



The education agency of
Mennonite Church USA

Daily prayers:

Mon., December 21 – Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va.

Ask God to grant rest and refreshment for the faculty and students of EMU/EMS as they take a break from academic studies and the rigors of the classroom.

Tue., December 22 – Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite School

Pray for students and families who have attended an Open House or Prospective Student Day at Lancaster Mennonite School and are considering LMS for the next school year.

Thu., December 24 – Mennonite Church USA

Pray for individuals, families, and Mennonite organizations and institutions that are experiencing financial challenges due to the U.S. economy.

Fri., December 25 – Mennonite education

Thank God for the many individuals and organizations who support Mennonite education through financial contributions, support for students, and ongoing prayer—a gift that strengthens Mennonite Church USA.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27-31

Suggested bulletin announcement for December 27: Pray for today's youth who are influenced daily by an electronic-media world. Pray that the schools of Mennonite Schools Council can help students be centered in Christ and develop gifts and skills to minister to others.

Daily prayers:

Mon., December 28 – Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va.

Invite God's spirit to grant wisdom to the EMU/EMS faculty and staff as they prepare to receive, teach and mentor students throughout spring semester.

Wed., December 30 – Bluffton (Ohio) University and Goshen (Ind.) College

The men's basketball teams of Bluffton University, Goshen College and two other colleges will play each other during the Bluffton Holiday Tournament, today and tomorrow. Pray that this will be a fun and safe event for players and fans.

Thu., December 31 – Mennonite Church USA

Pray that we, as followers of Christ, are life-long students—ready to learn, grow and be open to new ideas and new experiences.

DECEMBER 2009 PRAYERS FOR FAITH AND LEARNING

WEEK OF DECEMBER 1-5

Daily prayers:

Tue., December 1 – Goshen (Ind.) College

Fall semester participants in Goshen College's Study-Service Term return from Peru this evening. Pray for these students as they work through "reverse culture shock" and discern how their SST experiences will impact their lives and faith journeys.

Wed., December 2 – Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.

Pray for the pastors, conference ministers and ministry educators gathered at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, yesterday through Thursday, as they explore how pastoral training programs and the church can better prepare, support and sustain pastors.

Thu., December 3 – Bluffton (Ohio) University

Pray for the Bluffton University chapel worship times, today and December 10, as the campus community focuses on Advent with scripture texts and music, leading to the birth story of Christ.

Fri., December 4 – Goshen (Ind.) College

Goshen College holds its annual advent concert, Festival of Carols, this weekend. The program involves many students and faculty. Pray that the peace of Christmas will fill the hearts of those who perform and attend, and that their spirits will be renewed. Give thanks for the gift of music.

Sat., December 5 – Mennonite Early Childhood Network, Goshen, Ind.

Oh God, forgive us and our rich nation for bombarding our children with marketing of toys, clothing and other "wants," yet allowing children to starve emotionally, physically, socially, and academically.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6-12

Suggested bulletin announcement for December 6: Pray for the new Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA) Study Center at Iglesia Evangelica Menonita Nueva Vida, in Sarasota, Fla.; its new volunteer tutor, Gilberto Perez; and its coordinator, Alma Ovalle. Pray that the first course, "Intro to the Bible," will bless the students, and that God's wisdom and patience will be with the tutor. Pray also that this new leadership training ministry becomes a blessing for the entire congregation.

Mennonite Education Agency, the Mennonite Church USA agency that works with school-based education, brings you prayer requests from our preschools, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, and various programs that work to strengthen the church through education. If you are interested in receiving a free subscription to Prayers for Faith and Learning, e-mail or call Mennonite Education Agency. *Thank you for joining us in these prayers for faith and learning.*

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Daily prayers:

Sun., December 6 – Mennonite education

Pray for special Christmas events taking place today including ...

