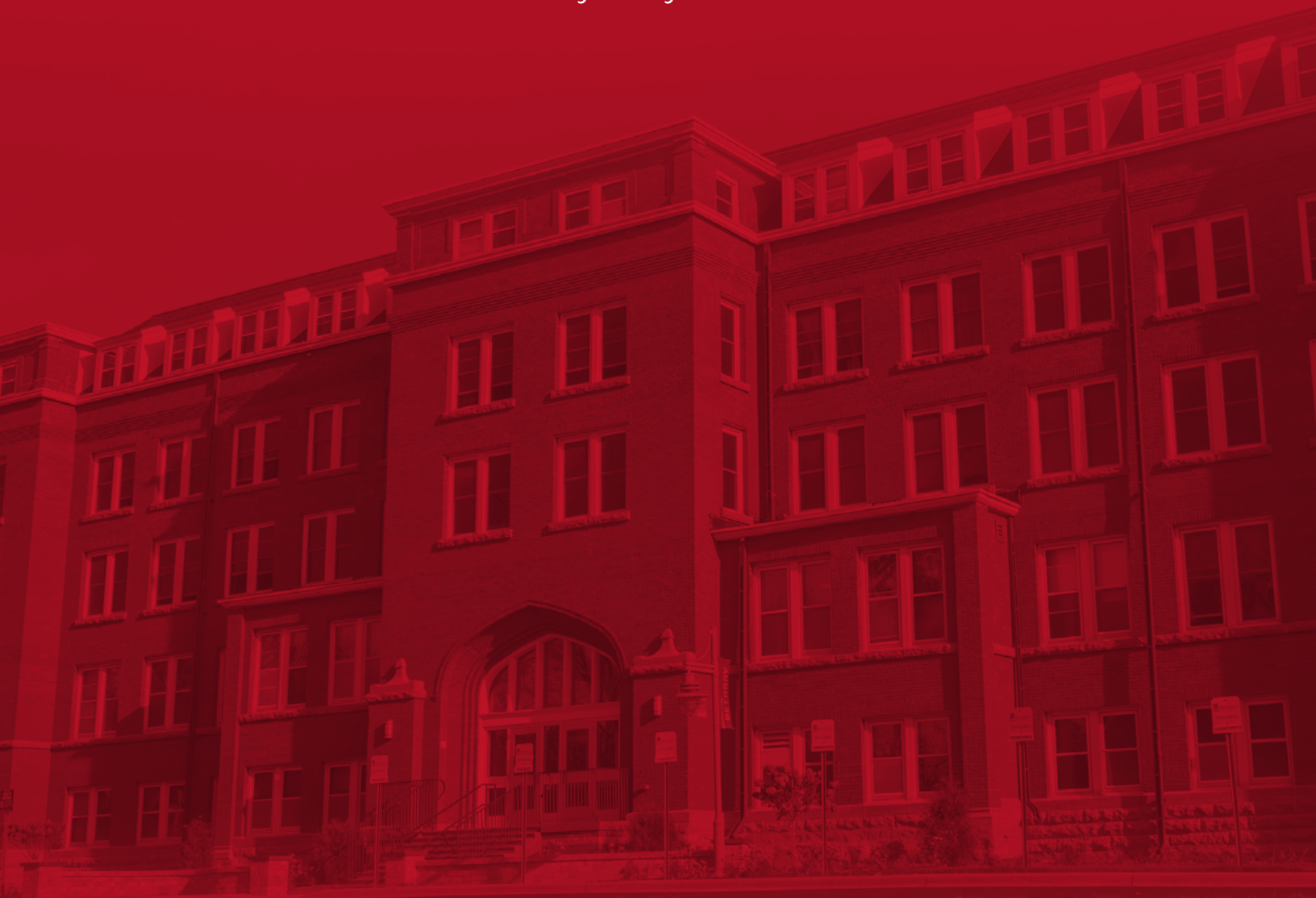




# Commencement

Friday, May 12, 2023





# Welcome

Welcome 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 men and women on whichever paths they are led by the Lord.

## 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 and the officiants, including the Vice President of Academic Affairs, a member of the Board of Regents, and the chaplain. The faculty marshal follows the officiants and leads the rest of the procession. The emeriti lead the faculty, who march in order of seniority, and the graduates follow the faculty. Banners are carried by junior marshals and represent the various academic divisions of the college.

