

E-FREE BEMIDJI WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4, 2026



BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 4

- 9:30 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 9:45 am - Kids/Beginners Church
- 11:00 am - Connection Time (Connection Cafe)
 - Family Sunday School: Practicing the Way (Youth Room)
 - Getting (Re)Started (West Chapel)
 - Adult Bible Study - Gospel of John (Room 10)
 - Young Families Class (East Chapel)

Monday, October 5

- 6:00 pm - Membership Class (Office Conference Room)

Tuesday, October 6

- 10:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)
- 6:30 pm - Celebrate Recovery (Room 10)
- 7:15 pm - Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, October 7

- 7:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)
- 5:00 pm - Wednesday Night Meal - Spaghetti (Gym)
- 6:00 pm - Kids Club/Youth Group
 - Evans Life Group (Conference Room)

Thursday, October 8

- 10:00 am - Halverson Life Group (Fireside Room)
- 6:30 pm - Music Team Practice (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Chapel & Room 4)

Friday, October 9

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

Saturday, October 10

- 8:30 am - Men's Breakfast (Gym)

Sunday, October 11

- 9:30 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 - Communion Sunday
- 9:45 am - Kids/Beginners Church
- 11:00 am - Connection Time (Gym)
 - Sunday School for all Ages

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Giving through September 27, 2026

Weekly Giving: \$7,691
Weekly Giving Need: \$15,790

Giving YTD: \$508,579
Needed YTD: \$615,810

Visit efcbemidji.org/give to learn about ways to give.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

9:30 am - Worship Service

Prelude: Mary Larson, piano

Lead On Good Shepherd

Abide

Grace Greater Than Our Sin #472

Offertory: Handbells, "You Are My All in All"

Scripture Reading: Psalm 4:1-8, Holly Howes

Message: Pastor Eric Nygren

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us #522

Upcoming Sermon Schedule

October 11th: John 16:1-20

Mark Your Calendars

Oct. 25th, All-Church Potluck 11:00 am (Gym)
Congregational Meeting 12:00 (Sanctuary)

Visit efcbemidji.org/events
for the complete calendar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Happy 30th Anniversary to our Handbells!

This fall our handbell ministry group, Ring Jubilant Praise, begins its 30th season of praising God through this unique instrument. The bells began in 1996 as a gift in memory of Chris and Tracy Parthun's daughter Rebekah Jean Parthun, and her initials are the basis for the handbell group's name. A number of the original ringers are still playing today. To the original 2-octave set, generous gifts have enabled us to add 2 more octaves of bells plus several large bass bells, 3 octaves of chimes, mallets, cases, and other accessories. The bells have played for church services, weddings, funerals, benefits, work parties, and Christmas and Easter events. We look forward to serving the Lord through the continued ministry of handbell music into the future!



2010 – Ring Jubilant Praise Handbells

Membership Class

Join us on **Monday, Oct. 5th, 6:30-8:00 pm** in the Church Office Conference Room for a group discussion on what it means to become a member of a local church and why it's important. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend.

Men's Breakfast

Gentlemen, keep the morning of **Saturday, October 10th** open on your calendar. We'll gather in the Gym from 8:30-10:00 am for great food, and good fellowship together. Bring someone with you!

Text **efree** to **94000** join our text notification system.

A Suitcase of Thanksgiving

Here's your chance to bless our Global Partners, Luke & Claire Gibbons in France! The Gibbons are hosting a Thanksgiving outreach for students. "Over a traditional Thanksgiving meal, we share good food and conversations, explain the story and meaning behind this American holiday, and most importantly, have the opportunity to share the gospel with them." Please contact Karin Thomas (pkthomas.43@gmail.com) if you would like to donate supplies for the event:

- 30 dinner plates
- 30 dessert plates
- 30 cups
- 4 rectangular tablecloths
- 30 place cards
- 150 candy corns (or other traditional Thanksgiving candy)
- 120 mini peanut butter cups
- Optional: 1 large bag of Reese's Pieces

Senior Connection Potluck Oct. 9

Calling all senior adults to join us for our October Potluck and program on Friday, Oct. 9 at 11:30 in the Connection Cafe. Jerry and Sharon will report on their mission trip to Rwanda. Come see how God is working, and enjoy lunch together too! Questions? Reach Laura at 218-209-8190.

A Note From the Elders

The Elders are thankful that the church voted to approve Ken Polley as our Interim Pastor. Pray for Ken as he moves to Bemidji, settles into his apartment, and begins his role as Interim Pastor.

Now Hiring: Office Manager

Please pray for our search for our next Office Manager. The job description is available in the office or on our website (efcbemidji.org/jobs). Applicants can email efree@paulbunyan.net with a letter of inquiry and resume.

YOUNG ADULTS

OCTOBER 4, 2026



We will resume ANCHOR in the fall.
Please talk to Pastor Shane if you have questions.



