



SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT
EXERCISES

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026
WIEKAMP ATHLETIC CENTER

Bethel  University



Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

In 1947, Bethel's doors opened for the purpose of educating and equipping men and women for lives of service. Today's graduates represent 79 years of fulfilling that mission.

Embodied in today's ceremony is a celebration of past accomplishments and an excitement for the future, as these students enter the world as Bethel University alumni.

To God be the Glory!



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Jerry B. Jenkins is the author of more than 200 books, including 21 *New York Times* bestsellers, with more than 73 million copies sold. He is most known for the *Left Behind* novel series and *The Chosen* novels, based on the TV series. Jenkins assisted Billy Graham with his memoir and has written the biographies of more than a dozen superstar athletes, including Hank Aaron, Walter Payton, Mike Singletary and Nolan Ryan. He is an inductee in the Colorado Authors Hall of Fame.

He is the former Vice President for Publishing at Moody Bible Institute, where he later served for 18 years as a member of Moody's board of trustees, seven years as chairman. He is now a member of the board at Colorado Christian University.

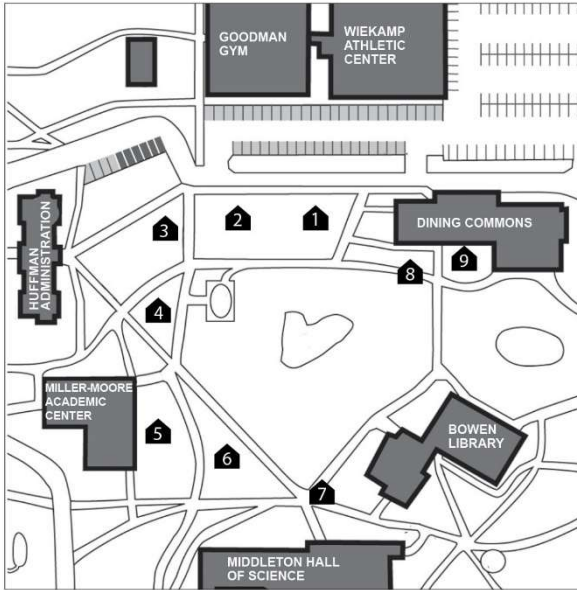
Jerry and his wife Dianna, who grew up in the Missionary Church and once served on the Bethel University Board of Trustees, live in Colorado and have three grown sons, including Dallas — the creator of *The Chosen*; Chad, an alumnus of Bethel and sports information director at Mid-America Nazarene University in Kansas; and Michael, a graduate of Colorado Christian University.

Jerry and Dianna also have eight grandchildren, including Isaac Jenkins, a current student and soon-to-be sophomore at Bethel.



POST-COMMENCEMENT MEET AND GREET

Saturday, May 2, 2026



FLAG KEY

- 1** *Solid Blue*
Kinesiology; Psychology
Behavioral and Social Science
Exercise Science
Health/Physical Education
Psychology
Sport Management
Sport Studies
- 2** *Solid Red*
Language & Communication;
Religious Studies
Biblical Studies
Christian Leadership
Christian Ministries
Communication
English Education
English & Writing
General Studies
Intercultural Studies
Pastoral Ministry
Philosophy
Worship Arts
Master of Arts in Ministry
Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry
Master of Arts in Theological Studies

- 3** *Solid Yellow*
Business; Social Sciences
Accounting
Business Administration
Business Management
Business Marketing
Criminal Justice
Economics & Finance
History
Humanities
Marketing
Organizational Management
Social Studies Education
Sociology
Master of Counseling
Master of Organizational Leadership
Master of Business Administration

- 4** *Solid Green*
Education;
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education
Master of Arts in Teaching
Master of Education
- 5** *Striped Blue*
Sign Language Interpreting
Deaf Studies
Sign Language Interpreting

