

NEWSLETTER



EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF BEMIDJI

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 24

9:30 am - Worship Service

Monday, May 25

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

Wednesday, May 27

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

5:30 pm - Youth & Kids Ministry
Leadership Meeting

Thursday, May 28

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)
6:30 pm - Softball Game (city field 4)
8:30 pm - Softball Game (city field 4)

Sunday, May 31

9:30 am - Worship Service - Adult/Teen Challenge
11:00 am - Fellowship Time (Gym)

May 24: Ready or Not
Luke 12:35-59

May 31: MNTC Choir
MN Adult & Teen Challenge Choir

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Giving Through
May 17, 2026

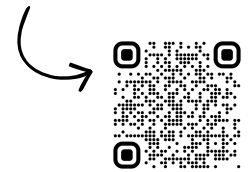
Weekly Giving:
\$12,689

Weekly Giving Need:
\$15,790

Giving YTD:
\$259,113

Needed YTD:
\$315,800

**SCAN HERE TO
GET CONNECTED**



Weeding & Wood Cutting

If you have a green thumb please come and talk to Jessica about the gardens at church! It would be so nice to have a team willing to help with this. My thumb isn't very green!

The firepit on the west side of the building has a lot of trees down from the storm that need to be removed. If you would like to help cut and move these, please let Jessica know.



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24

1. Do you have any travel plans this summer? How do you tend to plan and pack for a trip?
 2. Read Luke 12:25-40. When it comes to the return of Christ, we can have a tendency to either give it too little attention, or too much. Where do you tend to fall, and why do you think that is?
 3. Peter asks an important question about application in Luke 12:41. Why do you think he was asking this, and what was Jesus' answer? How might this shape how we listen to a sermon or read the Bible?
 4. Read Luke 12:42-48. How would you define what faithful discipleship looks like as we await Christ's return? How can a Christian live intentionally with Christ's return in view rather than see it as some distant future event?
 5. Read Luke 12:49-53. Where have you seen the decision to follow Christ impact your relationships? Why do you think Jesus said these hard things to those who were listening?
 6. Read Luke 12:54-59. How would you describe the tone of Jesus' words here? What would you say to someone who was putting off a decision to follow Christ or not?
- Bonus Question:** Life Groups are taking a pause for the summer, but will resume in September. Take some time to share some memories, highlights, or takeaways from being in your Life Group this year.

Our Life Groups are all about learning together and loving one another. Visit www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups for more info.

MAY 24TH ORDER OF WORSHIP

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Prelude: Piano, Laura Engelstad
 This is Amazing Grace
 The Lion And The Lamb
 I Stand In Awe
 Offertory: Piano, Laura Engelstad
 Scripture Reading: Luke 12:35-59, Patti Lofgren
 Message: Ready Or Not
 Be Thou My Vision (Hymn #532)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MN Teen & Adult Challenge Choir

Next Sunday, May 31st, the MN Teen & Adult Challenge Choir will be with us for our 9:30 Worship Service. We hope you will join us for this very special morning of music, testimony, and fellowship with our guests.

Memorial Book

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Jacob Bruns, a Memorial Gift toward Sanctuary LED Lights was presented by Anonymous in Mar 2016.

Baptism Service - June 7th

On Sunday, June 7th, following the 9:30 Worship Service, six people from our church family will be baptized. Please plan to join us for this special event. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Eric, Pastor Shane, or Amy Graf no later than June 1st.

Summer Adult Bible Study

All adults are invited to our Summer Bible study on Biblical Images of God. This summer we'll examine the vivid and concrete metaphors used of God in order to deepen our relationship with Him. Join us Wednesdays in Room 10 (behind the big kitchen) at 9:30, June 3 through July 29 (no class July 1). We'll watch a short video and have discussion, prayer time, and maybe treats. Contact Laura with questions at 218-209-8190.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Global Partners

Would you like to have an important role in missions while still being home in Bemidji? You can take part each month in one of three functioning prayer meetings:

- 1) For the Limariis in the Pacific: This is by zoom every third Sunday of the month at 7 pm. Contact Maria Raukar at (218)210-3980.
- 2) For Adopted People Group. Contact Kay Sue Eriksson at (218)766-9991 or Peter Eriksson at (218)368-1355.
- 3) For Middle East/North Africa (MENA). Meeting at 10:30 the first Tuesday each month in the Green Room. Contact Paul T. at (218)759-9026 or Karin T. at (218)209-5627.

