

WELCOME

WORSHIP SERVICE

God's Righteousness Made Known
Romans 3:21-31
Pastor Jerry Johnson

To E-FREE Bemidji - April 30, 2023

NEW HERE?

New here? Regular attender? Stay connected via text message by texting the word **EFREE** to **94000**. Or, check out our website at www.efcbemidji.org

LIVESTREAM

Both of our regular Sunday services are livestreamed at our normal times. Join us online at 8:30 am for a more traditional service or at 10:45 am for a more contemporary service.

For Your Information

Combined Service & more

Today will be one combined service at 10:45am. There will be Sunday School at 9:45 for all ages. There will be a potluck at noon, Congregational Meeting at 1:00.

9:45 Connection Café Crew

Do you love having treats & other food services? We are looking for some volunteers to help bring treats every now & then or to help set up or clean up. Please contact Rylie Helweg if you'd like to be a part of her team at 218-407-4692 or rylie.helweg@gmail.com

Senior Connection Potluck

Seniors, please join us on **Friday, May 12** at 11:30 for potluck and fellowship. Bring a friend and a dish to share. Store-bought is just fine! Jerry Drebelbis will share his work with Habitat for Humanity. Hopefully we will not have any snow! NOTE: From now on Senior Connection will be on the 2nd Friday of each month, including the summer. Mark your calendars & join us! Questions? Call Laura at 218-209-8190.

Ron Bodenheimer's last day

We are so very thankful for Ron's faithful ministry as our church's Facility Supervisor over these past 6 years. He is retiring from this ministry role on May 26. Please thank him for his service the next time you see him!

Livestream Glitches

We're sorry for some of the recent glitches in our livestream services. Your patience and continued prayers for us as we figure this out are greatly appreciated!

Wednesday Night Ministries May 3

5:15pm Meal-Hot Dogs
6:00-7:45pm Kids Ministry
6:00-7:45 Youth Group

Last Kids Club May 3rd

Last week we concluded our discipleship series on "Sharing Our Faith". We have a Family Worship Night on May 3rd where there will be a 5th grade promotion, and we will review our year. Everyone is welcome!

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES

We're glad to have you in person or online!

CONNECTION CAFÉ

Take some time to connect with others at our connection time between Sunday services, and consider reaching out to anyone from our church family who you haven't seen for awhile.

GIVING

Try out our secure giving kiosk here at the church or visit our website for a list of giving options including: giving over the phone, mobile-app, text-to-give, mailing in checks, giving online, setting up automatic giving at www.efcbemidji.org/give, or donating stock.

Child Dedication on May 21st

We are having a Child Dedication Service on Sunday, May 21st. If you have any questions or are interested in having your child dedicated, please contact PastorJerry@efcbemidji.org no later than Sunday, May 14th.

Let's pray for our church - Vision 2024

Our vision 2024 prayer letter is now available in the foyer between the bulletin boards. Or, join the mailing list (email or physical) by request, by emailing PastorJerry@efcbemidji.org.

Kids Sunday School

Kids Sunday School, K - 5th grade from 9:45am-10:35am. Please check in your child(ren) and drop off at the Assembly Room in the lower level. Any children younger than Kindergarten can be in the nursery during the Sunday school time.

Blood drive in E-Free CLC

Praise God for our opportunity to partner with our community in a recent blood drive that was held in our church's Community Life Center! 43/43 appointments were filled with 33 able to donate some much needed blood.

4/26/2023 Wednesday Attendance

46 Adults, 69 Children, 58 Youth

SERMON

You can request to have sermon transcripts mailed or emailed to you weekly by contacting the office. Our sermons are also available to read or watch online at: www.efcbemidji.org/sermons.

Tune in on Sunday mornings during our regular service times to watch our livestream services! Find out more at www.efcbemidji.org/live.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 30 - 9am Prayer
9am Financial Peace Univ.
9:45 K-Adult Sunday School
12pm All Church Potluck
1pm Congregational Mtg.
3:30 District Blitz returns
- May 2 - 5:45 Handbells
6:30 Trail Life
7:15 choir
- May 3 - 7:30 Men's Bible Study
9am Women's Bible Study
12:15 Monthly Staff Lunch
5:15 Meal
6-7:45 Family Worship Night
6-7:45 Youth Ministry
- May 4 - 6:30 Women's BSF
6:30 Worship Team
6:30 Softball practice-our field
- May 5 - 7am Men's Discipleship
6-8pm Handbell Workshop
- May 6 - 10am Women's Overflow

SERMON SNEAK PEEK

May 7: Abraham's Faith, part 1
(Father Abraham Believed God)
Romans 4:1-25

May 14: Abraham's Faith, part 2
(The God Who Justifies the Ungodly)
Romans 4:1-25

4/23/2023 Sunday Attendance

358 onsite attendees
Plus 28 screens in 9 States: IA, KS, MN, NC, ND, NY, OR, TN, TX

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

April 24, 2023

This morning as I'm sitting at my kitchen table typing this prayer letter on my laptop, I've been reflecting on how thankful I am for our church. We're not a perfect church, but we're a pretty good church. So let's begin by giving God glory for His faithfulness to us over these past 99 years and counting. We are the beneficiaries of a long spiritual heritage, and we now have the privilege and responsibility to guard that heritage and pass it along. Let's all pray for one another to this end.

