



# Commencement

December 9, 2022 | Mankato, Minnesota



# Welcome

We welcome you to this ceremony of commencement at Bethany Lutheran College. We are proud of these graduates, confident that they have grown both intellectually and spiritually during their days here. Your presence at this milestone in their lives is another sign of your support and love, which has continued over many years, and which we know they deeply appreciate. It is our prayer that Bethany Lutheran College, and especially the lessons learned here, will remain in the lives of these young men and women on the path the Lord chooses for them.

## Order of Procession

The commencement ceremony begins with the procession of participants. The chair of the faculty assembly leads the procession carrying the college mace, followed by the college president, the chaplain, the vice president of academic affairs, and faculty marshal. The graduates continue the procession followed by faculty advisors, faculty emeriti, and the remaining faculty concludes the procession.

## Academic Apparel

Today's graduates and faculty members are wearing ceremonial regalia that conform to traditions and practices of the academy. The graduates are wearing black gowns with an open pointed sleeve. Ceremony participants with advanced or terminal degrees wear gowns that represent their earned degree. Those holding a master's degree wear a gown with an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The oblong shape is square cut in the back, the front section tailored with an arc cut. Those who have earned a doctorate wear a gown distinguished by velvet trim on the front facings and three stripes on the sleeves. This trim may be black or may have color identifying the individual's major field of academic achievement.

Ceremonial regalia also includes academic hoods. The size and cut of the academic hood indicates the level and type of degree an individual holds. The lining of the hood, in Bethany's case red and white, indicates the school colors and the outer velvet trim indicates the bachelor's degree. As with the bachelor's hood, the master's and doctor's hoods have the same color designations in the lining of the school where the degree was earned and velvet trim indicating the field in which the degree is held. Since wearing the hood indicates the attainment of the degree, the graduates' advisors and the faculty marshal will hood the graduates after the degrees are awarded.

## A Brief History

In 1911, Bethany Ladies College opened with forty-four students and four faculty members, and a mission to educate young women. In 1927, the Norwegian Synod, later known as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), purchased the college. The ELS operated the school as a co-educational high school and junior college until 1969, when the high school department was closed. Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary began in 1946 as a department of the college; in 1975 it became a separate institution.

In May 1996, the Board of Regents resolved to start moving Bethany from an associate to a baccalaureate degree-granting institution. In the spring of 2001 Bethany entered a new era in its history by granting its first baccalaureate degrees. Bethany continued with academic program growth by offering its first master of arts program in 2021.

## Photography & Video

Professional photography and video will be taken at today's ceremony. Bethany will be sending one 4"x 6" photograph taken with the president to each graduate. Candid photographs from the ceremony will be available to download and a video link will be available online at [blc.edu/commencement](http://blc.edu/commencement).

# Seal



The College seal was made official by a resolution of the Board of Regents in 1932. The idea of the college seal originated with Ruth Seidel, who was an instructor at Bethany, and her artist brother, Wilbur Seidel of Chicago, who furnished the detailed drawing.

The seal is distinctive and most appropriate. The inscription "ΕΝΟΣ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΧΡΕΙΑ" is Greek and means "One Thing Is Needful," the words of Christ spoken to Martha at that first Bethany. The "One Thing Needful" is the Gospel of the crucified Savior, expressed by the cross upon which the inscription is placed. For Bethany Lutheran College we thereby declare that there is no true education, even as there is no salvation, without the Gospel of Christ,

Son of God and Savior of the world from sin. That Gospel is, and must remain, the heart and soul of every educational effort at our beloved institution. The cross is encircled by a star with twelve points, upon which are shown rays of light extending from the cross. As the twelve apostles were commissioned to be bearers of the light from the cross, so the goal of our training at Bethany must not be our own advancement, but the spread of the Gospel.

# Mace

The college mace is a symbol of authority. Its origins can be traced to early medieval times when it was literally an instrument of power as a war club. It eventually evolved into the ceremonial scepter of monarchs. For colleges and universities it symbolizes the authority to grant degrees given to the faculty by the state or church. The mace is carried by the chair of the faculty assembly.