## 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 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 lining of the master's and doctor's hoods have the same color designations of the school where the degree was earned and velvet trim indicating the field in which the degree is held.

**White:** Arts, Letters, Humanities

**Olive:** Business

**Light Blue:** Education, Counseling

**Brown:** Fine Arts

**Purple:** Law

**Canary:** Library Science

**Pink:** Music

**Dark Blue:** Philosophy

**Sage Green:** Physical Education

**Salmon:** Public Health

**Yellow:** Science

**Cream:** Social Science

**Citron:** Social Work

**Scarlet:** Theology

## A Brief History

In 1911, Bethany Ladies College opened with forty-four students, 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 move Bethany from an associate to a baccalaureate degree-granting institution. In the spring of 2001, Bethany awarded its first baccalaureate degrees. In 2023, the College awarded its first master's degrees. Today the College enrolls 800 full and part-time students awarding baccalaureate and master's degrees across twenty-seven majors of study.

## Photography and Video

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

# College 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 power or 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



The presidential medallion signifies the authority of the college’s chief executive. The college president wears the medallion at commencement, opening service, and other times when academic apparel is 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 Speaker



**Dr. Joshua T. Mears** attended Bethany Lutheran College and graduated in 2005 with a degree in psychology and a minor in religious studies. He was the first student from Bethany to receive the bachelor of arts degree in psychology. He went on for his graduate studies earning a Master's in Christian Counseling from Bethel University and a Clinical Doctorate from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology. He currently serves as the owner and clinical director of a faith informed mental health private practice clinic in Lakeville, Minnesota.

Dr. Mears has been a Christian psychologist working in the field of mental health for nearly fifteen years. He specializes his clinical work in the area of psychological evaluations and child and family mental health services. Over the years he has been honored to help counsel many pastors, seminarians, and Christian day schoolteachers and their families. In that way he is privileged to be a ministry partner to help strengthen and embolden Called Workers in their service to the Kingdom. Dr. Mears has been a presenter at regional conferences presenting on a faithful Christ-centered approach to issues of sexuality and gender. His care of souls approach to counseling focuses on a firmly grounded scriptural counseling approach that honors Christian traditions and the values of human nature endowed by our Creator.

Dr. Mears has served Bethany Lutheran College as an adjunct faculty both for the Bethany Seminary and for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. He has also served as a member of the Board of Regents at Bethany since 2017. Prior to his service to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod on that board he also served for six years on the Board for Youth Outreach helping to direct the LYA conventions and support youth ministry in the synod. At his home congregation, Heritage Apple Valley, he has served as the youth leader for seventeen years and has also served in a variety of positions on the Board of Elders and Church Council. Dr. Mears and his wife Laura have five children and they instill the value of Christian education in their home through a classical homeschool model. They are foster parents and, in that way, have been a witness to God's love and mercy by welcoming many children into their Christian home.

## Distinguished Alumni Award



President Emeritus **Dan R. Bruss, Ph.D.**, the ninth president of Bethany Lutheran College and 1973 alumnus, is the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

Dr. Bruss earned degrees from Bethany Lutheran College, Augsburg College (Minneapolis), Minnesota State University, Mankato, and his doctorate of philosophy in chemistry from Montana State University. He began his academic career as an instructor at Bethany from 1975-1981. Prior to his Bethany presidency, Dr. Bruss taught for twelve years at Central College (Pella, Iowa). During this time, Dr. Bruss moved his way through the academic ranks earning the title of full professor. While at Central, he was twice the recipient of the Central College "Outstanding Performance Award for Institutional Service" and was also recognized with the "Huffman Award for Outstanding Support of International Education." Dr. Bruss was also an assistant professor of chemistry at Albany College of Pharmacy (Albany, New York) from 1985-1990, where he earned the "Distinguished Teacher of the Year" award in 1989. He successfully combined a teaching career with research and was involved in many research projects. He has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed academic journals.

