



THE bridge app

Where Life Happens Better...

Together in

COMMUNITY



Connect with members – instantly

The Bridge App makes it possible to share sermons, prayers, announcements, and enable mobile giving by members - wherever they may be.

As technology continually changes the ways we communicate, it brings challenges as well as new and exciting opportunities for the ministry of the local church.

In order to position local churches to explore and embrace these opportunities, The Christian Reformed Church has partnered with software developer Extreme Technology Inc. to develop The Bridge App for Canadian congregations.

The Bridge App enables you to **communicate instantly** with your members wherever they may be. Donations can be accepted for the church budget as well as the other ministries and causes that your church supports. And a complete directory with essential contact information is always at your members' fingertips.

What sets this app apart from other smartphone apps geared toward churches is that **The Bridge App aims to be RELATIONAL, MISSIONAL and LOCAL** with the emphasis on the ministry priorities of your congregation.

The Bridge App is **affordable**, easy to set up and maintain, and provides new opportunities to connect with your congregation throughout the week.





“The Bridge App’s **RELATIONAL**, **MISSIONAL** and **LOCAL** focus has helped it become an indispensable tool for many churches. Church leaders love how it supports relationships through the directory, a sense of shared ministry through the Announcements and Calendar, the ability to support ministry financially through its Give functions, spiritual growth by providing easy access to Devotionals and an in-app Bible, and more.

It’s no surprise that I overhear more and more church leaders telling their colleagues: “you need to get your church using The Bridge App!”

AL POSTMA, TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, CRCNA CANADA

Mission

The mission of The Bridge App is simple – to create a bridge between ministry resources and local churches and their disciples, with an aim to strengthen individuals within the local church context.



GIVE



BIBLE



WATCH



CONNECTED



PRAY



DEVOTIONS



DIRECTORY



HOME



RESOURCES



EVENTS

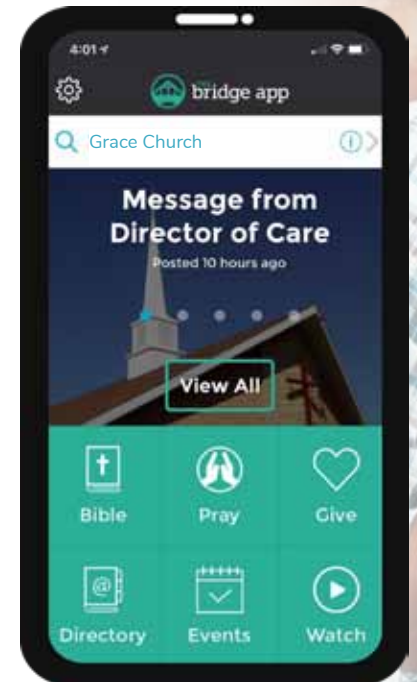
Stay Connected

Each function within The Bridge App is designed to strengthen the relationship between the local church and its members, and between the individual members of your congregation.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- WATCH WORSHIP SERVICES
- EVENTS CALENDAR
- MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY
- DEVOTIONS
- PRAYERS
- BIBLE
- GIVE / DONATE
- RESOURCES

Home Screen

- Users can select their home church, or search for nearby churches when traveling
- Users and guests can view details about your church, service times, and key contacts
- Home screen can be customized to display your church's photo, logo, or artwork
- Key functions can be enabled, disabled and arranged by your administrator, based on the preference of your congregation





“Church members, especially staff and ministry directors LOVE The Bridge App.

As soon as we have newcomers attending regularly, we get their information and a photo and add them to The Bridge App. Immediately everyone using the app has their names, contact info, and a photo of them.