The mace was designed and carved by Eric Ouren. The wooden cross at the top of the mace is carved from one of the "Koshkonong Oaks." The first Norwegian Lutheran worship service in America was conducted under the oak trees by Lake Koshkonong near Madison, Wisconsin, in 1844. The shaft of the mace has three bands over what looks to be "roots" connecting the top to the bottom. This is reminiscent of Scandinavian/Viking carving, something that connects Bethany to the old world and its Norwegian-American cultural origins. At the base of the shaft is a small piece of the old Bethany gates. These gates had been part of the foundation of a planned conservatory next to Old Main that was never finished. Inset in the top of the mace is a bronze casting of the college seal.



# Medallion



At Bethany, the presidential medallion symbolizes the responsibility of the office the president to provide sound, Christian collegiate education for each and every student. The college president wears the medallion at commencement, opening service, and other times when academic apparel are appropriate. The medallion is hand tooled, cast in oxidized bronze and hand polished. It measures 3-5/8 inches in diameter with a decorative bezel around the three-inch medallion. The presidential medallion hangs on a bronze chain individually listing the past presidents of the college on a small metal banner. The current president's banner is in the center above the medallion, and is separated from those of past presidents by leaf clusters. The seal of Bethany Lutheran College is engraved on the front side of the medallion.

# Commencement Ceremony

Pre-Ceremony Music

**Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella** arranged by Vince Gassi

**Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 8 (Christmas Concerto)**

by Corelli, arranged by Todd Parrish

**Brandenburg Concerto, No. 2** by J.S. Bach, arranged by Merle J. Isaac

*Chamber Orchestra, Conducted by Benjamin Faugstad*

Processional\*

\*Please rise when the procession enters

**Macht Hoch die Tür**

*College Choir*

Invocation

**Chaplain Donald Moldstad**

*Director of Campus Spiritual Life*

Welcome

**Gene R. Pfeifer, PhD**

*President*

Commencement Address

**Rev. Bradley J. Kerkow**

*Evangelism and Missions Counselor, Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

Presentation of Candidates  
for Degrees and Honors

**Jason H. Lowrey, PhD**

*Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Conferring of Degrees  
and Awarding of Diplomas

**Gene R. Pfeifer, PhD**

*President*

College Choir

**Magnificat in B-flat** - C.V. Stanford

*Directed by Dennis Marzolf, Professor of Music*

My soul doth magnify the Lord,

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel as he

promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

Benediction

**Chaplain Donald Moldstad**

\*Please remain seated for the recessional

Recessional Music

*Prof. Mark DeGarmeaux, organ*

A reception for the graduates will be held following the ceremony.

## Commencement Speaker



**Rev. Bradley J. Kerkow** was born in Queensland, Australia. He received a bachelor of arts in psychology from the University of Queensland, Brisbane in 1995. Desiring a confessional Lutheran education, he traveled halfway around the world to Mankato, Minnesota, where he received a master of divinity from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2000. He served as Vicar at King of Grace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota, from 1999-2000. Rev. Kerkow was then called to Peace Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota, which was an exploratory mission at the time. He served there from 2000-2011. In June 2011, he accepted the call to work as an exploratory missionary to the areas of Cedar Park and Leander, Texas. Then he served there as missionary/pastor of Hope Lutheran Church from 2013 until 2021. In 2021, Rev. Kerkow was called by the Board for Home Outreach of the Evangelical

Lutheran Synod to the position of Evangelism and Missions Counselor. In this position, he serves the Synod's missions and congregations throughout the United States.

Rev. Kerkow is married to Rachel (née Westphal) who is originally from Wisconsin. They have been blessed with four children: Anna, Sophia, Jadon, and William.