Dr. Bruss received the call to be President of Bethany in January 2002 and served until June 2015. He started as President when Bethany was very new to the bachelor's degree-granting world of higher education, with only eight majors, and is credited for leading the College to be a full four-year institution. While President, he served on the Greater Mankato Growth Board of Directors and the Minnesota Private College Council, where he was the Chair from 2013-2015.

A native of Franklin, Wisconsin, Dr. Bruss and his wife Kathy ('79 Moldstad) are retired and make their home in Pella, Iowa. They have two children, Elisabeth Fehr ('06) and Robert ('05- '07), and four grandchildren. Bruss continues to enjoy learning, exploring, and experimenting. He loves to travel, garden, cook, and get together with friends, many of whom are a part of the Bethany Family. He currently serves on the Kingdom Workers Board of Directors and is the Chair of the Trustee Succession Committee for the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

# Commencement Ceremony

Pre-Ceremony Music

**Aurora Borealis** Rossano Galante

**Nimrod, from Enigma Variations** Edward Elgar/arr. Bocook

**Music For The Royal Fireworks** George Frederic Handel/arr. Brubaker  
*Concert Band, Conducted by Benjamin Faugstad*

Processional Music\*

**Highland Cathedral** arranged by Jay Dawson

*Concert Band, Conducted by Benjamin Faugstad*

**\*Please rise when the procession enters the gymnasium**

Invocation Devotion

**Chaplain Donald Moldstad**

*Director of Campus Spiritual Life*

College Choir

**All Those Who Trust in Christ (Jerusalem)** - H. Parry, 1916

*Directed by Dennis Marzolf*

All those who trust in Christ are blest  
And find in Him eternal rest;  
This world's allurements we despise  
And fix on Christ alone our eyes.  
Through Him we heirs of heav'n are made;  
O Brother, Christ, extend Thine aid  
That we may firmly trust in Thee,  
And through Thee live eternally.

O Christ, our Savior, Helper Friend,  
Be with us till our journey's end.  
In mercy guide us by Thy grace  
Till we behold Thy glorious face.  
Though Satan rage, His pow'r is gone  
His thundering roar can harm us none  
Our strong Defender hurls him down,  
And wins for us a heav'nly crown.

*Author unknown, 1607; 2. K. Stolshagen, 1550-94*

Welcome	<b>Gene R. Pfeifer</b> <i>President</i>
Commencement Address	<b>Joshua T. Mears</b> <i>BLC Class of 2005</i>
Conferring of Degrees and Honors	<b>Jason H. Lowrey</b> <i>Vice President of Academic Affairs</i>
	<b>Gene R. Pfeifer</b>
	<b>Rev. Herbert C. Huhnerkoch</b> <i>Chairman Bethany Lutheran College Board of Regents</i>
Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation/Acceptance	<b>Gene R. Pfeifer</b> <b>Dan R. Bruss</b> <i>BLC Class of 1973</i>
Closing Remarks	<b>Gene R. Pfeifer</b>
College Choir	<b>On My Heart Imprint Thine Image</b> - Genevan Psalter, 1551; Arr. A. Fremder <i>Directed by Dennis Marzolf</i> At this time the choir encourages alumni, family members, and anyone who has a special place in their heart for this arrangement to join the choir in the singing of this anthem.  On my heart imprint Thine image, Blessed Jesus, King of Grace That life's riches, cares and pleasures Have no power Thee to efface. This the superscription be: "Jesus Crucified for me" Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation.  T.H. Kingo, 1634-1703
Benediction	<b>*Please remain standing for the recessional</b>
Recessional Music	<b>Commencement March</b> by Verdi, arranged by Eric Osterling <b>Military March</b> by Ludwig van Beethoven, arranged by Benjamin Faugstad <i>Concert Band, Conducted by Benjamin Faugstad</i>

# Bachelor's Degree Graduates

**Audrey Faith Belington Amiling**

Port Orchard, Wash.  
*Broad Field Social Studies, Communication  
Arts & Literature Education, English,  
Social Studies Education*

**Jakin Quin Leikam Anderson**

Belle Plaine, Minn.  
*Physical and Health Education*

**Ryan Emmanuel Anderson**

Northfield, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Kylie Arstein**

Waukesha, Wisc.  
*Psychology*

**William Harold Baughman**

Cannon Falls, Minn.  
*Communication*

**Kaitlyn Berreau**

Benson, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Halle Blais**

Mankato, Minn.  
*Theatre*

**Hunter Joseph Bleess**

Blue Earth, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Greta Ruth Bloedel**