- 6** *Striped Red*
Nursing
Nursing
Master of Science in Nursing
- 7** *Striped Yellow*
Math; Science; Liberal Studies
Biology
Bio-Chemistry & Molecular Biology
Chemistry
Computer and Information Sciences
Computer Science
Engineering & Management
Interdisciplinary Studies
International Health
Liberal Studies
Math/Physics
Mathematics
Mathematics Education
Science Education
Cyber Security
- 8** *Striped Green*
Performing and Visual Arts
Art Education
Graphic Design
Music
Music Education
Music Performance
Studio Arts
Theatre Arts
- 9** *Bennet Patio*
BU-X - all majors



COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Saturday, May 2, 2026 *Audience Standing

Prelude	"Sheep May Safely Graze" from <i>Hunting Cantata BWV 208</i> (J.S. Bach) "Prelude in C Minor" (J.S. Bach) "Arioso" (J.S. Bach) "The Trumpet Shall Sound" from <i>Messiah</i> (G.H. Handel) Siwon Kim, D.M.A. , organist
*Processional	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March no. 1</i> (Edward Elgar) Siwon Kim, D.M.A. , organist
Welcome	Dee McDonald, Ph.D. President
Special Music	<i>John the Revelator</i> Traditional Gospel Blues arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory University Choir; Stephen Martin, D.C.M. , director
*Invocation	Monica Oke '96 Bethel University alumna and parent
Professor of the Year	Abson Prédestin Joseph, Ph.D. Vice President for Academic Affairs
Speaker Introduction	Dee McDonald, Ph.D.
Commencement Address	Jerry B. Jenkins Author
Conferring Degrees	Abson Prédestin Joseph, Ph.D.
Last Challenge	Ethan Mihut '26 Student Council – Upper Class President
Alumni Induction	Emily Sherwood '99 Director of Alumni Relations
Blessing of the Graduates	M. Scott Miles '76 50 th Reunion Class
Turning of the Tassels	Dee McDonald, Ph.D.
*University Hymn	<i>To God be the Glory</i> (Crosby/Doane) Shawn Holtgren, Ph.D. '95 & '97 , Vice President for Spiritual Life and University Affairs
Benediction	Norm Spivey, Ph.D. Professor of Psychology
Recessional	<i>Psalm XIX</i> (Benedetto Marcello) Siwon Kim, D.M.A. , organist

A closed-circuit feed of the commencement ceremony is broadcast in Sufficient Grounds Coffee House and Campus Store.

*See page 8



GRADUATE LIST

GRADUATING WITH HONORS

Graduates of bachelor programs earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or greater and completing at least 45 credit hours at Bethel are wearing a gold medallion and will be awarded the following academic distinction:

Cum Laude: GPA 3.5-3.749 **Magna Cum Laude:** GPA 3.75-3.899 **Summa Cum Laude:** GPA 3.9-4.0

Some graduates are wearing colored stoles representing their cultural heritage

Graduates wearing gold cords are members of the Bethel University Honors Programs.

MASTER OF ARTS in MINISTRY

Josphine Chebet
Floridah Chepkemoi
Fares L Cheriyyot
Michael Edward Francis Daigle
Samuel Maina Gichanga
Elaine Robin Haubold
Pheanson Kibet Kirui
Kenneth Koech
Edwin Ketoyo Lubang^a
Bradley Craig Miller
Raymond Kipyegon Rono
Ann Chepkorir Towett

MASTER OF ARTS in TEACHING

Matthew J Adams
Bret Jonathan Bajdek
Stormi Cook
LaQuita M Hughes
Philip Schulze

MASTER OF ARTS in THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Lindsay Fisher
Sophia Elizabeth Slates

MASTER OF ARTS in ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Mason Lee Auker
Danielle Janette Bartkowiak
Grace Ann Beck
Jeanette Nicole Broshers
Eduardo da Silva
Elmin Ejup
Martin Matias Gaviria
Elizabeth Goheen-Lewis
Thayane Fortes Silva Leal
Jenica Mae Lewallen
Mayra Adalid Marquez
Doreen Nkhata
Peyton M Osborn
Rebecca Aliana Sasson Candido
Tayler Jade Stockdale
Kathryn Marie Sweet
Sabien Trudy Bettina Timmers

