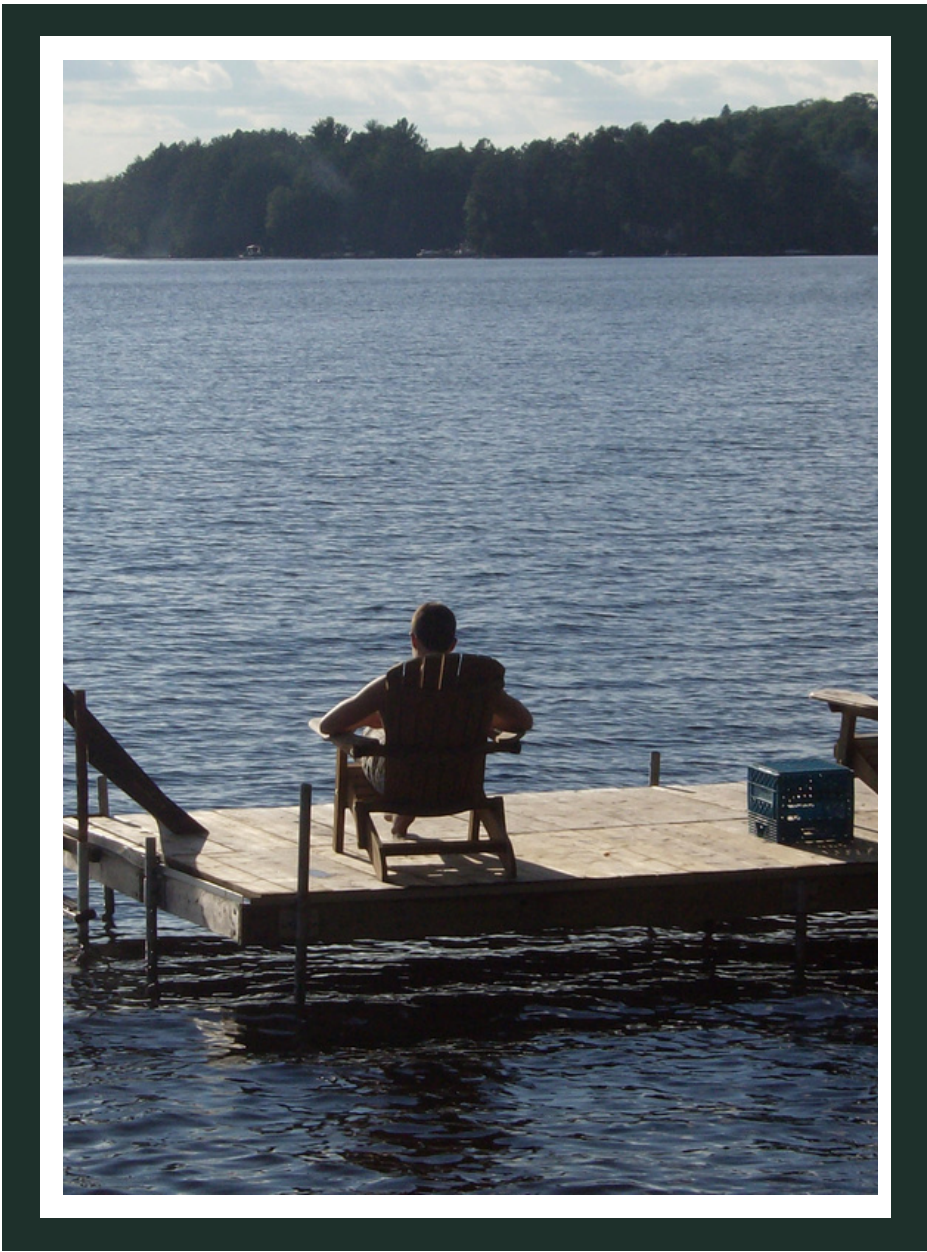


*In Loving Memory  
of  
James David Berg*



*(May 5, 1968 — December 23, 2021)*

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
January 7, 2022  
11:00 am



A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF  
James David Berg  
(1968 - 2021)