Mankato, Minn.  
*Theatre*

**Madisen Hayley Borek**

Redding, Calif.  
*Legal Studies*

**Ronald James Brothen**

Saint Paul, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Julio Alejandro Castanon Sanchez**

Cd. Victoria, Tamps, Mexico  
*Biochemistry*

**Skylar M. Cotten**

Grand Meadow, Minn.  
*Graphic Design*

**Brody James Curtiss**

Belle Plaine, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Thomas James Datka**

Wind Lake, Wisc.  
*Exercise Science*

**Albjona Dermynshi**

Tirana, Albania  
*Biochemistry, Biology*

**Emily Sarah Dietz**

Faribault, Minn.  
*Graphic Design*

**Kimberly Dorantes Caballero**

Minneapolis, Minn.  
*Communication*

**Caroline Rose Dworak**

Colfax, Wisc.  
*Nursing*

**Bailey Rose Erlandson**

Woodbury, Minn.  
*Biology*

**Brent Timothy Fowler**

Fort Collins, Colo.  
*Engineering Sciences*

**Maya L. Franks**

Pine Ridge, S.Dak.  
*Nursing*

**Luis Alfredo Gandara**

El Paso, Tex.  
*Criminal Justice, Legal Studies*

**Sophia Elizabeth Gernander**

Leander, Tex.  
*Media Arts*

**Carter Jeffery Hansen**

Tyler, Minn.  
*Elementary Education*

**Cooper David Hansen**

Tyler, Minn.  
*Elementary Education*

**Jerod Samuel Harris**

Houston, Tex.  
*Psychology*

**Alyssa Jeanne Hatlestad**

North Mankato, Minn.  
*Elementary Education*

**Austin James Haus**

Saint Michael, Minn.  
*Engineering Sciences*

**Adam Jeffrey Hoeft**

Ixonia, Wisc.  
*Religion*

**Garret Walton Hoffman**

Anoka, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Rilee Fern Hohbein**

Rice, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Cianna Elizabeth Hoppe**

Lewiston, Minn.  
*Elementary Education, Special Education*

**Ben Hopper**

North Mankato, Minn.  
*Computer Science*

**Lucia Iglesias Torrubiano**

Madrid, Spain  
*Exercise Science*

**Brady Dale Kappel**

Saint Michael, Minn.  
*Graphic Design*

**Elizabeth Shannon Kassuelke**

Lake Crystal, Minn.  
*English*

**Ruth Lynn Kennedy**

Brighton, Colo.  
*English*

**Adriana Marie Kleinschmidt**

Mankato, Minn.  
*Music*

**Arika Marie Kleinschmidt**

Mankato, Minn.  
*Music*

**Nicola Cosentino Lanari**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
*Psychology*

**Karson William Legred**

Bricelyn, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Drew Daniel Leistikow**

Saint Charles, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Tristen Caleb Lindell**

Bloomington, Minn.  
*Business Administration, Legal Studies*

**Justin Kong Lo**

Sacramento, Calif.  
*Computer Science*

**Lillian Marie Maes**

North Mankato, Minn.  
*Nursing*

**Andre Marques Dias da Silva**

Sao Paulo, Brazil  
*Business Administration, Legal Studies*



# Bachelor's Degree Graduates

**Jacob Robert Marzinske**  
South Saint Paul, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Elisabeth Estelle Masrud**  
New Ulm, Minn.  
*History*

**Kathryn Lois Matzke**  
Good Thunder, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Morgan Jean McLain**  
Le Sueur, Minn.  
*Media Arts*

**Conor J. Merton**  
Perth, Western Australia  
*Business Administration*

**Benjamin Matthew Miklasz**  
Boyd, Wisc.  
*Graphic Design*

**Alexis Jeananne Morsching**  
Morristown, Minn.  
*Educational Studies*

**Alec William Mueller**  
Doral, Fla.  
*Media Arts*

**Riley Ray Nelson**  
Alexandria, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Sewaa Ogbevoen**  
Reggio Emilia, Italy  
*Communication*