- Thank God that those with a heritage or love of the German language have the opportunity to worship at Bethel College's annual German Advent celebration this evening.
- Remember the Bluffton University community as the local choral society (students, faculty, staff and community members) present Handel's *Messiah* today. Pray that those who attend will be inspired and strengthened by this scripture set to music.
- Give thanks for Goshen College students and faculty who are participating in *Las Posadas* today. They will re-enact Mary and Joseph's journey towards Bethlehem by moving from room to room in residence halls and student apartments and then celebrating Jesus' birth with a piñata and festive food.

Mon., December 7 – Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.

Pray for God's presence with Patty Shelly, Bethel College professor of Bible and religion, as she presents "What Christians Should Know About Islam" in convocation this morning.

ALSO Mon., December 7 – Goshen (Ind.) College

As Goshen College students finish their fall semester this week, pray that students will recognize the learning and faith development the fall semester has brought. Offer thanks for their hard work and the nurture of the professors who guided their learning experiences.

Tue., December 8 – Bluffton (Ohio) University

Remember Bluffton University guest Forum speaker Tom McDonald, pastor of The Great Peace Native Fellowship, and the campus community as they learn today about the faith journey of native brothers and sisters in Ohio.

Wed., December 9 – Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite School

Pray for students who are challenged often to follow Christ in chapels and classroom devotions at Lancaster Mennonite School.

Thu., December 10 Goshen (Ind.) College

Pray for calm nerves and confident hands for the New Horizons String Orchestra performers during a recital today. The adults and seniors of this Goshen College Community School of the Arts string ensemble are beginners or are resuming previous string study.

Fri., December 11 – Mennonite education

Pray for special Christmas concerts taking place today including ...

- Pray for Bethany Christian Schools' musicians as they share their gifts in music with the community in their annual Christmas concerts today and December 15.
- Pray for God to be honored in the Christmas concert at Quakertown Christian School today and that families and students will see Jesus in a new way over the holiday season.

Sat., December 12 – Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite School

Pray for the administrative team and board of Lancaster Mennonite School who provide a curriculum for students that enables them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 13-19

Suggested bulletin announcement for December 13: Pray for prospective students, whether they are teenagers or middle-aged, who are considering the possibility of attending Hesston College beginning this spring semester. Ask God to give them direction as they seek the next steps in their lives. Pray that admissions counselors who are in contact with these prospective students during the holidays will help them in the discernment process.

Daily prayers:

Sun., December 13 – Bethel College, North Newton, Kan.

Pray for the special presence of Christ with the Bethel College community gathering this evening for the annual Advent "Lighting of the Green."

Mon., December 14 through Fri., December 18 – All students

Pray for those completing their final week of the semester including ...

- Pray for Bethany Christian High School students as they take semester final exams that they may be rested, relaxed, and prepared to do their best.
- Pray for Bethel College students and faculty as they give and take semester exams, complete end-of-term projects and travel home for the Christmas break.
- Pray for Bluffton University students, faculty and staff as the fall semester ends with the intensity of class work and exams.
- Pray for Hesston College students who are taking final exams. Ask God to give them clear and understanding minds as they study and then take the tests. May the professors who will grade the final exams seek God's wisdom.

Fri., December 18 – Hesston (Kan.) College

Ask God for safe travels for Hesston College students who are going home today and for meaningful, relaxing times with family and friends. Pray for international students who will spend the holidays with host families and friends, and pray that they experience the joy and peace of Christmas far from home.

Sat., December 19 – Goshen (Ind.) College and Bluffton (Ohio) University

The women's basketball teams from Goshen College and Bluffton University play each other this afternoon in Goshen. Pray for safe travels for the Bluffton team and for good fellowship between the sister teams and their fans as they compete.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 20-26

Suggested bulletin announcement for December 20: Pray for international students at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary and other Mennonite educational institutions who are unable to travel to their home countries and are celebrating Christmas away from their families and their own holiday traditions. Ask God to be near them and surround them with new friends and meaningful celebrations.