

WELCOME

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prodigal God
Luke 15:11-32
Pastor Douglas Daube

To E-FREE Bemidji - August 27, 2023

9:30am

NEW HERE?

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

LIVESTREAM

Our Sunday service is livestreamed at 9:30am during the summer from May 28th through September 3rd.

For Your Information

Calling All Singers!

The E-Free Choir will begin our Fall season on Tuesday, September 5, 7:15 pm. We rehearse each Tuesday 7:15 to 8:45. All singers are welcome. We will have a night of learning music and getting acquainted on Friday, Sept 8, 6:00, beginning with a Potluck meal. We call this Choir Advance!! Then we will sing in the 8:30 service on Sunday Sept. 10. Please plan to join us and celebrate our Lord in music. The choir sings twice a month typically at the 8:30 service.

Cru

All college students are invited to come to Cru, a college ministry, on Thursday nights at 7 PM. We meet in the Crying Wolf Room in the Hobson Memorial Union on BSU's campus. It is a night of worship, fellowship, and a message. Check out our Instagram @bsucru for more information on events!

Volunteers Needed!

We are still in need of a couple more helpers or lead teachers for Sunday School, Kids Church, or Wednesday Night, please let Amy Graf or Jessica Westlund know. officemanager@efcbemidji.org

Senior Connection Potluck

Senior adults, please come for our Senior Connection Potluck Friday, Sept. 8 at 11:30. Jerry Anderson, Sharon Eriksson, and Barb Capes will share about their Holy Land trip and service projects. You will enjoy their great storytelling! Any questions, contact Laura Engelstad at 218-209-8190.

Scramble for Missions Golf

It's time for the annual Scramble for Missions Golf Tournament. It is September 17th at 3pm. Let the office or Terry Hewitt know if you are interested! 218-760-9164 or Officemanager@efcbemidji.org

Family Park Night

Park night on August 23rd went really well! We fed and ministered to around 8 families in the park.

BSU Outreach

Please be praying for BSU this Thursday as the Cru students invite new students at the Beaver Org. Bash! We will be doing an Outreach asking students to tell us who they believe Jesus is. That night, Pastor Douglas will speak on who the Historical Jesus was from Biblical and non-Biblical sources!

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES

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

GIVING

Worship with giving with our secure Giving Boxes 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.

CONNECTION CAFÉ

Take some time to connect with others before or after our summer Sunday service, services, and consider reaching out to anyone from our church family who you haven't seen for awhile.

Back to Two Services

We will be returning to our two services on September 10th. 8:30am Traditional and 10:45am Contemporary Service.

GriefShare Support Group

A GriefShare Support Group will meet on Sundays at E-Free beginning Sept 17th. If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, you are not alone. Join a safe community that understands what you're going through. Call Jenny Hodgson with questions about the GriefShare Support Group at 218-556-4250.

Wed. Night Kids Club & Youth Group

Kick off for Wednesday night Kids Club and Youth Group is September 13th. A meal will be served at 5:15pm and the ministries will run from 6:00-7:45pm.

Bible Study Fellowship

Women's BSF will resume on September 14th at 6:30pm. Please contact Lindsay Nygren at Lnygren76@gmail.com if interested.

College Students

Please keep incoming college students in your prayers as they start their school year!

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

Aug 27 - 8:45am Prayer

9:30am Worship Service

9:30am Child Dedication

Aug 28 - 6:30pm Trail Life Leaders

Aug 29 - 10:30am Bone Builders

Aug 30 - 7:30am Men's Bible Study
6:30 Summer Youth Group

Aug 31 - 10:30am Bone Builders

3-5pm Sewing Ministry

6:30pm Worship Team

Sept 1 - 7am Men's Discipleship

Sept 5 - 6:30pm Trail Life

7:15pm Choir Practice

Sept 6 - 5:30pm Kids/Youth leader mtg

Sept 7 - 7pm Cru at BSU

Sept 8 - 11:30am Senior Conn. Potluck
6pm Choir Advance

Sept 10 - 8:30am & 10:45am Worship
Services resume

Sept 13 - Kids Club & Youth Group
kickoff

5:15pm Wed. Night Meal

6-7:45pm Kids Club

6-7:45pm Youth Group

SERMON SNEAK PEEK

Sept 3: Choosing the Good

Luke 10:38-42, Pastor Eric

Sept 10: Whoever Wants to Follow
Jesus, Luke 9:18-26

8/20/2023 Sunday Attendance

343 onsite attendees, Plus 21
screens in 7 States: IA, IL, MN, NY,
OR, SD, WA

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

August 24, 2023

Fall is now just around the corner, so even as we celebrate a great summer of spiritual growth, we also look forward to our fall kickoff and all that God has in store for us in the coming season! Let's continue to pray fervently for His will to be done and His Kingdom to be advanced in and through our church, as we sit on the brink of our 100-year anniversary in 2024.