**Mizha Lee Overn**  
Madison Lake, Minn.  
*Theatre*

**Cheyenne R. Owens**  
Truman, Minn.  
*Biology*

**Hunter James Pearce**  
Loveland, Colo.  
*Engineering Sciences*

**Jenna Mae Pendleton**  
Morton, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Tyler Joseph Pengilly**  
Le Sueur, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Nuria Perez Casas**  
Barcelona, Spain  
*Computer Science, Mathematics*

**Vaughn Rogue Rostron Pouncy**  
Maplewood, Minn.  
*Criminal Justice, Legal Studies*

**Erin Denise Rardin**  
Aurora, Ill.  
*Nursing*

**Payton Kathleen Richtsmeier**  
Mankato, Minn.  
*Psychology*

**Joseph Nathan Christopher Ritter**  
Madison, Wisc.  
*Broad Field Social Studies*

**Luz Daniela Rizo Martinez**  
Austin, Minn.  
*Business Administration, Spanish*

**Emily Sanchez Martinez**  
Richfield, Minn.  
*Communication*

**Ashley Marie Schindele**  
Kimball, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Linda Linea Senaphanh**  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
*Communication*

**Megan Rose Shanahan**  
Saint Charles, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Aleck John-Ravi Sharma**  
Hartland, Wisc.  
*Business Administration*

**Besa Sharra**  
Tirana, Albania  
*Computer Science, Mathematics*

**Xhejsi Shpata**  
Fier, Albania  
*Biology*

**Conner Eugene Side**  
Denver, Colo.  
*Engineering Sciences*

**Jamie Charles Edward Smith**  
Kingston, Jamaica  
*Business Administration*

**Abel Solis**  
Marshall, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Nathaniel Joseph Stay**  
Plymouth, Minn.  
*Computer Science*

**Sarah Louise Strom**  
Mankato, Minn.  
*Elementary Education*

**Ethan Eliah Hagen Sullivan**  
Minnetonka, Minn.  
*Communication*

**Karlee Elizabeth Thiesse**  
Welcome, Minn.  
*Psychology*

**Ryan Russell Vreeland**  
Plymouth, Minn.  
*Computer Science*

**Samantha L. Wassermann**  
Maple Lake, Minn.  
*Psychology*

**Aidan Emmanuel Whitcomb**  
Otsego, Minn.  
*English*

**Kayla Lynn Wilson**  
Waukesha, Wisc.  
*Business Administration, Legal Studies*

**Pao Meng Yang**  
Saint Paul, Minn.  
*Business Administration*

**Amanda Grace Younge**  
Mankato, Minn.  
*Exercise Science*

**Sophie Marie Isabelle Zawisza**  
Roseville, Minn.  
*Theatre*

# Bachelor's Degree Honor Graduates

Honor Graduates wear medallions and red and gold tassels.

## Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.9 – 4.0)

**Greta Ruth Bloedel**  
**Thomas James Datka**  
**Emily Sarah Dietz**  
**Bailey Rose Erlandson**  
**Carter Jeffery Hansen**  
**Cooper David Hansen**

**Cianna Elizabeth Hoppe**  
**Elizabeth Shannon Kassuelke**  
**Ruth Lynn Kennedy**  
**Arika Marie Kleinschmidt**  
**Nicola Cosentino Lanari**  
**Tristen Caleb Lindell**

**Andre Marques Dias da Silva**  
**Nuria Perez Casas**  
**Samantha L. Wassermann**  
**Aidan Emmanuel Whitcomb**

## Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.67 – 3.89)

**Audrey Faith Belingon Amiling**  
**Ryan Emmanuel Anderson**  
**Kylie Arstein**  
**Kaitlyn Berreau**  
**Madisen Hayley Borek**  
**Austin James Haus**

**Adriana Marie Kleinschmidt**  
**Elisabeth Estelle Masrud**  
**Kathryn Lois Matzke**  
**Alec William Mueller**  
**Mizha Lee Overn**  
**Cheyenne R. Owens**

**Luz Daniela Rizo Martinez**  
**Ashley Marie Schindele**  
**Megan Rose Shanahan**  
**Sarah Louise Strom**

## Cum Laude (GPA 3.33 – 3.66)

**Julio Alejandro Castanon Sanchez**  
**Skylar M. Cotten**  
**Albjona Dermyschi**  
**Caroline Rose Dworak**  
**Maya L. Franks**  
**Sophia Elizabeth Gernander**  
**Jerod Samuel Harris**