Praise God for our Worship Committee who met yesterday to review the past few months of worship services and begin planning ahead for this summer and beyond. Please pray for unity and clarity of future direction for this committee. Pray that we'll have the musicians, technology workers, and other various worship leaders we'll need in the days to come. May God be honored by every bumper video, prayer, announcement, financial gift, song, sermon, and ministry moment that we offer up in His name.

What an honor and privilege it is for our little church up in northern Minnesota to gather Sunday after Sunday for worship, instruction, and fellowship. Please pray that our ongoing journey through the book of Romans will continue to shore up a fuller understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that we'll effectively declare this gospel message inside the walls of our church and outside of them. May many spiritually lost people find saving faith this year. May many believers be built up and encouraged in their faith. May each follower of Jesus become aware of his or her spiritual gifts and use them to serve one another and to serve our community. And may each one of us be salt and light wherever we go. Pray that each one of us will have the courage and competence we need to share the Good News about Jesus effectively and often. Pray that God's Spirit will go ahead of us, breaking up the hard ground and preparing the soil of people's hearts.

Praise God for the new men's ministries that we've recently been able to launch. Praise God for all of the bacon at last Saturday's men's breakfast, and more than that, praise God for over 70 men who gathered for fellowship and faith. Pray that this event will bear much spiritual fruit. Please also pray for the new men's discipleship group that Pastor Eric is leading on Friday mornings. Pray that each man will be built up in his personal faith and encouraged toward godly manhood. Let's also keep our various women's ministries in prayer. Pray that our Mother's Day Bags will be a great source of encouragement and a message of love to the various foster moms, ladies at the Village of Hope, and those at the Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter. May our gospel efforts effectively meet real needs in our community and genuinely impact the people around us.

Please continue to pray for our global partners, both domestic and foreign. Pray in particular for visas and other paperwork that our overseas workers need to gain access to certain locations and to be allowed to remain there. We're hearing increasing reports from various locations around the globe of workers who are being pressured to leave their chosen field due to tightening government policies. Please pray that God will grant access to our global partners so that they can be where He wants them to be.

Please pray for those who continue to grieve the loss of loved ones. So many of us are hurting as we navigate the "new normal" of life without them. Pray that our church family and our Grief Share ministry will continue to love one another and walk alongside each other, carrying these burdens together. Pray also for those on our prayer chain and those who are facing various sicknesses and diseases, or who are recovering from surgery. May God do His supernatural work of healing in our bodies, minds, and spirits. Pray also for those wrestling with mental health, anxiety, and depression. May counseling, medicine, prayer, and encouragement from the body of Christ heal and sustain those who are wrestling with these daily realities. Pray for those facing financial hardships. Praise

God for His provision through our benevolence fund as well as other resources. Pray for favor with creditors, for better job situations, and for wise stewardship of the resources which God provides.

Please pray for our church finances. We are currently about 9% behind our budget. Pray that God will provide through the generosity and faithfulness of His people. May each one of us prayerfully consider our giving and press on in supporting His kingdom work locally and beyond. Pray for wisdom and insight for our trustees and elders as they make various financial and ministry decisions. May we honor God by choosing the right priorities. Pray for our staff compensation committee as they do their research and prepare their findings for our church leadership to consider.

Please pray for our hardworking staff. Pray for strength and wisdom for daily ministry. Pray for a unified vision of what to prioritize and how to best work together with all of our various volunteers and schedules and competing demands for time. Praise God for our Facility Supervisor Ron Bodenheimer's 6 years of faithful ministry! Pray that our trustees will be able to find our church's next Facility Supervisor. May they be a perfect fit for what our church needs in the years to come.

Praise God for our Good Friday and Easter services. Despite the snowstorm that week that spoiled our plans for a Seder Meal, praise God for a time of confession and celebrating the Lord's Supper on that Friday, and then for a wonderful Easter Sunday morning of rejoicing in our Risen Christ! Let's pray that the joy and thrill of Easter will last throughout the year. Please continue to pray for those who may be considering the evidence for the resurrection and who have read, or are still reading, the book we gave away, "Is Easter Unbelievable." As we plant the seeds and water the soil, may God make these seeds grow in the hearts and lives of those to whom we bear witness (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).

