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 carrying the college mace followed by the college president, the chaplain, the dean of academic affairs, and the marshall 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, with 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 free 4”x 6” photograph taken with the president to each graduate via U. S. mail. Candid photographs from the ceremony will be available to download from a link on the commencement Web site: www.blc.edu/commencement.

If you would like to purchase a video recording of this ceremony, order forms are available in Old Main at the Information Desk the day of commencement and on the commencement Web site. The deadline to order videos is February 1, 2012.

A Brief History of Bethany

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 move Bethany from an associate to a baccalaureate degree-granting institution. In the spring of 2001, Bethany awarded its first baccalaureate degrees.
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dennis Marzolf was born in Rochester, Minnesota, and grew up in nearby Spring Valley. He earned his bachelor of music degree from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, and holds a master of music degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a master of divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Marzolf has been a faculty member at Bethany since the fall of 1984 and is chair of the music department. He directs the Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Bethany Choraliers, Handbell Choir and teaches courses in hymnody and liturgics, and choral conducting. He has been chapel organist, directed the Mary Martha Singers, and taught music history, music skills, voice lessons, and various topics courses in the music department.

He has been an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) since October 1985 and has served on the Worship Committee of the ELS for many years. In 1996, the Committee produced the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary which was published by MorningStar Music.

Marzolf has served as a high school choral clinician and adjudicator, and has been a director at Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) Choralists and a high school honors choir at the WELS Triennial National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts. For fifteen years he conducted the Minnesota Valley Chorale, a regional, auditioned ensemble in Mankato. He has served as church organist, a volunteer director of the choirs at Mt. Olive Lutheran School (Children’s Choir, Boys’ Choir) for a number of years, and recently started a high school choir at the same congregation. Marzolf is also the founding director of the annual ELS Summer Honor Choir at Bethany and has directed that group since June 1986.

He is an editorial associate for LOGIA: A Journal of Lutheran Theology. Articles he has written have been published in that journal as well as in Reformation and Revival Journal.

Marzolf enjoys reading, playing the piano, playing music for church, and watching vintage TV. He and his wife Beth have two children: Kristian and Laura.

BOARD OF REGENTS

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Advisory Members
Pres. Dan R. Bruss, Ph.D. – Mankato, Minn.
Rev. Lawrence A. Burgdorf – St. Louis, Mo.
Pres. John A. Moldstad – Mankato, Minn.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bethany Lutheran College, owned and operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is a private, residential, liberal arts college committed to the teachings of the Bible as set forth in the Lutheran Confessions. Bethany provides studies culminating in a bachelor of arts degree. The college serves Lutherans and others by offering a challenging, student-centered approach to education that fosters spiritual development, intellectual and creative growth, self-understanding, and responsible citizenship. In keeping with its heritage, Bethany aspires to produce students with a clear understanding of Christian vocation, which encourages students to make the most of their God-given talents.
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
DECEMBER 9, 2011 - 3:30 P.M.

PRE-CEREMONY MUSIC
Professor Mark DeGarmeaux, organist

PROCESSIONAL*
*Please rise when the procession enters

INVOCATION
Chaplain Donald Moldstad, Director of Campus Spiritual Life

COLLEGE CHOIR
All Those Who Trust in Christ, H. Parry, 1916
(Jerusalem)
Directed by Professor Dennis Marzolf
Student Organist, Katherine Stevens

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; K. Stolshagen, 1550-94
Welcome

Dan R. Bruss, Ph.D.
President

Address

Professor Dennis Marzolf
“Twelfth Century Advice for the Twenty-first Century Graduate”

Conferring of Degrees and Honors

Eric Woller, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Affairs

College Choir

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image
Genevan Psalter, 1551; Arr. A. Fremder
Directed by Professor Dennis Marzolf

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

Chaplain Donald Moldstad

Recessional

Professor Mark DeGarmeaux

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

Emily Lynn Alberts  
Pine Island, Minn.  
Sociology

Matthew Brent Christiansen  
Slayton, Minn.  
Studio Art

Chelsea Ferguson  
Burnsville, Minn.  
Studio Art

Paul H. J. Gehlbach  
Sussex, Wisc.  
Communication

Jennifer Beth Gerbing  
Fond du Lac, Wisc.  
Communication

Darin J. Hendley  
Nicollet, Minn.  
Business Administration

Kasey Clara Hoffmann  
Cold Spring, Minn.  
Elementary Education

Brandon John Peder Johnson  
Janesville, Minn.  
Business Administration

Rachel Beth Knudson  
Vadnais Heights, Minn.  
Sociology

Matthew J. Leyrer  
New Ulm, Minn.  
Communication

Sarah Elizabeth Lilienthal  
Mankato, Minn.  
Liberal Arts

Leah Kristine Mees  
North Mankato, Minn.  
Biology

Aaron Patrick Miller  
Ft. Dodge, Iowa  
Broad Field Social Studies with Secondary Licensure

Devan Ann Miller  
New Richland, Minn.  
Elementary Education

Erin L. Miller  
New Richland, Minn.  
English with Secondary Licensure

Angela Louise Poch  
Fond du Lac, Wisc.  
English

James Roberts  
Faribault, Minn.  
Business Administration

Holly Jean Roske  
Willmar, Minn.  
Psychology

Ashlyn Rose Schoof  
Ellsworth, Wisc.  
Psychology

David Evan Suda  
Pipestone, Minn.  
Sociology

Klea Marie Swenson  
Nicollet, Minn.  
Business Administration

Emily Maria Valerio  
Broomfield, Colo.  
Communication

Hayley A. Whitcomb  
Winsted, Minn.  
Psychology

Benjamin Michael Wills  
North Mankato, Minn.  
Communication

Bradley Alvin Zastrow  
Herman (Dodge County), Wisc.  
Sociology

Honor Graduates

Honor graduates wear medallions and gold tassels.

Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.9 - 4.0)

Holly Jean Roske

Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.67 - 3.89)

Matthew Brent Christiansen  
Paul H. J. Gehlbach  
Devan Ann Miller  
David Evan Suda

Cum Laude (GPA 3.33 - 3.66)

Emily Lynn Alberts  
Sarah Elizabeth Lilienthal  
Erin L. Miller

Kasey Clara Hoffmann  
Aaron Patrick Miller  
Angela Louise Poch

Graduation honors were calculated based on spring 2011 cumulative GPA. Publication in today's program is not official documentation of graduation or academic honors.
**College Seal**

The college seal, which appears on the cover of this program, 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 ΕΩΣ ΠΕΙΡΑ” 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 Bethany art professor 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.
SCHOLARSHIPS

A special thank you to the businesses, individuals, and families who have established these scholarships for the benefit of Bethany students.

John and Myrtle Ahrens Scholarship
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