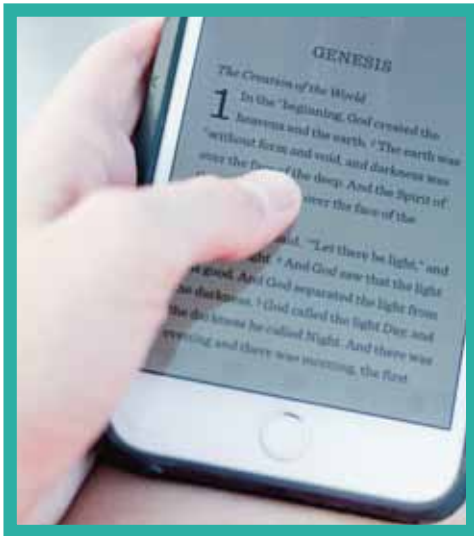
We are in a growth spurt, so having The Bridge App has been a real bonus for our church. Keep up the great work!”

**DOUG KUYVENHOVEN
WINGHAM, ON**

Bible

Read the Bible from the palm of your hand, at any time, and from any place.

- Convenient access to the Bible in more than 60 versions and hundreds of languages



Directory

This comprehensive function allows your members to easily connect and engage with each other, further building community in your church.

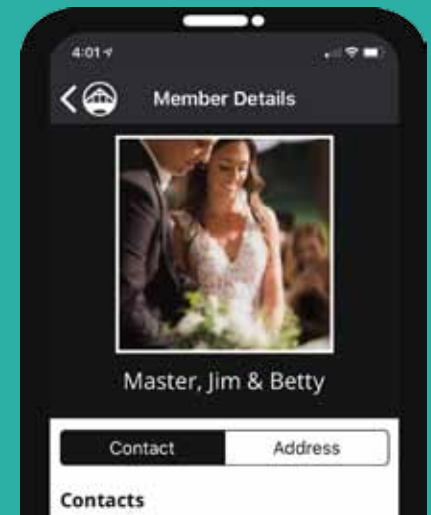
- A convenient directory of your members and their home address and contact info
- Can be instantly updated to reflect changes such as new members, marriages, births, etc.
- Users can update their listing to reflect new address, phone number, email address, and profile pictures
- Users have the option to hide their profile, and to add or hide birthdays
- Directory can be turned 'on' or 'off' depending on the preference of the congregation



“We were very happy with The Bridge App implementation. It was very easy and simple. We only needed to prepare a spreadsheet of our existing members’ database to have our directory uploaded. The ease of access to the church directory for members makes it all worth it.

Our seniors especially love that they can search for a friend’s phone number, address, and email directly from the app: no need to carry a directory around.”

JENNY EASTWOOD, CHURCH
BURNABY, BC

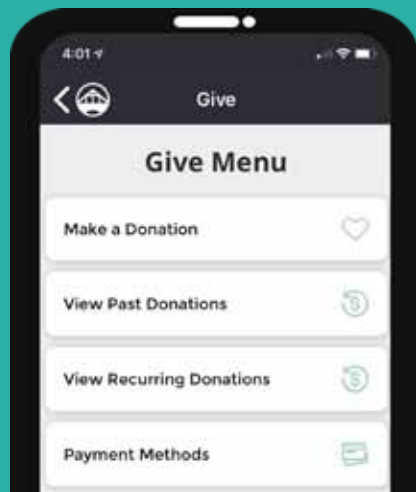




“The Give feature has been a blessing for our church, especially during the time of COVID-19.

The amount of time needed to administer The Bridge App is minimal after the initial setup. Communication in our church has greatly improved and members very much appreciate this service.”

DICK KRANENDONK
ANCASTER, ON



Make Giving Even Easier

Easily share your gift with the church, either as a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation.

- Registered users can securely donate by credit card or from their bank account
- Users can self-administer one-time or recurring donations
- Users can easily view a record of their past donations
- Local church can create their own causes, such as budget and local ministries
- Causes can be scheduled to automatically start and end on specific dates
- Very competitive rates for all donations
- Local church Treasurer is the only person with access to donor information
- The treasurer receives a detailed monthly report of all donations by cause
- Funds are automatically deposited monthly to the church bank account
- Single monthly report and transfer of funds minimizes administration and bookkeeping





Watch

The Bridge App allows your members to watch your church's live streams and past sermons, right on their smartphone or tablet.

