

# E-FREE BEMIDJI'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF BEMIDJI



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, March 8

9:30 am - Worship Service & Communion

11:00 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John (Room 10)

11:00 am - Second Sunday Prayer (Chapel)

### Monday, March 9

6:30 pm - Membership Class (Chapel)

### Tuesday, March 10

10:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

### Wednesday, March 11

7:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

### Thursday, March 12

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Youth Room, East Chapel, West Chapel, and Classroom 4)

6:30 pm - Volleyball (Gym)

### Friday, March 13

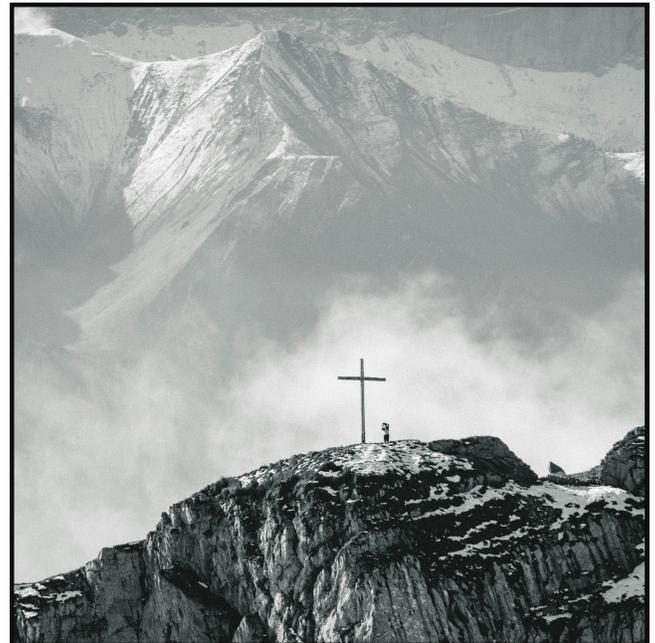
11:30 am - Senior Connection Potluck (Connection Cafe)

### Sunday, March 15

9:30 am - Worship Service  
Communion Sunday

11:00 am - Prayer for the Muslim World (E. Chapel)

11:00 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John (Room 10)



**This Sunday: Jesus' Most Popular Parable**  
Luke 10:25-37

**Next Sunday: Mary & Martha**  
Luke 10:38-42

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

Giving YTD:  
\$104,267  
Needed YTD:  
\$143,874

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## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 8TH

1. If you could give an award to one verse, passage, or character in the Bible, what would it be called, and why would it take home the trophy?
2. How familiar are you with The Parable of the Good Samaritan? Where have you seen this story adapted or referenced in pop culture?
3. Read Luke 10:25-28. Why might a person seek assurance of having eternal life? Have you ever asked a similar question?
4. Read Jesus' words in John 14:15. How do you see his statement as either a command or a promise?
5. The lawyer's answer in v. 27 links together two verses found in separate places in the OT. How and why do you think these two commands go together?
6. Read Luke 10:29-37. What are some ways people (including you) are tempted to narrow the scope or redefine the boundaries of obedience to God? Why do we do this?

Our Life Groups are all about learning together and loving one another. Visit [www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups](http://www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups) for more info.

## MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY SONGLIST

1. This Is Amazing Grace
2. Grace Greater Than Our Sins (#472)
3. Deeply Devoted

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fraud Alert

Please be careful NOT to respond to any email supposedly coming from one of the church staff that asks you to purchase gift cards or give personal information. This is a scam. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

### Communion

This Sunday the Lord's Supper will be served during our 9:30 am Combined worship service. We will be using our non-alcoholic communion juice and gluten free bread. All who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior are invited to celebrate with us. Please take time to reflect upon your walk with the Lord and relationships with other Christians. 1 Corinthians 11:28 urges, "We ought to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup." The Lord's Supper represents Christians' union with Jesus and unity with other believers.

### March Senior Connection

"March is for Music" at our Senior Adults Potluck on Friday, March 13 at 11:30 in the Connection Cafe. Nate Wilson and his Dad Harley will bring us several special songs. And then they'll lead us in an Old-fashioned Hymn Sing. It doesn't matter if your voice is not what it used to be--God is still pleased with our worship! Contact Laura at 218-209-8190 for questions.

