



Commencement

December 14, 2018 | 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 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, the chaplain, the vice president of academic affairs, and the marshal of ceremonies. 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 of arts 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 marshal of ceremonies will hood the graduates after the degrees are awarded.

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 www.blc.edu/fall-commencement-2018.

A Brief History of Bethany

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. Today the college enrolls 750 full and part-time students awarding baccalaureate degrees across twenty-four majors of study.

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 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

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee - J. S. Bach

Kara Plocher, organ

Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above - J. S. Bach

Kristianna Hislop, organ

Prélude (from Opus 18) - C. Franck

Cynthia Krause, organ

Processional*

Macht Hoch die Tür

College Choir

*Please rise when the procession enters

Invocation

Chaplain Donald Moldstad

Director of Campus Spiritual Life

College Choir

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

Directed by Dennis Marzolf, Professor of Music

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	Gene Pfeifer <i>President, Bethany Lutheran College</i>
Commencement Address	Andrew Overn <i>Professor of Studio Art</i>
Conferring of Degrees and Honors	Jason Lowrey <i>Vice President of Academic Affairs</i> Gene Pfeifer
College Choir	Nunc dimittis in B flat Major - Setting by C.V. Stanford Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel. 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	Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice - J. Bender <i>Nathan Madson, organ</i>

The audience will be ushered out after the recessional.

A reception for the graduates will be held in Honsey Hall following the ceremony.

Bachelor of Arts Graduates

Danielle Joyce Belisle
Monticello, Minn.
Elementary Education
Advisor: Carrie Pfeifer

Zachary Jedediah Lofgren Brandts
Saint James, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Sarah Harstad

Zachary Peter Dantzman
Owatonna, Minn.
Media Arts
Advisor: Kurt Paulsen

Nicklaus Michael Dewanz
New Ulm, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Andrew Krueger

Uriah Joshua Ernst
Eugene, Mo.
Business Administration
Advisor: Dean Shoop

Diana Marie Gilsrud
New Prague, Minn.
Biology
Advisor: Doyle Holbird

Hunter Ryan Hamers
Foley, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Dean Shoop

Emmalyn Krystine Hislop
Mapleton, Minn.
Graphic Design
Advisor: Andrew Overn

Kristianna Heather Hislop
Mapleton, Minn.
Music
Advisor: Dennis Marzolf

Rachel Marie Holt
Mankato, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Sarah Harstad

Kylia Rae Irwin
Madison Lake, Minn.
Studio Art
Advisor: William Bukowski

Hans Mukatshung Kapend
Lubumbashi, Democratic
Republic of the Congo
Mathematics
Advisor: Julie Kjeer

Alicia Morgan Kranz
Arlington, Minn.
Studio Art
Advisor: William Bukowski

Allison Lynn Lease
Mankato, Minn.
Communication
Advisor: Jonathan Logging

Cody Michael Leitner
Red Wing, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Sarah Harstad

MacKenzie Lee Manthei
Belview, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Dean Shoop

Hannah R. Marquardt
Chicago, Ill.
Business Administration
Advisor: Sarah Harstad

Nicholas Joel Meyer
Litchfield, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Dean Shoop

Jordan Jeffrey Petzel
Arlington, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Daniel Mundahl

Kara Emily Plocher
Nicollet, Minn.
English
Advisor: Lars Johnson

Kenneth D. Ramirez Jr.
Shoreview, Minn.
Media Arts
Advisor: Kurt Paulsen

Ryana Georgia Sadaka
Mankato, Minn.
Legal Studies
Advisor: Sara Edwards

Alyssa Louise Shields
Columbia, S.C.
Communication
Advisor: Jonathan Logging

Amir R. Trotter
Minneapolis, Minn.
Theatre
Advisor: Benjamin Inniger

Benjamin Edward Wessel
Spring Valley, Minn.
Liberal Arts
Advisor: Steven Reagles

Rebecca Nicole Wiseman
Jordan, Minn.
Elementary Education
Advisor: Carrie Pfeifer

Joseph Peter Ziwicki
Foley, Minn.
Business Administration
Advisor: Andrew Krueger

Honor Graduates

Honor graduates wear medallions and gold tassels.

Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.9 – 4.0)

Kristianna Heather Hislop
MacKenzie Lee Manthei

Kara Emily Plocher
Benjamin Edward Wessel

Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.67 – 3.89)

Emmalyn Krystine Hislop
Hans Mukatshung Kapend

Allison Lynn Lease
Jordan Jeffrey Petzel

Rebecca Nicole Wiseman

Cum Laude (GPA 3.33 – 3.66)

Diana Marie Gilsrud

Nicholas Joel Meyer

Alyssa Louise Shields

Graduation honors were calculated based on spring 2018 cumulative GPA.
Publication in today's program is not official documentation of graduation or academic honors.