There is much for which we can praise God in prayer! Our combined summer worship service has brought many blessings including increased unity and connection among our church family, stretching us to learn some new songs and worship together with one another's music, laying aside our preferences in love (Philippians 2:3-5), a full sanctuary with about 15% higher attendance compared to last summer, seeing different combinations of our musicians working together, and giving some of our volunteers a much-needed break over the summer months. Our summer congregational meeting, communion, cookout, and cornhole tourney was an absolute blast as we worshipped together, conducted church business together, had fun together, and got to know one another better! We can also praise God for a wonderful VBS ministry with almost 50 volunteers serving and an average of over 70 children learning about Jesus each night! Our college students have returned from their summer break and are once again worshipping along with us from "their spot" in section #3. Our Senior Connection lunches have been a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual growth this summer with 30-40 people in attendance each time! Our church is regaining ministry momentum and rebuilding after a tough journey through covid. Please join me in praising God for pouring out these blessings on E-Free Bemidji this summer!

There is much for us to lift up in prayer as we head into September. Please pray through any current requests on the Prayer Chain. Also, let's keep our many global partners in prayer. Pray for effective ministry in their various contexts. Pray for the upcoming release of our new Global Partners Prayer Flipbook. Pray for the startup of various schools. Pray for students, teachers, and the administration. May each student be safe and receive a quality education. May the many Christ-followers in our schools stand strong for the Lord and be salt and light in their various places of learning.

Pray for a smooth transition back to two Sunday services on Sunday, September 10th. Pray for our musicians as they return to leading in their particular services. May they lead us in glorifying God no matter the time of the service or the style of the music. May it all be honoring to the Lord. Pray for our handbells, choir, youth praise team, and any other musicians who are starting back up again for the fall. Together, may we all "Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD" (Psalm 150).

Please pray for all of our Kickoff Sunday plans for Sunday, September 10th. May our ministry fair be helpful in displaying the many opportunities for spiritual growth and service this fall. May we be a church body that is eager to serve and use the gifts with which the Lord has blessed us. May we "grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:15-16). Pray that we will be this kind of a mature body and that we will each do our part of the work for God's purposes in this world and for His glory. As always, please continue to pray fervently, that our church will become more and more the church that God would have us be. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, thank you for praying!

Together for Christ, Pastor Jerry

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together

KICKOFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 10TH

BACK TO TWO SERVICES

8:30 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE
10:45 AM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE

 **FALL MINISTRY FAIR** 
IN THE GYM/MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
LEARN ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW, SERVE, AND PLUG IN.

DONUTS 9:45 AM AFTER
THE 1ST SERVICE

 **TAILGATE TACOS** 12 PM AFTER
THE 2ND SERVICE

 **WEAR YOUR
TEAM COLORS
TO CHURCH** 

FIND YOUR FIT

Help us fill these important ministry volunteer roles by
Kickoff Sunday, September 10th. Please indicate where you can serve.

Sunday Mornings

Usher ● 8:30 (9 vols. needed) ● 10:45 (12 vols. needed)

- 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.

Greeter ● 8:30 (3-4 vols. needed) ● 10:45 (4 vols. needed)

- 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.

Welcome Center ● 8:30 (2 vols. needed) ● 10:45

- Welcome guests and help them to find their way around. (2 vols. needed)
- Help answer questions about our facility and ministries.
- Invite guests to fill out a Welcome Card.

Child Check-in ● 8:30 (2-4 vols. needed) ● 10:45

- Assist with registering first-time users of our check-in system. (2-4 vols. needed)
- Demonstrate the check-in process for new users.
- Start up and monitor check-in stations during the morning.

Beginners Church Teachers & Helpers ● 10:45

- Lead/help with Beginners Church (Pre-K & K) during 10:45 Service. (4+ vols. needed)

Kids Church Helpers ● 10:45 (4+ vols. needed)

- Assist at Kids Church (1st - 5th Grade) during 10:45 Service.

Wednesday Nights

● **Nursery Helper** (2+ vols. needed)

● **Wed Meal clean up / tear down** (4+ vols. needed)

Name: _____

Please return this form to the church office or place in one of the giving boxes.
Training will be provided for all positions.

LIFEGROUPS

learning together • loving one another

What is a Life Group?

A Life Group is a small group of 8 to 12 adults who are committed to meeting regularly for the purpose of becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together. Life Groups are designed to be a place where people can learn together and can love one another.

Where and when do Life Groups meet?

Most groups will meet in someone's home thanks to the hospitality of our Life Group Hosts. Life Groups often gather around a kitchen table or in a living room setting that provides a good space for fellowship, discussion, and prayer. Groups are encouraged to try and meet weekly if possible. Life Groups will meet from September through May, with breaks for holidays and other special occasions.

What does a typical Life Group gathering look like?

Life Groups meet for around 90 minutes. This allows enough time for gathering and visiting as a group, spending a good amount of time in the Scriptures, and having sufficient time for sharing life and a time of prayer. Groups will often enjoy treats or a meal together.