Prelude

Processional

Welcome & Call to Worship

Pastor Herb Sawatzky

Congregational Singing "I Can Only Imagine"

Scripture Reading

Lauryn Friesen

John 1:1-4; Romans 8:35,37-39

Congregational Singing "Lord, I Need You"

Life Story

George Pauls

Remembering Dad

Mackenzie, Madison, Mitchell

Congregational Singing "Dancing With The Angels"

Poem

Carly Bateman

Congregational Song "I Will Rise"

Message

Pastor Herb Sawatzky

Congregational Song "It Is Well With My Soul"

Prayer & Benediction

Pastor Herb Sawatzky

Closing Song "Great I Am"

Recessional



## The Life Story of James Berg

James 'Jamie', was born to Henry and Irene Berg in St. Catharines on May 5, 1968. He was the youngest of five siblings - with a brother and three sisters. He grew up in the family home on Creek Road, Virgil, where his Dad and brother Brian still live today. The family attended Bethany Mennonite Church, just down the road, and he went to Colonel John Butler Elementary School.

As a youngster you wouldn't find Jamie in the arena or ball field, rather he would be across the street spending time at John Falk's. He loved helping around his shop and was fascinated with his transport truck. It wasn't uncommon to find him at the side of the road signaling truckers to sound their horn. In the early years, the Berg siblings were expected to help out on family farms; picking tomatoes and cherries or cutting grapes which led to working for the Chemerika's. Jamie and his brother Brian spent most of their time in the orchard or in the barn making masters and having elastic fights. On weekends when the parents weren't home, the two of them would sneak the orchard buggies out for a leisure drive- Dukes of Hazard style. James' mom passed away in 1984 when he was just 16, which inspired him to learn the good old Mennonite cooking skill set. Over the years James continued to improve his skills, especially baking. From zweiback to fleisch perishky to paska, he could do it all. He was truly meant to be a Mennonite woman.

James attended Niagara District Secondary School, where he created many lifelong friendships, most importantly with his wife Carolyn. His high school friendships continued to grow and remained constant throughout his life. Jamie and his high school friends continued to bond through their annual boys weekend at the cottage and spontaneous gatherings.

Carolyn and James were best friends and eventually more. They were married on June 6, 1992. They truly were soulmates and became the best parents possible to Mackenzie born in 1999, Madison in 2001, and Mitchell in 2004. Family was the focal point of James' life. He always made an effort to set family time aside and go beyond measures to make them feel loved. Family dinners were a staple to this day. James was very supportive of his children in every passion they had; whether sports, school, or extra-curricular clubs, he was always there.

James truly was a man of many hats. From starting a lawn cutting business while in high school employing both friends and family, then adding irrigation, commercial painting, fence building, real estate, working as a purchaser at Bosch Rexroth and finally at the Niagara Regional Police as Quartermaster. As a testament to his dedication, within his first few years working for the NRP, he received a Chief of Police Commendation award. At every career phase, he developed lasting friendships.

James was selfless with his time and spent countless hours volunteering. He was the president of the NOTL hockey board and was voted Mr. Hockey- even though he actually never played. He was super passionate and supportive of his kids to be the best players they could be - wasn't shy to let them know when they underperformed but in a sweet caring way.



Jamie was not afraid to try anything, from building two family homes, the cottage, plumbing, electrical and gas, house renovations and vehicle repairs. He was the definition of a handyman. He loved to share and teach his knowledge with his kids on every little topic, even if they were lost from his first word.

