



## ***Prayers for Mennonite Education***

May 2021

Many schools are holding graduation events this month. We recognize and honor graduates at all levels, from kindergarten and primary schools, to high school, college and university, graduate and seminary students. Education is a lifelong journey, and the Anabaptist-Mennonite schools help build strong foundations for learning, curiosity and wonder.

### **Daily prayers for May 1 – 31, 2021**

#### **1. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical**

**Seminary, Elkhart, IN:** Pray for the 21 candidates who are graduating this weekend from AMBS; give thanks with each of them for God's call on their lives and for their formative experiences at seminary.

#### **Lancaster (PA) Mennonite School:**

Remember the students involved in the outdoor performances of the Lancaster Mennonite High Spring Play, *All the World's a Stage*, on May 1 and 2. Pray that everyone - actors and those behind the scenes - will enjoy the experience and will feel a sense of accomplishment for well-done performances.

#### **2. Bethel College, North Newton, KS:**

Thank God for the patience, persistence and creativity of William Eash and the Bethel College Concert Choir in another year of pandemic, and for their gift of singing this afternoon in an outdoor concert on campus.

**Bluffton (OH) University:** This month, many Bluffton students will be taking part in cross-cultural experiences. Pray they learn from others, share kindness with everyone they meet and expand their own worldview.

#### **3. Bluffton (OH) University:**

Bluffton students are taking their final exams this week. Please pray for their physical, mental and spiritual well-being during this stressful time, and for their safe travels as they leave campus for the semester.

#### **Mennonite Early Childhood Network:**

Children's Book Week and Screen-Free Week both occur May 3-9. Reading is one of the best ways to go screen-free, a double win for children. Pray that adults will arrange a time to read favorite books with children, imagining, discussing, and sharing experiences. In this digital age, pray for wisdom to know if and when, what or how to use technology with young children.

#### **4. Bethel College, North Newton, KS:**

Pray for Brad Shores, the Bethel College Steel Drum Band and for good weather! The group will give its first public performance since fall 2019 outdoors this evening.

**Goshen (IN) College:** Pray for Goshen College students as they begin May term, either on campus or off campus at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center or the Florida Keys, and for those learning virtually.

5. **Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, PA:** Shalom is in the midst of an expansion project. It is on a tight timeline scheduled to be finished by September 1. Pray that the logistics of the project goes smoothly, there is safety for the workers, and that we can be a testimony for God's kingdom.
6. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN:** Pray for students who are planning to begin graduate studies this fall — and especially that visas would be granted for international students to pursue studies in person at AMBS.

**Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, IA:** We look forward to our spring outdoor athletics season. Our prayer is for the continued health and safety of all our Hillcrest Academy students and their families. We pray especially for our student athletes and our coaches, for spectators coming onto our campus, and for our fans as they travel; that all will be well.

7. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, IN:** Bethany is excited to welcome Grand Friends of our 4th-6th graders onto our campus today. Please pray for a special time between our students and the important elders in their lives as they share a portion of the school day together.

**Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, PA:** The annual auction is May 7 – 8. Pray for safety and fellowship, along with our fundraising efforts.

8. **Quakertown (PA) Christian School:** Please pray for our Open House today and that our enrollment momentum continues.
9. **Bluffton (OH) University:** Please pray for Bluffton's graduates who are entering the workforce. Pray they find jobs that become not only careers but vocations. Pray for our graduates who are entering graduate school or voluntary service that they are able to serve the community and the world.

**Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA:** Pray for the resilient 2020 graduates for Eastern Mennonite University who will be celebrating their graduation virtually today. They have entered a world no one could have imagined and are working to make it a better place.

10. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA:** Pray for the 2021 graduates of Eastern Mennonite University as they enter careers, service assignments or graduate school and continue to find ways to change the world in new places and spaces.
11. **Goshen (IN) College:** Pray for Goshen College athletes, specifically baseball, softball and track & field, whose seasons come to a close this month.

**Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** This is the last month for Junior High at LAC. Pray that students and parents will have all the strength to finish this difficult unusual school year. Pray that students will take every minute of study seriously.

12. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, PA:** Pray for Dock administrators and high school faculty as they seek to provide graduating seniors with memorable in-person end-of-year events, including Baccalaureate and Commencement.

13. **Bluffton (OH) University:** Please pray for Bluffton's faculty and staff who are being recognized for milestones in their careers and for their commitment to students. Pray that they continue to share (and feel the blessings) of our enduring values of discovery, community, respect and service.

**Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, PA:** We want to finish the year well and strong. We give praise for health and cooperative spirit with teachers, staff, and families.

14. **Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA:** Pray that the participants of the Eastern Mennonite University's online Summer Peacebuilding Institute may find connection and inspiration for their peacebuilding work around the world.

**Hesston (KS) College:** Please pray for the Hesston College board of directors and administrative council as they work toward finalizing a five-year strategic plan for the campus.

15. **Goshen (IN) College:** Pray for everyone at Goshen College's Merry Lea environmental Learning Center as they host their annual spring celebration Nature Fest.