All BSU, NTC, and OHCC students are invited to attend a co-ed bible study on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. It will be held in the leadership center in Hobson Memorial Union (HMU 255). If you have any questions, please email Terry Hewitt (terryleehewitt@gmail.com).

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Youth Sunday School

Youth Group has officially begun! This past Wednesday we set the vision for what this year will look like and our theme: Becoming People of Worship. Prayer is the first core of worship that we are going to discuss, discover more about, and grow in. Frank Lanier defines a life of worship in this way:

"Being surrendered to God and expressing that surrender in practice and in praise".

Pray for the students and our leadership as we grow in Becoming People of Worship, not simply head knowledge but a life that is devoted and surrendered to Christ.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello E-Free Family! This last week we had an awesome kickoff to this season of Youth Ministry. Our theme this year is Becoming People of Worship. Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who make our Wednesday evening ministries possible and continue to pray for us as we lead and guide this next generation of the church.

Also, our Youth Ministry is looking for help still in the areas of Game Leading and Worship Leadership. If you have any desire to serve in these capacities and are gifted in these areas, please come find me and we will chat more!

Blessings,
Pastor Shane

E-FREE KIDS

Our goal is to share the love, grace, and truth of God that we learn in His Word, and to make Jesus known to children, parents, caregivers, and volunteers. We do this by gathering together, seeking God's truth in the Bible, building relationships through discipleship, and sharing how the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts and lives so that we live, love, and speak more like Jesus.

You are invited to participate in this goal of Kids Ministry. We would love for you to pray, serve, encourage, teach, share your faith, and make an impact that could change a child's/parent's life forever!

We are always in need of volunteers to help kids learn about Jesus, practice obedience to the Holy Spirit, and build relationships. If you feel lead to serve in one of these areas, please contact Amy Graf at:

agraf@efcbemidji.org
218-751-8834 (church office)

Volunteers Needed on Wednesday Nights:

- Nursery/childcare helpers (substitutes)
- Substitute Small Group Leaders/helpers
- Supply/Snack/Craft coordinator
- Substitute Awareness Team
- Classroom Support/helpers
- **Prayer leaders for P.O.P. (Place Of Prayer) - (This is a place for kids/adults to come for prayer). They can "POP" in and "POP" out when needed and be prayed for by a leader.

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Mornings:

- Nursery/childcare helpers and substitutes during the 9:30 service and 10:45-12pm Sunday School hour.
- Beginner's church teachers/helpers - (PreK class - 4year olds-1st grade)
- Kids church teachers/helpers - (2nd - 5th graders in Assembly Room)
- Awareness Team on the lower level on Sunday mornings
- Sunday School Substitute teacher/helper - (PreK - 1st in the PreK classroom)11-11:45am.

Continued on next page -->

E-FREE KIDS

Sunday School begins this Sunday, Oct. 4th at 11 am

Nursery is provided at 11 am for Sunday School

Our Nursery is from 0-3 year old children. If your child begins the schoolyear at 3, then turns 4 within the schoolyear, they are still able to attend the nursery. Children must be 4 before Sept. 1st to attend PreK-1st Sunday School, Beginner's Church, or Kids Club. **The only exception is if a parent/grandparent/caregiver/teenage sibling would like to remain with the 3 or 4 year old in the class or Beginner's church time.

Promotions from Nursery to the PreK class(when a child is 4 before Sept. 1st) happen in August each year. (please reach out to Amy Graf if you have any questions)

PreK - 1st Grade is in the PreK classroom on the lower level. Please re-check in your child after you pick them up from Beginners/Kids church. These students are continuing their study on Answers in Genesis (going through the Old Testament, and memorizing Scripture through songs.

Family Sunday School for all ages

Beginning this Sunday, October 4th, there will be a Family Sunday School offered in the youth room at 11:00 am. Anyone can attend. Singles, families, youth, kids (2nd grade and up is the best age for kids for this study, and they must attend with a parent/caregiver).

This is an 8 week study/practice of different spiritual disciplines.

"Practicing the Way" is a practical way to practice prayer, Biblical study, solitude, Sabbath, serving, giving, healing, confession, fasting, community, and communion with God. This will give us an opportunity to share how God is working in our lives each week through these daily/weekly practices.

Save The Date!! October 30th - E-Free "Trunk or Treat" sponsored by the Youth and Kids Ministry.

Anyone can sign up to host a vehicle, give our candy or prizes, and share God's love.

**When you host a vehicle, you are responsible for your own decorations of your vehicle, candy, and prizes. **Please NO scary items or themes for your vehicle. A couple of examples for great themes are:

Sports themes, Camp themes, Dancing/disco themes, kids movie themes, Scripture themes, or puns - "God's love is purrrfect - with a cat".

Looking forward to this new outreach opportunity to share God's love with our community!

*Please reach out to Amy Graf if you have any questions or would like to sign up.