### Child Dedication

Parents and guardians, if you are interested in dedicating your child at an upcoming Sunday Worship Service, please contact Pastor Eric to learn more. We are looking at Sunday, March 22nd, and/or Sunday, April 19th as tentative dates.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

## Blessing Bags

Thank you to all who donated towards the Blessing Bags. We filled over 100 bags! Some students took a bag to keep in their car to hand out to someone in need. We also distributed the bags at Village of Hope, the day homeless shelter, and to the library. The purpose of this outreach is to show God's love by meeting a need and sharing God's word. Thanks again for your support and prayers for this outreach.

## Prayer for the Muslim World

Join us on Sunday, March 15th, at 11 a.m. in the East Chapel as we learn about and pray for the Muslim world during the season of Ramadan. Paul Thomas will lead this time together. Pick up a free copy of the Thirty Days of Prayer for the Muslim World Prayer Guide in the Connection Cafe.

## Sedar Meal

On April 1st, there will be an opportunity to worship through a Sedar Meal. If you are interested in helping to plan this special night of worship, or if you would like to cook part of the meal, or serve, please reach out and let Amy Graf know. [agraf@efcbemdiji.org](mailto:agraf@efcbemdiji.org)

## Appreciation Event for the Johnsons

Come and express your appreciation for God's faithfulness in working through Pastor Jerry Johnson and his wife, Debbie, over the past 25 years. There will be an open house on Sunday, March 8, from 2-4 p.m. in the FC Lounge at Oak Hills Christian College. Join us for cake, coffee, & punch, lots of visiting and hugs, and many great photos and fun stories from the good old days. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Katrin Crow at 514-410-8800.

## Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Come enjoy pancakes, fruit, juice, and coffee on Sunday, March 29th at 11 am. This year's breakfast will be prepared and served by our students attending the EFCA Challenge Youth Conference this summer. The breakfast is FREE, but there will be an opportunity to give a free-will gift to help offset the cost of the conference (~\$800/student). Or consider donating supplies for the breakfast by taking a card off the bulletin board in the Gym. Supplies are needed by Sunday, March 22nd. Questions? Contact our Office Manager, Lex, Pastor Eric, or Pastor Shane for more info.

# YOUNG ADULTS

## Sunday, March 8

9:30 am - Combined Service

## Tuesday, March 10

6:00 pm - Anchor (Youth Room)

## Thursday, March 12

7:30 pm - CRU (BSU, Hobson Memorial - Crying Wolf Room)

## ANCHOR

Our Anchor group continues! Tuesday evenings from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM in the Youth Room. Join us for fun, fellowship, bible study, and occasional Pie Nights at Perkins!



Open to all BSU, Oak Hills, NW Tech, Leech Lake, and Red Lake Nation students. We meet Thursday nights from 7:30-8:30 pm in Memorial 240. We also have a Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study and Monday Night Women's Bible Studies.

See Mark C. or Terry H. with questions:  
[mhockeymd@gmail.com](mailto:mhockeymd@gmail.com)  
[Terryleehewitt@gmail.com](mailto:Terryleehewitt@gmail.com)

# E-FREE KIDS



## Sunday, March 8

9:30 am - Kids/Beginners Church (Lower Level, dismissed during service)

10:45 am - Kids Sunday School (Lower Level)

## Wednesday, March 11

**No Kids Club** this week due to MEA break. See you back next week!

### Kids Club

E-Free Kids Club welcomes all children ages 4 through 5th grade! Join us for dinner at 5pm. Use our Secure Child Check-In and drop your children off in their classroom by 6:00pm. Pickup your children in their classrooms by 7:30 pm. We meet each week in small group, large group Bible teaching, worship, snacks and games. Contact Amy with questions: [agraf@efcbemidji.org](mailto:agraf@efcbemidji.org)

### Shamineau Retreat 46

4th, 5th, and 6th grade students have an opportunity to attend the Shamineau 46 retreat at Camp Shamineau, April 10th-12th. There is informational forms and consent forms available at each Child Check-In area. If your child is interested in attending this retreat, please fill out the paperwork, and return to Amy or Lex in the office. The cost is \$125, and is due by March 29th. Please reach out if you need help financially. We want to make sure every child has an opportunity to attend. \*\*Also, if you would like to donate to help scholarship students for this retreat, please make a note on your check or online giving for Shamineau 46. Please be in prayer for these students and leaders to deepen their faith and their relationships with each other.

follow [@efreekidz](#) | [www.efcbemidji.org/kids](http://www.efcbemidji.org/kids)  
Text **efreekids** to **94000** join our E-Free Kids notification system.