- Members and guests can view services from wherever they may be
- Worship services can be streamed from YouTube, Facebook, or Livestream channels
- Once channel information is entered into the church profile settings, videos will stream automatically





Announcements

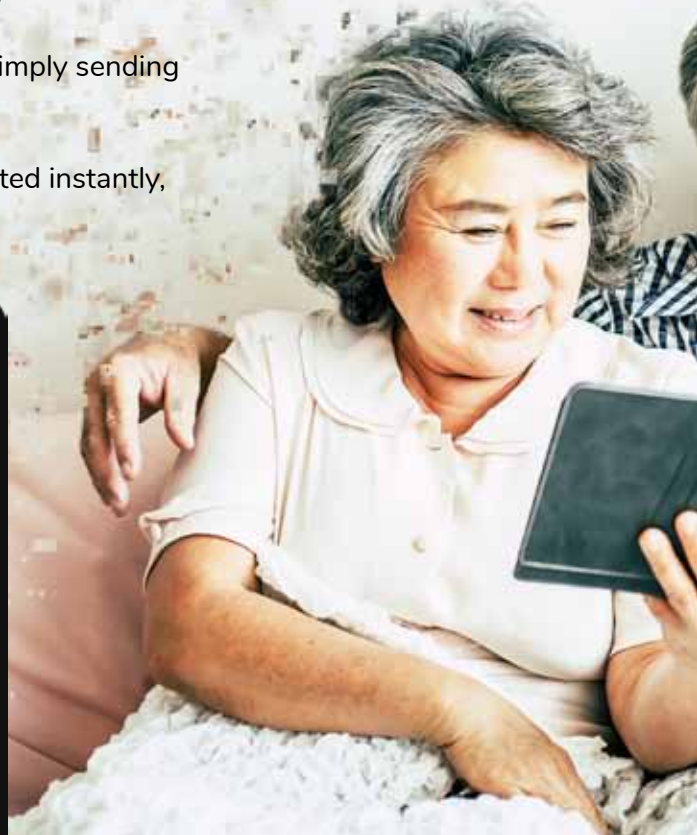
Reach your members 24/7, wherever they may be

“Our church has used the GIVE function on The Bridge App since 2018 and it has been such a blessing especially during COVID. We have noticed that our weekly giving has continued to come in and that is in part thanks to gifts being given generously through the app each week.

We are also able to keep our congregation engaged and informed through announcements, worship service links and bulletins, and our church, in turn, allows us to continue to be a blessing.”

JENNA HESSELS
SMITHERS, B.C.

- Announcements can be posted with or without a ‘push notification’
- Option to make announcements ‘public’ or for verified users only
- Especially effective for reaching members who don’t regularly check email
- Announcements can include PDF attachments (weekly bulletin, etc.) as well as links to video files
- Post an announcement by simply sending an email message
- Announcements can be posted instantly, and by whoever you choose





Events

Your church calendar.
Always available.
Always up-to-date.

- Members can view your church's calendar at any time and from anywhere
- You choose which events are visible to 'public' or are for 'verified members only'
- Automatically integrates with your online Google calendar
- Events can be posted from the administrative portal or by sending an email
- Set attendance limits on any event and allow users to 'register' via The Bridge App



“The Bridge App has been a great tool for our congregation.

It has provided a digital directory, direct and easy access to the Today devotional, a means for sending out announcements, a place to post our church events, and a forum for online giving.

We have also linked the donation page to our church website providing even more access to the online giving function of The Bridge App.”

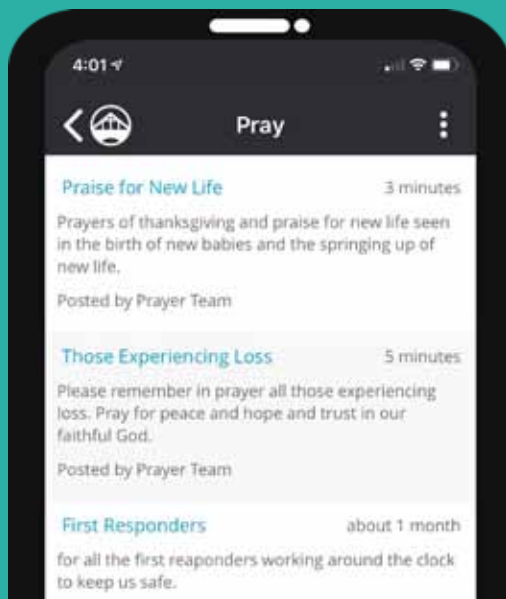
SONYA WAGENAAR
RED DEER, AB



“During COVID, The Bridge App has been even more valuable.