**Adam Jeffrey Hoeft**  
**Rilee Fern Hohbein**  
**Lillian Marie Maes**  
**Morgan Jean McLain**  
**Benjamin Matthew Miklasz**  
**Jenna Mae Pendleton**  
**Erin Denise Rardin**

**Payton Kathleen Richtsmeier**  
**Emily Sanchez Martinez**  
**Besa Sharra**  
**Karlee Elizabeth Thiesse**  
**Kayla Lynn Wilson**  
**Amanda Grace Younge**  
**Sophie Marie Isabelle Zawisza**

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

## Scholastic Leadership Society

SLS members wear gold cords.

**Kaitlyn Berreau**  
**Greta Ruth Bloedel**  
**Madisen Hayley Borek**  
**Emily Sarah Dietz**  
**Cianna Elizabeth Hoppe**

**Ruth Lynn Kennedy**  
**Tristen Caleb Lindell**  
**Kathryn Lois Matzke**  
**Cheyenne R. Owens**  
**Nuria Perez Casas**

**Luz Daniela Rizo Martinez**  
**Ashley Marie Schindele**  
**Sarah Louise Strom**

## Sigma Tau Delta

International Honor Society for English Students. Honorees wear red and black cords.

**Audrey Faith Belingon Amiling**  
**Jerod Samuel Harris**  
**Elizabeth Shannon Kassuelke**

**Ruth Lynn Kennedy**  
**Aidan Emmanuel Whitcomb**

# Graduate Studies

## Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) program is the first master's degree offered at Bethany Lutheran College. Upon achieving accreditation, the CMHC program launched in the summer of 2021. The master of arts degree is a 60-credit online program combining didactic and clinical instruction. During their studies, the graduates completed three on-campus residencies, a 700-hour clinical internship, and their capstone project. The capstone project integrates evidence-based practice with a Christian faith-informed clinical identity.

## Master's Degree Graduates

### **Sydney Nadene Chouinard**

Gladstone, Mich.

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

### **Zacharias Dean Laughlin**

Mankato, Minn.

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

### **Margaret Rose Petersen**

Golden Valley, Minn.

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

### **Michael David Helwig**

Lake Mills, Wisc.

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

### **Hope Rebekah Loersch**

Watertown, Wisc.

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

### **Mark Gerald Krause**

Sun Prairie, Wisc.

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

### **Bethany Grace Pearce**

Bonita Springs, Fla.

*Clinical Mental Health Counseling*

## Junior Marshals

The junior marshals are chosen to represent their academic divisions based on their high grade point averages and the high regard in which they are held by their divisions and departments.

*Communication and Visual Arts*

**Colin Neville**

*Fine Arts*

**Holly Harris**

*Health and Human Performance*

**Hannah LeMay**

*Humanities*

**Raimundo Heredias, Jr.**

*Mathematics and Science*

**Jonathan Thomforde**

*Nursing and Allied Health*

**Viktoria Kranz**

*Religious Studies*

**Cyril Palm**

*Social and Behavioral Sciences*

**Makenzie Kinney**

*Graduate Studies*

**Katie Hartwig**

## Board of Regents

**Rev. Herbert C. Huhnerkoch**, *Chair* – Fort Myers, Fla.

**Rev. Mark F. Bartels**, *Vice Chair* – Madison, Wis.

**Rev. Alexander K. Ring**, *Secretary* – Port St. Lucie, Fla.

**Rev. Erwin J. Ekhoﬀ** – New Hope, Minn.

**Lyle C. Fahning** – Prior Lake, Minn.

**Mark D. Madson** – Mankato, Minn.

**Joshua T. Mears, PsyD** – Lakeville, Minn.

**James L. Minor** – Danbury, Wis.

**Timothy D. Roemhildt** – North Mankato, Minn.

**John Scott** – Vero Beach, Fla.

**David A. Sparley** - Tigard, Ore.

**Rev. David C. Thompson** – Lombard, Ill.

*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

# 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.

# 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 \$10,000 or more.

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