# Bachelor of Arts Graduates

**Beth Ann Anderson**

Marshall, Minn.  
*Psychology*  
Advisor: Jonathan Stadler

**Evan Robert Anderson**

Apple Valley, Minn.  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Kenneth Johnson

**Maelyn Isabella Duquaine**

Willoughby, Ohio  
*Graphic Design*  
Advisor: Andrew Overn

**Ilba Gjegji**

Tirane, Albania  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Angie Johnson

**Delphine Evelyn Hintz**

Mosinee, Wisc.  
*English, Mathematics*  
Advisors: Lars Johnson, Brittany Espinoza

**Tylan Xay Keosongseng**

Richfield, Minn.  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Kenneth Johnson

**Buenaventura Jose Marrero Perez**

Tenerife, Spain  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Angie Johnson

**Anna Sharon McCue**

Mankato, Minn.  
*Engineering Sciences*  
Advisor: Sheng Sang

**Jasmine Alexandra McGarigle**

Wausau, Wisc.  
*Music*  
Advisor: Dennis Marzolf

**Kimberly Kia Moua**

Santa Barbara, Calif.  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Elizabeth Olson

**Brady William Nelson**

Blaine, Minn.  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Elizabeth Olson

**Lediana Nogu**

Librazhd, Albania  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Elizabeth Olson

**Jahir S. Nunez-Martinez**

Rogers, Minn.  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Elizabeth Olson

**Serena Jean Kwamboka Omangi**

Owatonna, Minn.  
*Media Arts*  
Advisor: Amanda Quist

**Holly Ruth Pederson**

New Richland, Minn.  
*Social Studies Education*  
Advisors: Carrie Pfeifer, David Reagles

**Audrey Libby Petersen**

Kilkenny, Minn.  
*Psychology*  
Advisor: Jonathan Stadler

**Giana Rose Peterson**

Montevideo, Minn.  
*Communication, Theatre*  
Advisors: Derick Lyngholm, Peter Bloedel

**Carresha R. Russell**

Gary, Ind.  
*Legal Studies*  
Advisor: Sara Edwards

**Jordan Emma Selchow**

Menomonie, Wisc.  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Elizabeth Olson

**Franklin Gage Selvey**

Mankato, Minn.  
*Media Arts*  
Advisor: Amanda Quist

**Anxhelo Shuti**

Gjirokaster, Albania  
*Business Administration*  
Advisor: Kenneth Johnson

**Jonathan Song**

Cottage Grove, Minn.  
*Mathematics*  
Advisor: Brittany Espinoza

**Gabriel Luke Stoesz**

Waseca, Minn.  
*Communication*  
Advisor: Derick Lyngholm

**Sashia Leah Swenson**

Platteville, Wisc.  
*Graphic Design*  
Advisor: Andrew Overn

**Heather Rose Thompson**

Morristown, Minn.  
*Communication*  
Advisor: Angela Jahr

**Estifanos Nigussie Tsige**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
*Business Administration*  
Advisors: Lucas Fricke, Kenneth Johnson

**Kira Argona Tweit**

Madison, Wisc.  
*Psychology*  
Advisor: Jonathan Stadler

**Spencer August Urban**

Amboy, Minn.  
*Music*  
Advisor: Benjamin Faugstad

**Blair Morgan VanZee**

Madelia, Minn.  
*Communication*  
Advisor: Derick Lyngholm

**Hayley MaRee Volz**

Fairfax, Minn.  
*Legal Studies, Psychology*  
Advisors: Sara Edwards, Jennifer Kom

**Marissa Jenna Wood**

San Antonio, Tex.  
*Psychology*  
Advisor: Jonathan Stadler

**Kristina Zaccellari**

Korce, Albania  
*Engineering Sciences, Mathematics*  
Advisors: Sheng Sang, Aaron Ollrich

**Kaitlyn Zurn**

Inver Grove Heights, Minn.  
*Special Education*  
Advisors: Alanna Lieng, Carrie Pfeifer

# Honor Graduates

Honor graduates wear medallions and gold tassels.

## Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.9 – 4.0)

**Delphine Evelyn Hintz**  
**Anna Sharon McCue**  
**Holly Ruth Pederson**

**Giana Rose Peterson**  
**Jordan Emma Selchow**  
**Sashia Leah Swenson**

**Heather Rose Thompson**  
**Marissa Jenna Wood**

## Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.67 – 3.89)

**Maelyn Isabella Duquaine**  
**Buenaventura Jose Marrero Perez**

**Jasmine Alexandra McGarigle**  
**Jahir S. Nunez-Martinez**

**Anxhelo Shuti**  
**Kira Argona Tweit**

## Cum Laude (GPA 3.33 – 3.66)

**Beth Ann Anderson**  
**Ilba Gjegji**

**Brady William Nelson**  
**Lediana Nogu**

**Blair Morgan VanZee**  
**Kristina Zacellari**

Graduation honors were calculated based on spring 2022 cumulative GPA.  
Publication in today's program is not official documentation of graduation or academic honors.

## Scholastic Leadership Society

SLS members wear gold cords.

**Delphine Evelyn Hintz**  
**Anna Sharon McCue**  
**Holly Ruth Pederson**

**Heather Rose Thompson**  
**Maelyn Isabella Duquaine**

# Board of Regents

**Rev. Herbert C. Huhnerkoch**, *Chair* – Fort Myers, Fla.  
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### Ex Officio Member:

**Rev. Glenn R. Obenberger**, President,  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

### Advisory Members:

**Gene R. Pfeifer, PhD**, President,  
Bethany Lutheran College  
**Rev. Timothy A. Hartwig**, President,  
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

# Scholarships

A special thank you to the businesses, individuals, and families who have established these scholarships for the benefit of Bethany students. The following scholarship funds each have assets of \$15,000 or more.

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 Darlo and Charlotte Hill Scholarship  
 Russell Hoiland Scholarship  
 Holte Family Scholarship  
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# Mission

Bethany Lutheran College provides Christian higher education in a challenging academic environment where personal mentoring guides students to pursue knowledge, truth, and discernment for productive and fulfilling lives.

# Purpose

Bethany Lutheran College engages students with the saving knowledge of Christ and assists them in developing their God-given talents and abilities for meaningful lives of service in the family, church, and society. A program of study grounded in the liberal arts and taught through the discerning lens of a Christian worldview equips students with knowledge, understanding, and adaptable skills.

# Vision

Bethany Lutheran College aspires

...to produce compassionate graduates firmly grounded in Christian faith and teaching who REFLECT CHRIST'S LOVE with integrity, character, and unshakable values;

...to be a center for EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP and in all aspects of higher education;

...to place a priority on PERSONAL MENTORING from faculty and staff to students;

...to provide OPPORTUNITIES for students to identify and develop their God-given talents and abilities; and

...to positively impact the lives of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters through a CARING CHRISTIAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY.

# Core Values

COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL – Because God's Son, Jesus Christ, has lived perfectly in our place and paid for all sins, God declares all people to be innocent in His sight, an innocence received by faith. Bethany therefore proclaims this Good News to students that they may believe, and grow in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus as their sure hope for eternal life.

PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH – Grounded in the liberal arts, the curriculum promotes a search for knowledge and wisdom by fostering independent critical thinking through the discerning lens of the Bible as the ultimate source of truth in order to support students' spiritual development, intellectual and creative growth, self-understanding, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning.

FOCUS ON THE STUDENT – The College places the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, and emotional needs of the student first in all decisions, policies, and procedures.

# Statement of Faith

Bethany Lutheran College is a Christian liberal arts college. The College and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod are committed to the teachings of the Bible as the inerrant Word of God – the only authority for faith and life. The statements of faith known as the Lutheran Confessions are accepted as the correct understanding of the teachings of the Bible.

This commitment to the Confessions is summarized by the principles of the Lutheran Reformation: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone. Specifically, the College confesses that salvation is a free gift from God's grace alone, not dependent upon our works. We receive forgiveness for our sins through faith in Christ alone, which is produced in the individual's heart by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God and the Sacraments. Scripture alone is the standard by which all teachings and practices ultimately are evaluated.



**BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE**

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