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Luisana Alonso Piza
Lucca de Oliveira Almeida
Timothy Dillehay
Andres Gonzalez Maza
Serenity Kretschmer
Corey Dean Marsh
Nancy Marsh
Abdon Ortiz
Daniel Suarez Casado
Lauren Spencer
Summer Rose Thomas
Nicolò Tocco
Julian Vargas Talamantes

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Alicia R Hoolley
Alexandra Sturgill

MASTER OF ARTS in PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Christopher Everett Navetta

BACHELOR OF ARTS / BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

- | | |
|---|--|
| * Grace Michelle Abbott Exercise Science | *** Hunter Aschliman Ministry Leadership |
| * Erin Nicole Aldridge Accounting
Financial Services | ** Amber Bethany Ballard Sign Language Interpreting |
| Raymond S Alessi Marketing | Antione Terrell Barnes Jr Biology |
| *** Teresa M Alpizar Elementary Education | Francisco Belmares Business Management |
| Alexander Alvarado Sport Management | * Yann Hanniel Biboum Chemistry |
| Addison Ambabo Computer/Information Sci | * Ellainie Lyn Blank English Education |
| Fernando Ambriz Engineering & Management | *** Breyana Bosket Sign Language Interpreting |
| Zachary Anguish Biochemistry & Molecular Bio | Karsen E Brandt Multidisciplinary St |
| Andrew Isaac Argueta Business Management | *** Callie Jo Brondyke Exercise Science |
| Neriesa Melea Arline Biochemistry & Molecular Bio | Gage M Brown Economics & Finance
Financial Services |
| *** Courtney Danielle Arseneau Multidisciplinary St | * Samantha Buchmann Behavioral & Soc Science |