Is childcare available?

We offer two Wednesday night groups that meet at the church during Kids Club/Youth Group. We provide groups with a list of teens and background-checked adults who are available to help with childcare. Groups will need to make their own arrangements.

How do I sign up for a Life Group?

Sign up in the Connection Café, register online at efcbemidji.org/lifegroups, or by scanning the QR code with your smart phone.



Questions?

Contact Pastor Eric at (218) 751-8834 or pastoreric@efcbemidji.org

Prodigal God

Luke 15:11-32 on August 27, 2023

Pastor Douglas Daube

Ten Top Reasons to Join Choir This Fall:

10. Your agent canceled the fall tour and you need a network to promote your new album.
9. Pavorotti called and wants you to sub for him on the next Three Tenors Special, and you need to warm up.
8. You have these time slots on Tuesdays and Sundays that you just can't fill up.
7. Your neighbors are tired of hearing you sing over the lawn mower.
6. You've always wanted to watch those people in the sound booth.
5. You're thinking of running for office and this will give you good exposure.
4. You enjoy getting to church by 8:00 on Sunday morning to warm up for the early service.
3. The choir has great fellowship and encourages one another.
2. There's a rumor that the choir occasionally has food.
1. God has gifted you, blessed you, and called you to give Him all you have. Though your gift seems small to you, you know He will multiply it and use it to build up His kingdom in yourself and others.

(Borrowed and adapted)

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Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

sing: soprano, alto, tenor, bass (circle one)



SCRAMBLE FOR MISSIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
3:00 P.M. SHOTGUN START

GREENWOOD GOLF COURSE

- ✓ Cost – \$45/person includes green fees and a donation to the short-term Global Partner fund
- ✓ 18 hole golf tournament
- ✓ No previous golf experience necessary
- ✓ 3-4 person teams
- ✓ Format is Texas Scramble – everyone on a given team hits their ball from the location of the best previous shot
- ✓ Food – BBQ sandwiches provided – please bring a side dish to share – we begin eating when people start arriving back at the clubhouse – bring your own beverage
- ✓ Sign up in the Fellowship Hall Sundays, or call or text Terry Hewitt at 760-9164, or email terryleehewitt@gmail.com

Deadline to sign up is September 13



ADOPT A COLLEGE STUDENT!

Every year we welcome students from BSU, OHCC, NTC, and LLTC to our church. We want to welcome these students into our church, even if they will only be with us during the course of their studies. Many of these students come from far away and are miles from family or any support system. Our goal is to foster community with these students by providing them a home away from home and a church family to rely on!

How do I adopt a student?

1. Fill out the form at the bottom of this page and turn it in to the office or place in the offering box.
2. Get matched with a student.
3. Invite them to a movie, a home-cooked dinner, or family activity.
4. Be a helping hand and a resource!

I'm a student, how do I get adopted?

1. Fill out the form at the bottom of this page and turn it in to the office or place in the offering box.
2. Get matched with a family.
3. Enjoy your church-family!

Contact Pastor Douglas at pastordouglas@efcbemidji.org for more information!

- - - - -

Name _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

☐ I'm looking to adopt
a student

☐ I'm a student at:

9:30 Service Feedback Survey

As we return to two services on September 10th, we are looking for feedback about the combined 9:30 am Worship Service this summer. Please share your comments to help our leadership evaluate and plan for the future. Please use the back of this sheet if needed.

Our aim for having one combined 9:30 am Worship Service this summer (May 28 - Sept 3) was to enhance our church's unity as we came together as one church. We set out to learn to worship with one another's music, laying aside some of our preferences in love, knowing others may be blessed by a song that may not be among our personal favorites. We believed that combining into one service would have the added benefits of a more full Sanctuary over the summer and would allow some of our musicians and tech volunteers a bit of a breather. **How well did we do at achieving these goals?**

What did you enjoy/dislike about the single 9:30 am Service this summer?

Should we consider a combined 9:30 am Service for Summer 2024? Why or why not? If so, would you recommend any changes?

Which service do you typically attend during the year?

☐ 8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

☐ 10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service

Survey also available online at www.efcbemidji.org/survey

August 27, 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

Video Disclaimer:

Entrances are under video
surveillance and services
are Livestreamed in the Sanctuary
including those seated in the
congregation.



Prayer Chain:

Email efree@paulbunyan.net to share a
prayer request or to join our church
email prayer chain. You can also
text: efreeprayer to 94000

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

GIVING

For Aug 20, 2023

WEEKLY GIVING:

\$ 10,933

WEEKLY NEEDED:

\$15,195

GIVEN YTD:

\$ 469,273

NEEDED YTD:

\$ 516,630

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 for
notifications & weather*

Hours:

Tuesday-Friday:

8am-12pm; 1pm-5pm

Sunday: 7:30am-8:30AM;

9:30am-12:30PM

BEGIN A NEW
Season