Scholastic Leadership Society

SLS members wear gold cords.

MacKenzie Lee Manthei

Allison Lynn Lease

Commencement Speaker



Professor Andrew Overn was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and grew up in suburban Minneapolis. He holds degrees from Bethany Lutheran College (AA), the University of Wisconsin in Madison (BS), and the Savannah College of Art and Design (MFA). In school his two great loves were art and music, and he has been blessed to be able to pursue these and other interests for most of his career.

Overn's first job at Bethany was in the fall of 1987 as a temporary sabbatical replacement for Professor William Bukowski. It was at this time that he discovered his love for teaching art and for his future wife. He rejoined the faculty again full time in the fall of 1991 after earning his master of fine arts degree. For three years he divided his time between the art, music, and theatre departments. In 1994 it was his wife's turn for graduate school and the couple moved to Dallas, where Overn began a three-year sojourn as a corporate graphic designer.

He was asked to return to Bethany again in 1997 as the college began its transition to a baccalaureate-granting institution. At that time, he began constructing the design curriculum that would eventually become the graphic design major. In 2010, Overn also co-founded the media arts major along with colleague Kurt Paulsen. Over the years, Overn has served on a number of committees and as Chair of the Faculty Assembly, the Fine Arts Division, and currently the Communication and Visual Arts Division. He also serves as a Deacon at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato.

It is his sincere belief that Christians are called to influence culture through their active participation in the arts. With this ideal in mind, Overn has developed and taught courses in a number of subjects, including illustration, graphic design, multimedia authoring, web development, digital painting, and other foundations-level topics. It is his hope that creativity becomes an important part of the professional life of every Bethany graduate.

In addition to his work at Bethany, Overn is an active freelance designer and performs with the Mankato-based musical group The Divers. In 2005, Overn published the children's book *Hushabye Blushabye* in collaboration with band mate Peter Bloedel.

Overn lives in Madison Lake, Minnesota, with his family: wife Laurie, son Ian, and daughter Mizha.

Board of Regents

Rev. Herbert C. Huhnerkoch, *Chair* – Kissimmee, Fla.

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

Rev. Edward L. Bryant, *Secretary* – Medford, Ore.

Willis E. Anthony, PhD – St. Peter, Minn.

Rev. Erwin J. Ekhoﬀ – Golden Valley, Minn.

Lyle C. Fahning – Prior Lake, Minn.

Bruce A. Gratz – Mankato, Minn.

Joshua T. Mears, PsyD – Lakeville, Minn.

James L. Minor – Danbury, Wis.

William J. Soule – Chicago, Ill.

Timothy E. Thiele – Oconomowoc, Wis.

Rev. David C. Thompson – San Antonio, Texas

Advisory Members

Gene R. Pfeifer, PhD, President BLC – Mankato, Minn.

Rev. John A. Moldstad, President ELS – Mankato, Minn.

Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, President BLTS – Mankato, Minn.

Mission Statement

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 Statement

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.

Philosophy of Christian Education

The Christian faith governs the entire educational process at Bethany. Christian education implies a unique perspective on the past, present, and future, shaping a specific view of people and their relationships both to God and to others. These relationships are understood in light of the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, and that He is true God and Lord of the universe through time and eternity. Our philosophy views knowledge and truth across the entire curriculum through the discerning lens of God’s Word.

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.

Memorial Scholarships

Ruth Abrahamson Scholarship
Julian G. and Latona M. Anderson Scholarship
A.L. Barry Memorial Scholarship
Tilmen and Viola Berke Scholarship
Martin and Lila Birkholz Scholarship
Lyle and Lorraine Bruss Scholarship
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Victor L. and Doris J. (Dickson) Fenske Scholarship
Delores Fisher Scholarship
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Lester Goetzke Educational Scholarship
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Howard and Ruby Hougan Memorial Scholarship
Barbara Imm Schroeder Memorial Scholarship
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Todd Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Adolph and Glendae Jungemann Scholarship
Peter Kjeer Memorial Scholarship
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Wayne Kropa Memorial Scholarship
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George and Cora Anderson Scholarship
Palmer and Audrey Anderson Scholarship
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Calvin and Betty Anderson Scholarship
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Siegbert and Helen (Bertram) Becker Scholarship
Jerald and Marcella Bergeson Scholarship
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Esther Gullixson Jackson Scholarship
George Andrew Rossing Gullixson Scholarship
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Valborg Gullixson Natvig Scholarship
Walther Christian Gullixson Scholarship
Haarstick Scholarship
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Scholarships

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Wiechmann Family Scholarship
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Robert and Elizabeth Williams Scholarship
William C. and Toy Wilson Blethen Scholarship
John and Renata (Rolf) Winsor Scholarship
Anthony and Edna Winther Scholarship
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BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

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