Please pray for our students and leaders as they travel to Duluth on April 28-30 for the District Blitz youth conference. Pray for safe travels, spiritual growth, and fun. May this weekend bear much spiritual fruit and may it contribute toward lifelong, godly friendships in the years to come. Please also pray for the many upcoming high school and college graduates. May God guide each one of them in their future decisions and careers. Pray that their eyes will be opened to God's clear leading in His vocational calling and His will for their lives.

As spring continues to find its way to Bemidji, and as summer approaches, please pray that our church will awaken and grow. Pray that we'll exude the spiritual life and vitality that God intends for us. Pray that we will continue to develop more and more into the church that He would have us be.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, thanks for praying!

Together for Christ,

Pastor Jerry



**Saturday,
May 6th
10-11:30am**

Brunch & Mother's Day Bag Assembly

Come to brunch and help assemble and pray over Mother's Day bags which will be passed on to foster moms in our church as well as moms at Village of Hope and Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter.

Church family: Extravagantly bless moms in our community and stop by the board at the Women's Ministry table and take a tag (or multiple tags) and shop for items/donate money towards the Mother's Day bags. Please drop off at the church by April 30th.



By **APRIL
30**

Mother's Day Bag ideas

Still in need of:

Shaving Cream/Gel	Hand lotion
Nail Kits	Body Wash
Sewing Kits	Toothpaste
Fingernail Polish	Toothbrush
Polish Remover	Deodorant
Bath Sponge/Loofah	Hairbrushes
Bag of Hard Candy	

If you don't have time to shop you can donate money and we will shop for you!

Please Contact me about serving at the

8:30 Service 10:45 Service

I would like to serve as a

Welcome Center Host

Child Check-in Host

Greeter

Usher

Name:

Phone: Cell Home

Email:

Welcome Ministry

We're looking for a few more people to help with our Sunday morning Welcome Ministry. If you find a good fit to serve, please fill out the form on the back of this sheet. Questions? Contact Pastor Eric at (218) 751-8834.

Welcome Center Host

Almost every Sunday guests from our community visit E-Free Bemidji for the first time in person. We're looking for warm-hearted volunteers who will:

- Welcome first-time guests and help them to find their way around.
- Help answer questions about our facility and ministries.
- Invite guests to fill out a Welcome Card.
- Thank guests for visiting by offering them a free gift bag.
- Help direct people to available discipleship resources in the foyer.

Child Check-in Host

Our secure child check-in system helps to keep our kids safe. We're in need of a servant-hearted person who can:

- Assist with registering first-time users of our check-in system.
- Demonstrate the check-in process for new users.
- Start up and monitor check-in stations during the morning.

Greeter

Our Greeters are some of the first friendly faces our guests and church family see on a Sunday morning. We're in need of kind-hearted volunteers who will:

- Greet guests and church family as they arrive at the main entrance.
- Assist with doors at the main entrance or the drive-up entrance.
- Direct first-time guests to our Welcome Center.

Usher

Ushers extend our Welcome Ministry into the Sanctuary as our guests and church family prepare to worship. We're looking for helping hands that can:

- Help worshipers find seating before and after the service has started.
- Direct people to find bulletins, giving options, and other resources.
- Coordinate with the Awareness Team as needs arise.

Wednesday, May 3rd

**FAMILY
WORSHIP
NIGHT**

5:30pm-7:45pm

Please come & play with your kids!!!

Hot dogs, rootbeer floats, Worship, teaching,
prize drawings, 5th grade promotion, crafts,
bouncy houses & human foosball!

We have fun summer activites planned!

April 30, 2023 at E-FREE CHURCH OF BEMIDJI

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together

E-Free Church Online

www.efcbemidji.org | Instagram & Facebook: @efcbemidji

Other Info

Looking to connect at E-Free Bemidji?
Scan the QR code below or fill out the
Welcome Connection Card located in the
sanctuary seats, or complete our online
Connection Card by following this link:
<https://efcbemidji.org/connectioncard>



Livestream link:
www.efcbemidji.org/live

Prayer Chain:

Email efree@paulbunyan.net to share a
prayer request or to join our church
email prayer chain.

Text: [efreeprayer](tel:efreeprayer) to 94000

Wi-Fi password: efreebemidji

Leadership:

To see a full list of our ministry staff
and leaders, visit our website at
www.efcbemidji.org/about-us/our-leadership
or stop by the foyer bulletin board.

115 Carr Lake RD SW, Bemidji, MN 56601

1833N

GIVING

For April 23, 2023

WEEKLY GIVING:
\$9,932

WEEKLY NEEDED:
\$15,195

GIVEN YTD:
\$229,213

NEEDED YTD:
\$258,315



Scan the QR code above or go to
our website to find out more ways
to give at: www.efcbemidji.org/give

Church Office
(218) 751-8834

efree@paulbunyan.net
Text EFree to 94000

Hours:
Tuesday-Friday: 8am-12pm;
1pm-5pm
Sunday: 7:30am-8:30AM;
9:30am-12:30PM

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*From him and through him
and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!*

Romans 11: 36 (NIV)