We hold a Sunday Zoom call and then immediately post the members’ thanksgivings and requests. Everyone is able to pray for those who need it. It is great that we can start right away and not wait for the church bulletin. We can also see answered prayer.”

GRANT CASSIDY
TORONTO, ON



Prayer

Building up the Body of Christ

- Immediately bring urgent prayer matters to the attention of your congregation
- You choose if a prayer is to be ‘public’ or only for verified members of your church
- The Bridge App users can ‘submit’ a prayer request to your church through the app
- Prayers can be posted via the administration portal or by simply sending an email message
- Prayers can be posted immediately and by whomever you choose (pastor, elders, prayer team)

Devotions

Spending time each day in God’s Word

- Access the daily Today devotional from ReFrame Ministries at any time and from anywhere as well as other inspiring devotionals



Resources

Equipping your congregation to serve and to grow

- Instant access to thousands of resources from The Network and CRCNA ministries and agencies
- Search for study guides, resources for leadership, administration, church school, evangelism, and much more

Connected

The latest news and information from respected sources

- Hundreds of current articles from The Network, The Banner, Christian Courier, and more

The Bridge App Has You Covered

When it comes to security, The Bridge App has your back. We've placed the very highest standards of security on the app. The app developer serves major corporations both locally and internationally and full

WHO CAN BECOME A BRIDGE APP 'MEMBER' OF OUR CHURCH?

The Bridge App validates users based on their email address to create an automatic association with their church when they sign up. In order for this to happen, the church imports their directory of households (names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers). When a user account is created and matched by email address, that user is automatically associated with the appropriate church.

If someone is not listed in the file of members provided by the church, they must request to be associated with that church, and a notification is sent to the church administrator for approval.

WHERE IS THE DATA STORED?

The app developer's system uses Amazon.aws and has an auto-scaling, encryption at rest database that adheres to PIPEDA regulations (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act). They employ SSL between the app and web services. All data is stored in the Amazon AWS cloud, located in northern Virginia, USA. Redundant copies for backup purposes are stored in Montreal, Quebec.

WHO HAS ACCESS TO THE DATA FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR MEMBERS?

Only employees of The Bridge App Inc. have access to your raw data. Your church Administrator can access all the information you have provided, with the exception of donation information, which can only be accessed by the person(s) you have designated as 'Treasurer'. Verified members of your church can see the information you have posted, while guest users can only see information you have specifically chosen to make 'public'. If a household wishes for their Directory information to remain private, they can elect to do so. Administrators and users can only see the data relating to their church, but not other congregations.



highest priority on the security of all data used within The Bridge App. The app complies with all PCI (Payment Card Industry) compliance requirements.



WHO HAS ACCESS TO CREDIT CARD DATA?

When a user enters credit card data into The Bridge App, it is sent directly to our payment processor. Our payment processor then gives us a unique token that we can use to charge the credit card in the future. The Bridge App does not see or store any confidential credit card information.

WHO HAS ACCESS TO ACH/EFT DETAILS?

Organization treasurers have access to bank details for the purposes of pre-authorized payments. In order to view the details they must specify why they need to see it. A time-stamped audit log keeps a record of who accessed the information and for what reason.

HOW SECURE IS MY DATA?

All information transmitted to or from The Bridge App is encrypted in transit. All information stored by The Bridge App is encrypted at rest. The app developer also runs periodic PCI Compliance scans to ensure their systems meet evolving security requirements.

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... encouraging one another.”

- Hebrews 10:24-25



THE bridge app

Relational. Missional. Local

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bridgeapp@crcna.org

All others contact:

info@thebridgeapp.org

thebridgeapp.org

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