

### 2024 Annual Report

As I was driving a shuttle for people attending Life Enrichment, a weekly lecture series that brings around 200 people aged 60 and older to campus on Wednesday mornings, a group of students was gathering to carpool to a protest for peace in the Middle East. Another group looked to be headed for an athletic practice or event, while others came and went from the cafeteria or classes. Campus continues to be a place where students, matriculating and graduated, gather together in community to pursue a wide range of interests.

Bethel continues its work to become a federally designated work college. With the success of the current Employment Experiences pilot program, we are expecting all incoming freshmen in the fall of 2024 to be enrolled in the program and placed in a job as part of their curriculum. By fall of 2027, all Bethel students will be gaining valuable work experiences along with valuable classroom experiences.

Bethel continues its work to meet the needs and expectations of a diverse student population. Focus has been added to areas of student wellness and retention through the office of student success and retention, and campus upgrades, such as our redesigned student-focused café. Beginning in July, we will welcome our first-ever vice president for culture and belonging- a position created so students, faculty, and staff have a comfortable space to have conversations around belonging, diversity, and inclusion.

Bethel entered the public phase of our campaign to bring a dedicated wellness center building to campus. By providing state-of-the-art fitness facilities, wellness programs, and mental health resources, the center will create a holistic environment that fosters physical and mental resilience for campus and community.

Inspiration for music included in the recent concert choir tour program came from Langston Hughes: "To sit and dream. To sit and read. To sit and learn about the world." We strive to make Bethel a place where students flourish. A place where students and community can continue to explore their passions, connect with one another, and become active members of a global family.

Thank you for your continued support!

Ben Lichti, coordinator for alumni and church relations



Students and faculty tie prayer ribbons to a cross



Architect rendering of a new wellness center



The Rosette Nebula photographed by the Bethel observatory