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, 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 video link will be available from the commencement web page: www.blc.edu/december-commencement.

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.
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Professor Mark O. Harstad is a third generation Lutheran clergyman, the youngest of ten children born to Pastor Adolph M. and Martha K. Harstad. Prof. Harstad grew up in Watertown, Wisconsin, where his father served as chaplain at Bethesda Lutheran Home, an institution of the Synodical Conference serving the needs of the mentally disabled. He is a graduate of Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin (1970), and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary (1974). He served congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Madison, Wisconsin, and Brewster (Cape Cod), Massachusetts.

Professor Harstad holds the M.A. degree in the field of Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin at Madison (1974), and completed the course work for a doctorate in the same field. One of his mentors there was Dr. Menahem Mansoor, who was among the first scholars who did work on the Dead Sea Scrolls. He has taught courses at the college and seminary level in history, Biblical Hebrew, and religious studies, specializing in Old Testament studies.

He has also worked in the area of faculty development and grant writing. Two grant proposals to the Minnesota Bush Foundation for faculty development projects were co-authored along with faculty colleagues and administered while he held the position of Faculty Development Coordinator for Bethany Lutheran College.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Prof. Harstad made six trips to the Baltic nation of Latvia where he conducted lecture programs for people interested in Confessional Lutheranism, taught exegetical courses in the School of Theology at the University of Latvia, and courses in Biblical Hebrew at the Augsburg Institute in Riga.

In his community of Mankato, Prof. Harstad was active for many years in the Youth Baseball Association as a volunteer coach, and served on the board of the Mankato Suzuki School of Music. He sang with the Minnesota Valley Chorale for few a seasons, and directed the boys choir of Mount Olive Lutheran School for several years. He has been a member and office holder in the Mankato chapter of the Sons of Norway. From time to time he has enjoyed playing cello in the Bethany String Ensemble.

Over the years he has served on various boards and committees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod including the Doctrine Committee and the Catechism Review Committee. He currently serves on the board of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Historical Society and the Centennial Observance Committee.

Prof. Harstad and his wife of 39 years, Peggy, a piano teacher, are parents of four children.

BOARD OF REGENTS

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Rev. Lawrence A. Burgdorf – St. Louis, Missouri
Pres. John A. Moldstad – Mankato, Minnesota

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 13, 2013 - 3:30 P.M.**

**Pre-Ceremony Music**

Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux, organist  
*Associate Professor, Religion, Languages*

**Processional***  
*Please rise when the procession enters*

**Invocation**

Chaplain Donald Moldstad  
*Director of Campus Spiritual Life*

**College Choir**

*I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone*  
*Setting by J. Weber, 2012*  
*Directed by Rev. Dennis Marzolf, Professor, Music*

I trust, O Christ, in you alone; No earthly hope avails me.  
You will not see me overthrown, when Satan's host assails me.  
No human strength, no earthly pow'r, can see me through the evil hour, for you alone my strength renew. I cry to you!  
I trust, O Lord, your promise true.

My sin and guilt are plaguing me; Oh, grant me true contrition. And by your death upon the tree, your pardon and remission. Before the Father's throne above, recall your matchless deed of love. That he may lift my dreadful load, O Son of God! I plead the grace your death bestowed.

Confirm in us your Gospel, Lord, your promise of salvation.  
And make us keen to hear your Word, and follow our vocation:  
To spend our lives in love for you, to bear each other's burdens too. And then, at last, when death shall loom, O Savior, come!  
And bear your loved ones safely home.

Konrad Hubert, 1507-77; tr. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930
Welcome

Dan R. Bruss, Ph.D.
President

Address

Rev. Mark Harstad - “Life in Two Kingdoms”
Professor, Religious Studies

Conferring of Degrees and Honors

Eric K. Woller, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Affairs

College Choir

Nunc dimittis in D minor Setting by T. A. Walmisley
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

Recessional

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

Jacob Aaron Briggs  
Mankato, Minn.  
Broad Field Social Studies  
Secondary Licensure

Eric Peter DeBruzzi  
Carlisle, Mass.  
Business Administration

Stephanie Lynn Erlandson  
Hennepin, Minn.  
English, Media Arts

Aaron Mitchell Evans  
Saint Peter, Minn.  
Media Arts

Zak Fick  
Sioux Falls, S. Dak.  
Business Administration

Sara Garcia  
The Woodlands, Tex.  
Psychology

Talia Gilster  
Gaylord, Minn.  
Sociology

Kelsie M. Halvorsen  
Henderson, Minn.  
Elementary Education

Anne Margret Huckaby  
Coburg, Germany  
Business Administration

Kirsten Marie Johnson  
Thompson, Iowa  
Biology

Nichole Danielle Knutson  
Mitchell, S. Dak.  
Biology

Marta Kathleen Krause  
Eden Prairie, Minn.  
Music

Janeen Elizabeth Leisses  
Fond du Lac, Wis.  
English

Aaron Ollrich  
Fertile, Minn.  
Mathematics

Benjamin John Schultz  
Niwot, Colo.  
Communication

Jessica Kathleen Seifert  
Belle Plaine, Minn.  
Mathematics

Paige Sieberg  
Mankato, Minn.  
Sociology

Alexander James Sina  
Saint Louis Park, Minn.  
Media Arts

Christopher Michael Thiel  
Madison Lake, Minn.  
Communication

Honor Graduates
Honors graduates wear medallions and gold tassels.

Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.9 - 4.0)
Stephanie Lynn Erlandson  
Aaron Mitchell Evans

Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.67 - 3.89)
Eric Peter DeBruzzi  
Nichole Danielle Knutson  
Marta Kathleen Krause

Cum Laude (GPA 3.33 - 3.66)
Jacob Aaron Briggs  
Janeen Elizabeth Leisses  
Alexander James Sina  
Anne Margret Huckaby  
Aaron Ollrich

Graduation honors were calculated based on spring 2013 cumulative GPA.  
Publication in today’s program is not official documentation of graduation or academic honors.

Scholastic Leadership Society
SLS members wear gold cords.

Nichole Danielle Knutson

Sigma Tau Delta
(International Honor Society for English Students)  
Honorees wear red and black cords.

Janeen Elizabeth Leisses
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 “ἘΝΟΣ ἙΣΤΙΝ 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 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.
A special thank you to the businesses, individuals, and families who have established these scholarships for the benefit of Bethany students.

Ruth Abrahamson Scholarship
John and Myrtle Ahrens Scholarship
Alumni Association Scholarship
Anderson-Justman Scholarship
Calvin and Betty Anderson Scholarship
Cletus and Laurine Anderson Scholarship
Ernest and Janette Anderson Scholarship
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Ken and Maxine Barry Scholarship
Richard and Joanne Bartsh Scholarship
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Sieghert and Helen (Bertram) Becker Scholarship
Jerald and Marcella Bergeson Scholarship
Bergquist Scholarship
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Martin and Lila Birkholz Scholarship
Milton and Donna Black Scholarship
BLC Scholarship for String Players
Bethany Business Scholarship
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Edmund Bolstad Scholarship
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Grace History Scholarship
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Henry and Sarah Lillegard Gullixson Scholarship
Walther Christian Gullixson Scholarship
Ruth Gullixson Gunderson Scholarship
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Hagen Family Scholarship
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Health and Wellness Scholarship
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Scholarships

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Harold and Josefa Tipton Scholarship
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Wiechmann Family Scholarship
Keith and Joni Wiederhoeft Scholarship
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John and Renata (Rolf) Winsor Scholarship
Anthony and Edna Winther Scholarship
Dr. Philip and Jane Wold Scholarship
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