*Cum Laude

**Magna Cum Laude

***Summa Cum Laude



BACHELOR OF ARTS / BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

LaRena Burnett	Organizational Mgmt	Meghan Kiebel	Sport Management
Grace Adari Byler	Liberal Studies	*** Ellie Quinn Kiscellus	Elementary Education
Markia Ashanea Cardin	Behavioral & Soc Science	*** Katriana Kokoska	Psychology
Augusto Cislaghi Ceratti	Business Management	Nathan Mark Kropiewnicki	Computer Science
Graham Chapman	Health/Phys Ed	* Jordan Landkrohn	Exercise Science
Kendall M Clark	Painting & Drawing	Tanika Ceherree Lark	Behavioral & Soc Science
Mariah Claywell	Psychology	*** Phu Le	Behavioral & Soc Science
Keegan Collier	Christian Ministries		Christian Leadership
* Colin Arthur Comer	Sport Management	Adaline M Leiby	Liberal Studies
** Anna Constable	Chemistry	Chad Joseph Leiby	Christian Ministries
* Kate Noel Cooper	Exercise Science	* Rachel Ellen Lemmert	Sign Language Interpreting
* Casey Corbett	Ministry Leadership	Brant Micah Liestman	Marketing
Diana Cory	Multidisciplinary St		Business Management
* Austin D Cripe	Economics & Finance	Henry Miller Linville	Interdisciplinary Studies
	Financial Services	Cameron Ludwick	Chemistry
Thiago da Silva dos Santos	Sport Studies	LaVoughn Deon Machowiak	Organizational Mgmt
*** Alivia Jo Dalrymple	Biology	* Elaine Malone	Elementary Education
Emmanuel David Janzen	Computer/Information Sci	* Logan Nicholas Mann	Criminal Justice
Orlando David Janzen	Computer/Information Sci	* Ariel Manns	Elementary Education
Katelyn E DeJong	Business Marketing	*** Averie Jayne Markel	Health/Phys Ed
*** Caleigh Dickerson	Psychology	** Cayla Praise Maurer	Worship Arts
** Kaden D Dickerson	Christian Ministries	* Anthony Maxwell	Sport Management
	Philosophy	* Emma Maxwell	Art Education
Sydney Dickinson	Christian Leadership	*** Kellen McClaid	Christian Ministries
*** Andrew Dillon	Business Management	*** Kane R McCrory	Computer Science
Andres James Dixon	Business Management	* Jacobo Medrano Hernandez	Business Management
** Aaron Douglass	Computer Science		Financial Services
Josiah David Dyck	Accounting	*** Ella Meyer	English Education
Brenna Edwards	Art Education	*** Ethan Marcus Mihut	Philosophy
Abigail Elowsky	Theatre Arts		Accounting
Hayden Elowsky	Theatre Arts	** Andrew T Miller	Ministry Leadership
** Joseph Eshelman	Biochemistry & Molecular Bio	Benjamin Allen Miller	Accounting
Taylor Fervida	Worship Min Leader	*** Regan Paige Miller	Ministry Leadership
** Owen Fleck	Sport Management	* Luke Tyler Minnick	Sign Language Interpreting
Faith Kay Fleetwood	Graphic Design	*** Shannon Mitchell	Music (General)
Santiago Flores Salazar	Psychology	** Carson Moore	Exercise Science
Sui Tha Fom	International Health	Kyle Lee Mooror	Liberal Studies
Alyssa Forsy	Marketing	Tyler Moroni	Computer/Information Sci
** Ellia Foster	Graphic Design	* Riley Morris	Psychology
Bayron Garay	Marketing	* Molly Phonesavahn Mounsthiraj	Behavioral & Soc Science
	Business Management	Lucas Nascimento	Business Management
Katelynn Marie Gaunder	Interdisciplinary Studies	*** Abigail K Nava-Taylor	Sign Lang Interpreting
Hannah Lucille Gerber	Elementary Education	Abbey Grace Ness	Multidisciplinary St
George Richard Gherardi III	Computer/Information Sci	*** Mathis Neuhaus	Business Management
Andrew Golba	Liberal Studies		Economics & Finance
*** Rita Christine Gorbics	Interdisciplinary Studies	*** Kate Marie Nofziger	Studio Arts
* Ian Gilbert Gradi	History		Theatre Arts
** Jason Christopher Grashorn	Math/Physics	** Isabela Reagan Nuet	Health/Phys Ed
Andrew Lewis Greene	Graphic Design	Victor Otin O'Callaghan	Marketing
*** Katie Noelle Gunderson	Intercultural Studies	Wesley Frederick Oke	Ministry Leadership
Derek Mannion Guthrie	Ministry Leadership	Kathleen Lynn Ophoven	Multidisciplinary St
* Araya Breanne Gutierrez	Business Administration	** Cassidy Ostema	Exercise Science
Michael Andrew Hahn	Financial Services	Alecia Parker	Liberal Studies
Micah Lee Hall	Worship Arts	*** Tanner Parmley	Ministry Leadership
*** Michaela Madison Hanger	Marketing	Keith Aaron Pasqualone III	Business Management
	Bi-vocational Ministry	Alex Nathaniel Patino	Engineering & Management
* Karly Harfouche	Exercise Science	*** Alonas Pecullis	Biology
** Jaylyn Harrison	Marketing	Lucas Eduardo Pedrosa de Lima	Economics & Finance
Holly Rose Heeter-Sabas	Sign Language Interpreting	* Benjamin David Petersheim	Cyber Security
** Joseph Hernandez	Interdisciplinary Studies	Augustam Pogue	Elementary Education
Isaac Hernandez Gutierrez	Business Management	Adelle Polhemus	Liberal Studies
* Joshua Shane Hirschy	Christian Ministries	*** Esther Puletz	Psychology
*** Meagan Hogarth	Christian Ministries	Alba Nerissa Ramirez	Liberal Studies
Mackenzie Ann Holland	Exercise Science	Luis Ramirez	Criminal Justice
** Michael Irwin	Organizational Mgmt	Justin Rankert	Organizational Mgmt
** Trenton Iwema	Cyber Security	Owen Ransom	Christian Ministries
* Beau Jacquay	Financial Services	*** Kaelyn Read	Liberal Studies
* Hailey Jonatzke	Sport Management	*** Abigail Jae Reimer	Biology
* Lacey Grace Kant	Christian Ministries	Sydney Mae Rice	Liberal Studies
*** Nathaniel David Kephart	Exercise Science	Kristopher G Richter	Business Marketing
	Bi-vocational Ministry		

