



Prayers for Mennonite Education April 2021

Mennonite Education Agency (MEA), is the education agency of Mennonite Church USA. These prayer requests were gathered from across all levels of Mennonite education, from early childhood programs through grade 12 schools, undergraduate schools, graduate schools and seminaries, and MEA's Hispanic Ministries' seminary and Bible institute. By partnering with these schools and educational programs and helping them flourish, MEA works to strengthen the church through education. Thank you for joining us in prayer for the schools.

Daily prayers for April 1 – 30, 2021

1. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for pastors and worship planners across the church who have had to adapt their worship practices due to COVID-19. Give thanks for recorded congregational worship materials prepared by members of the AMBS community for April 11 (Sunday after Easter) to give pastors and worship leaders a break.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Pray for Goshen College senior artists and musicians as they display their hard work through exhibits and recitals.

2. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for the Bethel College students preparing to present their group and individual research at the annual URICA Symposium (for Undergraduate Research, Internships and Creative Activity) on April 9.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: Pray for our students as they take midterm exams on April 2 – 3. The last quarter of this school year starts right after Spring Break and we would appreciate prayers for strength and health for all the teachers and students.

3. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** The month of April is busy at LMS with an online fundraising auction, drive-thru chicken barbecues and a mini-golf tournament. Pray that all will be successful and that faculty and students can enjoy these special events while remaining focused on their classes.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: Pray that the Roma population we are working with since 2010 will see God's light in their lives.

4. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** Pray for everyone involved in our spring drama production. May the students seize the opportunity to perform well and may we as a school provide a safe and comfortable environment for our community to join us.
5. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray that students and staff will have a refreshing spring break (April 1-9) and come back prepared and rejuvenated for the fourth quarter of the year.
6. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for spring sport athletes, that they would be able to compete safely, and make memories that last a lifetime.

Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas: Please pray for the coaches, staff and student-athletes of the Hesston College athletic department as they navigate an uncommon spring semester of all sports competing at once.

7. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for the track, girls tennis, golf, baseball and softball athletes as they settle into their spring athletics season.

Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Pray that all LMS students, faculty and staff can relax and enjoy the Easter break as they celebrate Christ's resurrection. Pray that they return renewed and ready to finish strong for this academic year.

8. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for wisdom, patience and good conversation for the Bethel College Board of Directors in their virtual spring meetings April 8 - 9. Pray especially for new board members Cynthia Doyle Perkins and Rev. Faith Allen.

Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana: Today is Connect Goshen Day at Goshen College, and we give thanks for the generosity of donors that helps students achieve a college education.

9. **Mennonite Early Childhood Network:** The fiftieth birthday of the national Week of the Young Child selected to be April 10-16, 2021, leads up to Earth Day, April 22. Pray that God will help adults engage young children in caring for the earth – perhaps practicing the recycling 3-R's, picking up litter, observing signs of spring in the plant and animal world, etc. – while giving thanks to the Creator God.

10. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, Pennsylvania:** Pray that we will be able to provide meaningful end-of-year activities, including Commencement.

Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Pray for guidance as we make enrollment decisions for the next school year.

11. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for participants in Ministry Integrity Circles, an AMBS program in which pastors going through significant transitions meet with peers and experienced consultants for guided conversation and reflection.

Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania: QCS asks for continued prayers as we grieve the loss of a long-time supporter of our mission and the backbone of our office environment.

12. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Praise God for the generosity of Bethel College friends and donors who enabled the completion of a softball clubhouse, as the spring season moves into high gear.

13. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for our families, both current families and those who are considering our school for the 2021 – 22 school year.

New Holland Early Learning Center, New Holland Pennsylvania: Our children and staff continue to thrive despite the challenges we are facing with COVID-19. We are excited to be designated a Pennsylvania Keystone STAR 4 Center (4 out of 4 Stars)! We have also worked hard to improve our work at inclusion, diversity and growth. Please pray for us as we continue this work with the children and families in our community. Also pray for our patrons and staff as they lose income during these times and pray for God's protection over all of us as we face uncertainty. We continue to be thankful for God's provision and care.

14. **Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania:** Please pray for the family, classmates, and teacher of a 3rd grade student who died unexpectedly at the end of February.

15. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, Iowa:** As our boys and girls soccer and track and field teams begin practice, grant health and safety to all our students and coaches during the spring season of Ravens athletics.

Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania: Please pray for all the educators and children who are continuing to go through difficulties. Pray for positive spirits and support from parents and teachers.

16. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for the health and safety of EMU's many athletics teams. Most EMU teams have had competitions this spring after last spring and fall seasons were cancelled and moved due to COVID-19.

Hesston College, Hesston, Kansas: Please pray for Hesston College as its faculty, staff and students plan virtual end-of-year ceremonies.

17. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Indiana:** Pray for prospective AMBS students who are applying for scholarships and for administrators who are discerning how to award funds. Give thanks for donors who help make seminary study possible!
- Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Please pray for the middle school drama students as they rehearse the spring production.
18. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for Bethel College students Emma Beachy (piano) and Caleb Abbott (saxophone) as they prepare for their junior and senior recitals, respectively, April 18 and April 24.
- Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** April 18 is the spring open house at LMS. Please pray for prospective families who are considering if LMS is a good fit for their family. Also remember those who are already enrolled for the 2021-22 school year.
19. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Eastern Mennonite middle and high school students take part in modified "E-term" and "Explore Week" activities this week, outside the classroom exploring nature and special interests in smaller groups. Thank God for this return to "almost normal" and experiential learning. www.easternmennonite.org/experiential
- Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray for students participating in EMU's Academic and Creative Excellence Festival this week. Students will give presentations and share research and creative projects from the semester and year.
20. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** As Goshen College students tackle their final exams this week, pray for strength, focus and energy for them.
- Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA):** IBA is operating in sixteen study centers across the United States. Please pray for these centers and that the eight centers affected by COVID-19 will be reopened soon. Pray also for the students graduating this month from Iglesia Seguidores de Cristo in Sarasota, Florida.
21. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** Pray that students will enjoy working in our new garden this spring and that everyone will enjoy the beauty and health of fresh vegetables.
- Quakertown Christian School, Quakertown, Pennsylvania:** QCS shares in the praise and request for the continued health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. We are grateful each day that we can be together in our loving and supportive community environment.
22. **Lancaster Mennonite School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania:** Remember the students involved in the high school performance, All the World's A Stage, April 22-25. Pray that everyone - actors and those behind the scenes - will enjoy the experience and will feel a sense of accomplishment for well-done performances.
- Peace Academic Center, Kykotsmovi, Arizona:** We need elementary teachers for next school year. Please pray that the right people will hear the call to teach here with the Hopi tribe.
23. **Freeman Academy, Freeman, South Dakota:** We send prayers of praise for the beautiful spring weather as we can feel the energy from the warm sunshine across our campus. We ask for prayers as we again try to host a Schmeckfest Drive-Thru to help Freeman Academy without our traditional Schmeckfest fundraiser. Even though we are a very small community, we feel love and support that extends much further and there is promise in that.
24. **Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for all Goshen College seniors who graduate this weekend with hybrid virtual and in-person activities, as they go forth into the world to make a difference and begin a new chapter in their lives.
- Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** Please pray for our local Mennonite church, Guri i Themelit. Give thanks that, regardless of the challenges of the pandemic and the new leadership of Dini and Klementina Shahini, the church is growing with new members.

25. **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas:** Pray for journalist Leonard Pitts and for the staff of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KPCOR) at Bethel College as Pitts gives the virtual KIPCOR Peace Lecture this afternoon.
26. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, Indiana:** Pray for students and teachers during the week of Interterm (April 26-30) as they participate in a variety of creative classes both in and out of the classroom.
27. **Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, Pennsylvania:** As we transition to new leadership for the 2021 – 22 school year, please pray for our entire community.
28. **Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania:** Pray for the planning of our annual spring fundraiser which will be scaled back and look different this year.
29. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:** Pray that EMU seniors will find ways to continue to follow God's call as they explore vocation, careers and all that comes after college.
30. **Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** SeBAH and Hesston College are together planning to offer a class this year: Jesus and the Gospels. The class will be in Spanish and English with students participating from the United States and four other countries. We ask for your prayers for this pilot 3-credit course.

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