patience and persistence amidst the steady drumbeat of “there’s gotta be a better way”.



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Tori Furlong

5



Assistant Professor of Nursing

Tori has a creative, fun, and energetic approach to teaching.

Tori's simulation expertise is a game-changer.

Her most significant contribution has been developing and launching a simulation training program for faculty. This accomplishment has been transformative, directly elevating the instructional quality across our entire team.

She makes our team a better place to be, and her enthusiasm is contagious and deeply valued by everyone.



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Matt Hutchinson

5



Safety and Security Officer

He shows initiative in creative problem solving, utilizing institutional knowledge and familiarity with University campus to address issues that arise.

He is appreciated for his dependability and the behind-the-scenes work to help keep our community safe around the clock.

His willingness to go beyond what is expected of him to help students feel safe and trusting our department is deeply appreciated!



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Jennifer Wagenman

5



Residence Hall Custodian

Jenny is a stable and reliable presence who brings both lightness and joy to her work.

She genuinely cares about students and their quality of life while living on Bethel's campus, consistently striving to make it feel like home.

Whenever there's an opportunity to engage with residents in her building, she takes a true and personal interest in their lives, building meaningful connections that reflect her commitment and care.



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10 YEARS



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Melissa Cordes

10



Professor of Biological Sciences

Neuroscience Program Director

Melissa is an innovator who has the drive to complete the creative endeavors she ignites.

Melissa makes important contributions as director of the neuroscience program. She runs an active research lab, mentored many research students, and several have presented posters at neuroscience conferences.

Melissa is compassionate and generous. She often provides practical assistance to students and colleagues, freely sharing materials she has developed with other instructors.



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Erik Leafblad

10



Assistant Professor of Missional Ministries

BTS Department Chair

Erik is deeply committed to his students - He consistently seeks creative and effective ways to mentor students, helping them not only develop academically but also grow in character and leadership.

He also shows strong dedication to the institution, willingly stepping into challenging roles and responsibilities that others might avoid. Rather than passing along difficult tasks, he accepts them with a sense of purpose and responsibility.

His leadership of the BTS department during times of significant change has been marked by steady guidance and a caring concern for faculty navigating transitions.



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Miriam Hill

10



Director of Counseling Services

Miriam is both a strong, trustworthy leader who has a caring and empathetic heart.

Miriam is responsible and competent. Miriam leads with both diligence and excellence, and she does this excellent work with such deep love for those around her. Her gentle leadership is powerful.

Miriam is a great listener and highly competent. I know she can always be trusted to do the best and most right thing. She is an avid researcher and has spent significant time in her 10 years revising our model, adapting to change, and continuing to put students first.



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Angela Stoeckman

10



Professor of Chemistry

Angela's top-notch research program trains student majors, many of whom have advanced to medical school, careers, or post-graduate studies in biochemistry.

An especially striking characteristic is her passion to make every class session an engaging experience for students.

She treasures the time she has with students, striving to make the most of each opportunity.



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Lisa Sowards

10



**Academic Affairs
Coordinator**

Lisa makes sure each person she interacts with feels valued—she goes out of her way to ensure questions are answered, even when she isn't the one with the answer (though often she is!).

She is a dedicated leader for *Woven Lives*, making a meaningful difference for students, especially the student leaders with whom she collaborates.

Lisa has a well-earned reputation as a true *scheduling wizard*!



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15 YEARS



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Megan Kirchoff

15



Assistant Coach - Volleyball

Megan seeks to do all of the behind-the-scenes work that will never be noticed or garner attention. Her efforts in building relationships, loving our students, overseeing tasks that support the rest of the department, and faithful follow up have earned her great respect.

Megan oversees our process that brings nearly 400 volleyball summer campers to campus every summer.

Megan also initiated our first Foreign Tour as a team back in 2016, researching companies and creating a proposal, including a fundraising plan. As a result, we have traveled as a team internationally three times, with a fourth trip scheduled to Brazil this Spring.



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Lori Matchefts

15



**Coordinator for Student and
Institutional Assessment -
Seminary**

Lori transitioned into her current role as Seminary Coordinator of Assessment during a critical time in the life of the seminary and has helped us strengthen both our student and institutional assessment procedures and outcomes.

She is integral to our co-curricular formation offerings for students and has served in a way that adds both logistical clarity and event/opportunity value for our students.

Her concern for people and love for Christ are encouraging and inspiring as she lives her life and works with us.



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20 YEARS



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Laura Gilbertson

20



Associate Professor

Christian Ministries & History,
Philosophy, and Political Science

"Laura demonstrates consistent care for both faculty and students. She not only supports them personally but also works diligently to ensure that the academic quality of the program remains strong and continually improves. Her leadership reflects a commitment to excellence and the flourishing of those she serves."



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MaryAnn Harris

20



Professor of Business

"MaryAnn exhibits sharp strategic thinking and a genuine warmth that makes everyone feel valued. She is great at connecting people and always seems to know who to introduce and how to open doors for both students and colleagues."



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AnneMarie Kooistra

20



Professor of History

Co-Program Director of Pietas Honors Program

"AnneMarie is simply one of the finest teachers on our faculty, equally good at helping to ignite a passion for the liberal arts in new students and pushing upper-level students to hone their abilities as historians."



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Lex Thompson

20



Professor of Art

"Lex landed in our department as an inventive and dedicated artist, a scholar in multiple fields and someone with a commitment to upholding the rigorous academic quality that has been the tradition in the department."



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Ray VanArragon

20



"Ray deeply cares about faculty, recognizing that their work makes a lasting difference for deep student learning. He brings together genuine curiosity and a sense of wonder with a strong ability to get things done—resulting in collaborative thinking and stronger outcomes."

**Associate Provost of
Faculty Affairs**



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25 YEARS



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Jeannine Brown

25



"Jeannine is a world-class New Testament scholar, recognized by colleagues for her careful scholarship and contributions to the understanding of hermeneutics and the New Testament. Her work reflects both intellectual depth and clarity, engaging complex biblical texts with rigor while also making them meaningful for students, pastors, and the wider church."

**David Price Professor of Biblical and
Theological Foundations & Director of
Online Programs**



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Donna Johnson

25



**Director of Internship &
Placement - Seminary**

"Donna's work is invaluable to the Seminary (students, staff and faculty) as she boldly and powerfully encourages everyone around her to consider who they hope to be and how Jesus might help them be that person."



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Matt Runion

25



**Campus Pastor for
Partnerships**

"Matt embodies everything we want our students to be. His genuine, compassionate and consistent heart models that of Jesus in all he does. The overflow of this heart blesses our community on a daily basis."



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Thank you!

Let's give one last round of applause



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milestone magnets

If you haven't already done so,
please pick yours up in OPC!



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