*Cum Laude

**Magna Cum Laude

***Summa Cum Laude



BACHELOR OF ARTS / BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Peyton Ring	Sport Management	Jesse J Stout	Business Management
Alisa Rian Ringger	Behavioral & Soc Science		Economics & Finance
** Deyni M Rios	Organizational Mgmt	** John E Swald Jr	Business Administration
** Benjamin Wayne Ritzema	Health/Phys Ed	* Jennifer Marie Swymeler	Multidisciplinary St
** Diego Rodriguez	Computer Science	** Ainsley Tacke	Exercise Science
Jesse Rodriguez	Liberal Studies	** Davi dos Santos Beppler Tavares	Health/Phys Ed
* Ada Ronnema	Biology	** Leena Joy Thomas	Graphic Design
*** Melissa Anne Root	History	** Lucas Gavin Thorn	Accounting
	Liberal Studies	*** Jessica Marie Tonkin	Interdisciplinary Studies
* Hannah Ruddell	Psychology	Jeremy Trinidad	Economics & Finance
*** Kyla Elizabeth Schrock	Multidisciplinary St	Caela Marie Ullmer	Business Administration
Robert Shaffer	Criminal Justice	* Selah Unwin	Marketing
Wesley Shaw	Multidisciplinary St		Business Management
* Denalyn Kara Siewert	Accounting	Mauricio Vaca	Psychology
	Business Management	*** Aubrey Elizabeth Vervynckt	Math Education
*** Tyler Simpson	Christian Ministries	Voi Voi	Business Management
*** Alyssa Mekayla Sloop	Intercultural Studies	Leeah Wade	Biology
Christine J Smith	Organizational Mgmt	Addistasha Walton	Organizational Management
Riley Smith	Biology	** James Thomas Wamsley	Christian Leadership
* Cassidy Lee Ann Spanburg	Biology	* Aubrey Welches	English & Writing
* Caitlyn Lee Steensma	Criminal Justice	Rafael Dominik Widmer	Exercise Science
*** Keira Steinberg	History	** Josiah J Wilson	Mathematics/Physics
Whitney Rose Stevens-Carrington	Business Administration	Matthew Wingate	Marketing
*** Eliana Kate Stoner	Biochemistry & Molecular Bio	** Isabelle Paige Wrobel	Elementary Education
** Camden Stout	Marketing	** Olivia Grace Yoder	Ministry Leadership

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Baylie Ault	* Elizabeth Maciejewski
* Norah Jayne Beeman	Rylei Dawn Moreno
* Joanna Irene Brandt	Emily K Norris
Amelia Grace Capeles	* Emmanuella C Onah
* Kaylen Carlson	Elizabeth Sehi
Kyrah A Dell	Jessica Smith
Kayla Lamar Donis	* Sophia Ariel Sumer
Madelaine Eblen	Naomi I Uhlmann
*** Claire Gatewood	Madalyn L Vejarano
** Cadence Lynn Hartford	Lucas Wren
Esther Kleber	

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Carson Jaques	Liberal Studies
Lilian Olivia Jones	Ministry Leader
Cassidy Laursen	Ministry Leader
Rachel Lovern	General Studies
Jonathan Marin	General Studies
Brockton Cordell Miller	General Studies
Gabriel Rodriguez	Ministry Leader
Juan Sebastian Rodriguez Ortiz	Liberal Studies
Chance Saukira	Liberal Studies
Grangger Joshua Sheets	General Studies
Gretchen Sheets	General Studies
Madeline Joy Strong	General Studies
Maverick Surber	American Sign Lang
Elisabeth Anne Turza	American Sign Lang
Shannon Leigh Vermillion	Ministry Leader
Lynette L Wesby	Bible & Ministry
Josiah Young	Liberal Studies

ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING

Tristina L Bochelen
China N Cotton
Diamond L Dixon
Marcela A Gutierrez
Kaleb A Haimbaugh
Jada Iyona James
Sophia K Johnston
Emily Morgan Kidwell
Gracen Norris

*Cum Laude

**Magna Cum Laude

***Summa Cum Laude



TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us his Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done!*

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see!