James loved the outdoors, including downhill skiing, water skiing, and hiking the Bruce Trail. He loved to travel and made the simplest getaways feel so special. Every year he planned a family trip to Florida and to the ski hills. His favorite place to go was the family cottage. It was his dream and vision to make it into the place we have today. He always talked about retiring up there. James was the inspiration for taking the cottage from a small two room cabin, to a two storey multi-bedroom cottage that has housed as many as 17 people at a time. The cottagers on Deer Lake always enjoyed watching his entertaining acts of “boarding”, which entailed standing on a chair on a piece of plywood behind his 9.9 horsepower motor. The cottage is a place of so many happy memories for all.

Jamie was friends with someone everywhere he went. He was the best at the name game - not only Mennonite names but everyone in the entire community. He seemed to know everyone in the town, and everyone knew him. James would love to stop and talk to anyone and was sincerely interested in what they were up to. A quick outing would often take hours and he was never in a rush to end the conversation. Friends liked to joke that he was the unofficial town mayor.

James' faith was very important to him and he was a man of God. He was baptized at Niagara United Mennonite Church on May 22, 1988. He made sure to wake up all the kids over the intercom every Sunday morning to go to church saying “breakfast is ready”. He loved to be connected to the church community, whether with lawn care at Niagara United Mennonite Church, mens' group at Orchard Park, or a small group at Central. He loved music, and worship music was his favourite. He sang in the church choir, and always had Christian radio playing in the car. Even though he knew the lyrics to a song, he would often break out into a whistle.

James cherished every aspect of life from work to friends, faith, sports and most importantly his family. He had a way of making everyone around him feel heard, important, and loved. He made a lasting impression on so many, and these memories will live on forever.

On Thursday December 23rd, 2021 at the age of 53, James was called into the arms of his Lord. James was a loving and caring husband, father, son, brother and great friend to everyone he met. James will be forever loved and dearly missed by his wife of 29 years, Carolyn and his three children Mackenzie, Madison and Mitchell; his father Henry and his mother, the late Irene Berg (1984);, his siblings Judy (Don) Bateman, Sharon Berg, Carolyn (Darryl) Mathieson, and Brian Berg; his sister-in-law Linda (Karl) Friesen, brothers-in-law Harry (Carolyn) Loewen and Greg (Jennifer) Loewen, his nieces and nephews, family, friends, and everyone in the community.



## **"I Can Only Imagine"**

CCLI #2978857

Surrounded by Your glory  
What will my heart feel  
Will I dance for You Jesus  
Or in awe of You be still  
Will I stand in Your presence  
Or to my knees will I fall  
Will I sing hallelujah  
Will I be able to speak at all  
I can only imagine (yeah)  
I can only imagine

## **"Lord, I Need You"**

CCLI #5925687

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

## **"Dancing With The Angel"**

CCLI #4377559

And we'll be dancin' with the angels  
Walkin' in new life  
Dancin' with the angels  
Heaven will fill our eyes  
When we're dancin' with the angels  
When we're dancin' with the angels  
Dancin' with the angels  
Dancin' with the angels

## **"I Will Rise"**

CCLI #5183450

(And) I will rise when He calls my name  
No more sorrow no more pain  
I will rise on eagle's wings  
Before my God fall on my knees  
And rise I will rise (I will rise)

## **"It Is Well With My Soul"**

CCLI #5875665

It is well with my soul  
It is well it is well with my soul

## **"Great I Am"**

CCLI #5875665

Hallelujah holy holy  
God Almighty great I Am  
Who is worthy none beside Thee  
God Almighty great I Am

Thank you to the friends and former teacher  
of James' who all came today to support  
the Berg family.

**Musicians**

Jennifer Boese - vocals  
Matthias Boss - guitar  
Rebecca Enns- vocals  
Raeann Reimer - keyboard & vocals

**AV & Tech Support**

Peter Sawatzky  
Logan Fieguth

**Ushers**

Rita & George Pauls  
Dorita & John Pentesco

**Welcome Hosts**

Marlies Boldt  
Emily Fieguth

**Honour Guard**

NOTL Rep Midget Hockey Team