16. **Bethel College, North Newton, KS:** Pray for God's blessing on Bethel College's Class of 2021, who has come through an unusual end to their college careers, as they and their friends and family experience a hybrid (part in-person, part virtual) commencement this afternoon.

**Lancaster (PA) Mennonite School:** Pray for those students who are graduating from Lancaster Mennonite School. Give thanks for their journey this far and pray that they will be open to God's leading as they face changes and decisions for the next steps in life.

17. **Bethel College, North Newton, KS:** Pray for Bethel College admissions staff as they work with students and parents on several Early Enrollment days this week.

**Lancaster (PA) Mennonite School:** Give thanks that Lancaster Mennonite faculty and students were able to meet in-person for most of this school year and pray that they will continue to remain focused on their work through the end of the year.

18. **Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** Pray that God will send the right teachers to teach for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Kraybill Mennonite School, Mount Joy, PA:** We give thanks and look with wonder at the beauty of nature during this time of year.

19. **Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, PA:** Our seniors will go on a mission trip to Appalachia for 10 days, May 19 - 26. Pray that this will impact them in a way that helps them see service to others as a value.
20. **Dock Mennonite Academy, Lansdale, PA:** Pray for Early Childhood to Grade 8 teachers, staff and students as they move through the final quarter of the year. Pray that they continue to find ways to build community in the midst of COVID restrictions on public events.
- Quakertown (PA) Christian School:** Please pray for the continued health and safety of our students, faculty/staff, and families.
21. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, VA:** Eastern Mennonite Middle and High School students fan out to dozens of area camps, churches and nonprofits today for the school's Community Service Day. Pray for times of learning, fun, interaction with hosts, and meaningful contributions.
- Lancaster (PA) Mennonite School:** Pray for the administration and staff of Lancaster Mennonite School as they close out this school year and look ahead to decisions that need to be made for the fall.
22. **MEA's Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH):** The Hesston College Bible department and SeBAH have partnered to offer a course entitled "Jesus and the Gospels." It will be taught in both English and Spanish to students from both institutions. New students are enrolled from Venezuela, Honduras, Mexico and the USA.
23. **Hesston (KS) College:** Please pray for Hesston College's inaugural four-year graduating class in Aviation - Professional Pilot as they enter an uncertain job market.
24. **Bethel College, North Newton, KS:** Pray for the staff and students of the Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts as they prepare for the end-of-year music and dance concerts and figure out how to hold them safely for everyone.
- Quakertown (PA) Christian School:** Please pray with us for the end of the year activities, that they can go as smoothly as possible with all the various modifications that have been made.
25. **Hillcrest Academy, Kalona, IA:** In a time where so much is abnormal, we celebrate with thankfulness, the graduation of our senior class. As we lament with them the loss of so many things, we pray that our graduates move forward with hopefulness and preparedness to change our world for the better and impact our community in positive ways. With God as their foundation and guide, we pray that today and tomorrow they will lead others through their faith.
26. **Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, VA:** Eastern Mennonite High School seniors take a day trip to Washington, DC., today in place of the usual fall three-day trip, cancelled due to COVID. Pray for meaningful learning, friendships and memory making.
- Lezha Academic Center, Lezha, Albania:** Pray that God will keep all the LAC community healthy.

27. **Freeman (SD) Academy:** We are sending praises as we have made it through the school year in-person with no serious cases across our small campus family. God has blessed us with energy and momentum as our spring has been filled with encouragement. Please pray for that to continue and for it to spread to others who may need it.
28. **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN:** Pray for participants in AMBS's online noncredit short course, Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication, led this month by Betty Pries, Ph.D. May they be empowered to help congregations courageously engage their differences in ways that glorify God and bring healing and hope.
29. **MEA's Instituto Bíblico Anabautista (IBA):** Pray for Marco Güete, director of Anabaptist Biblical Institute-IBA, who will be leading the virtual workshop on Acts to the IBA students from Muscatine, Davenport IA and Omaha NE today, May 29. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom upon Marco as he leads this virtual workshop. Pray for the challenges that a virtual workshop may have: connection, technical, communication, etc. Pray that the workshop be a source of learning, a time for students to share and get to know each other and may it be of blessing for
- them and their respective congregations.
30. **Bethany Christian Schools, Goshen, IN:** Bethany will celebrate commencement today. Please pray that our seniors will feel loved and celebrated as we mark this important milestone, and that they'll also feel well-prepared for wherever their journeys take them next.
- Hesston (KS) College:** Please pray for peace and restoration in Myanmar, a country with which Hesston College has new ties.
31. **New Holland (PA) Early Learning Center:** Please pray for the Discovery Club, our school-age summer program, that begins June 7<sup>th</sup>. The children from the NHEL community will learn about the Underground Railroad in Lancaster County, visit the Hans Herr House and the Long House, and hear about New Holland Spanish Mennonite Church's ministry with people from Central America. They also go bowling and will enjoy a teacher-prepared slip and slide for fun on those hot summer days.

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. To subscribe to this monthly publication, please contact [JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org](mailto:JoleneV@MennoniteEducation.org). Phone: 574-343-1310 • Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872 • [www.MennoniteEducation.org](http://www.MennoniteEducation.org)