# STUDENT MINISTRIES



## Youth Sunday School

We finished up our Bad Advice series and are moving into Proverbs - or Good Advice! Each Sunday we will be tackling a new chapter of Proverbs and discussing the wisdom and discernment that we have been given through this wonderful book. We are currently heading into Chapter 8!

### Sunday School Volunteers Needed!

if you are willing/desire to lead a discussion with our 6th-12th Grade students, let Pastor Shane know. We are looking for more Male and Female leaders to help guide/teach our Sunday School Group.

### Youth Group

We are currently heading into the Book of Ephesians and this series will be called "To The Glory of His Grace". Each week we will be tackling a different part of each chapter as we interact and learn from such a beautiful, powerful, and foundational portion of God's Word.

### District Blitz

(7th-12th Grade) is coming! This will be held in Duluth, MN from April 17th-19th. Cost is \$175 per student. See Pastor Shane for more information.

### Flower Sales are Here!

Starting this week, we are doing our Annual Flower Sale Fundraiser for our Youth Ministry. See Pastor Shane or Becky Eastling for information on pricing and where to sign up for flowers.

## Sunday, March 8

11:00 am - Youth Sunday School  
(5:11 Room)

## Wednesday, March 11

**No Youth Group** this week due to MEA break. See you back next week!

follow [@efcb\\_sm](#) | [www.efcbemidji.org/youth](http://www.efcbemidji.org/youth)  
Text **efcbasm** to **94000** join our Student Ministries notification system.

## Monthly Prayer Letter - March 2026

Dear Church Family,

If I could travel back in time, I would try to convince my younger self not to quit the piano. I don't remember how old I was when I stopped taking lessons, but I do remember thinking that piano was no longer cool. Many years later, I now regret this decision. I went on to play the saxophone in high school, and taught myself the guitar in college. But for the longest time, I never went back to the piano.

A couple of summers ago, we had someone bless our family with a used piano. It was well-loved, a bit out of tune, and very heavy. But with a tune-up from Ken Wold, and a sheet music refresher from Jessica Westlund, I resolved to start piano again. After such a long hiatus, trying to relearn the keys and how to read sheet music is like trying to relearn a foreign language not spoken in decades. The good news is that with a little practice, it's slowly coming back to me, one chord at a time.

Even if you're not a musician, you probably understand how a chord works. In music, a chord is simply three or more notes played (or voiced) together. Depending on the combination, the chord can set the mood of the song—happy, dark, energetic, suspenseful, etc. Recently, I shared these verses with our Worship Committee. Days later, I am still chewing on these words.

“

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such **harmony with one another**, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6 (ESV)

”

The word the Apostle Paul uses to describe his prayer for unity is not necessarily a musical term, though the ESV and other English translations use the word “harmony” to express Paul's meaning. The word can also be rendered (as in the NIV) as “attitude of mind” or opinion. It's the same word that we saw a couple of Sundays ago when we looked at Philippians 2:1-2 where Paul's desire was that believers be “**like-minded**, having the same love, being one in spirit and **of one mind**.”

It's not uncommon to hear people speak of “praying for unity” in the church. Typically, what is meant by this is a desire that members of one congregation avoid quarreling and learn to get along with one another. That is certainly one aspect of church unity (see Phil. 4:2). It's hard to be a healthy church when there is disharmony. But look again at what Paul says in Romans 15:5-6. His prayer is for the believers to be in “harmony with one another,” (i.e. church unity). But harmony (or unity) was not the end goal. Paul prayed for harmony, grounded in Christ Jesus (dare we say the root note of the chord), for this reason: “that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 6)”

The goal was not unity in itself. The goal was harmony for the sake of God's glory. Paul prayed for church harmony so that God would receive all the glory due his name. That's not a bad prayer to adopt as our own.

E-Free Bemidji church family, would you join me this month in praying this prayer for one another?

Heavenly Father, We pray for our E-Free Bemidji church family. Holy Spirit, empower our endurance when we are weak. Spirit, encourage us when our souls are downcast. Father, grant us to live in harmony with one another, acknowledging our different notes, yet seeking to bless you with a pleasing melody. Remind us that our unity is grounded not in our earthly attributes, but in the person of Christ Jesus as members of his body. In harmony with one another, may we, with one voice, seek to glorify you, our God and Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Him,

Pastor Eric