E-Free Softball

Come on out and support our E-Free softball team Thursday nights! This week, May 28th, our team plays at 6:30pm in City field 4 against Covenant and at 8:30pm in City field 4 against House of Prayer. There is a schedule posted on all the bulletin boards if you'd like to see it.

Go E-Free!!

Ways to give

We invite you to prayerfully consider worshiping God and supporting the ministries of E-Free Bemidji through regular financial giving. A portion of every gift goes to support the ministry of our Global Partners. You can find out more about the various ways to give by visiting our website at www.efcbemidji.org/give or by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.

Building Access & Reservations

If you need a room reserved or access to the building please contact Jessica in the Church Office at least 2 weeks in advance. officemanager@efcbemidji.org

YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday, MAY 24

9:30 am - Worship Service

Tuesday, MAY 26

6:30 pm - Anchor (Youth Room)

Thursday, MAY 28

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

ANCHOR

This coming Tuesday (05/26) will be our final meeting of Anchor. We will have a potluck meal at Pastor Shane's home. Please contact Pastor Shane for more information and what to bring!



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
Terryleehewitt@gmail.com

E-FREE KIDS



Sunday, MAY 24

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

Wednesday, MAY 27

5:30pm-7:30pm - Kids Club Leader's Meeting
(Connection Cafe - Supper provided)
NO KIDS CLUB

Sunday, MAY 31

9:30am - NO Kids/Beginners Church
(MN Adult/Teen Challenge choir)

VBS - Kingdom Quest

SAVE THE DATE - Aug. 9th-12th 6:00pm - 8:15pm
4 years old - 6th grade

There are all kinds of volunteer opportunities available, if you can't volunteer the week of VBS, but would love to still help, please let me know. We would love your help prior to VBS.

Thank you for considering to serve at VBS!

Amy Graf and VBS Lead Team

Please let me know how you would like to help/serve.

agraf@efcbemidji.org

follow [@efreekidz](https://www.efreekidz.org) | www.efcbemidji.org/kids

Text **efreekids** to **94000** join our E-Free Kids notification system.

May is Foster Care Month

We want YOU to get involved. Follow along the next 4 weeks, find Amy Graf or Mandi Buchan on May 31st and summarize the 4 different announcements and you can get a prize! Only 1 per family.

May 24th: Foster care in Minnesota

When children cannot safely stay at home, foster care provides a temporary home until children can be safely reunified with their families. In 2025, approximately 9,070 children and youth spent at least one day in out-of-home care. The average number of children in care on any given day has decreased 34% since 2020 when there were 8,499 in care, compared to approximately 5,570 in 2025, based on preliminary data.

During 2025, approximately 3,480 children and youth entered out-of-home placement. The most common reasons they were removed from their homes include

- Caretaker drug abuse (22.9%), trending down from a high of nearly 33% in 2020.
- Allegations of neglect (17.5%).
- Child mental health (10.8%); these were largely voluntary placements for children 12 years and older.
- Allegations of physical abuse (10.2%).
- Caretaker significant impairment – mental health (5.2%), up from 3.5% in 2020.

This highlights the critical importance of accessibility of mental health and substance abuse services throughout the state, both to prevent placement and safely reunify children.

☆all information taken from
<https://www.fosteradoption.org/>

STUDENT MINISTRIES



Sunday, MAY 24

9:30 am - Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, MAY 27

5:30pm-7:30pm - Youth Leader's Meeting
Paddock's Home
NO YOUTH GROUP

Youth Sunday School

That's a wrap! Sunday school is now over but your time in Proverbs doesn't have to be. Challenge for this Summer: Read 1 Chapter of Proverbs each day and see how God will pour His Wisdom and Knowledge into your heart and mind.

Youth Group

This week we wrapped up Youth Group with our Senior Words of Wisdom Night - giving the Seniors a chance to reflect on their time in Youth Group and High School and share with us how God has impacted their lives thus far!

follow [@efcb_sm](#) | www.efcbemidji.org/youth
Text **efcb**sm to **94000** join our Student Ministries
notification system.