

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Message: Why Did God Choose a Particular People? (Romans 9:1-5)

Pastor Jerry Johnson

Traditional Worship Service - 8:30 AM

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Board Ministry Update

Call to Worship

O Worship the King (Hymn #29)

King Of Kings Majesty

Jesus Saves! (Hymn #728)

Offering

Scripture Reading (Romans 9:1-5): Michelle Mouser

Message

Communion

Hallelujah! What A Savior (Hymn #226)

Benediction

Nursery - 8:30, 9:45, & 10:45 AM

Our nursery is available for children aged 3 and under. Please use our secure child check-in system in the main foyer to print a name label and security tag before taking your child to the nursery.

Sunday School & Connection Time - 9:45 AM

Join us in the Connection Café for refreshments and a time to connect with others. Sunday School classes are available for all ages. See the upcoming events inserts for the current'schedule.

wi-fi: EFCB_Public | password: efreebemidji

Contemporary Worship Service - 10:45 AM

Prelude: Can't Stop Your Love

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Board Ministry Update

Call to Worship

Who You Say I Am

Garment

Dismiss For Beginners/Kids Church

Offering & Prayer

Scripture Reading (Romans 9:1-5): Lizzy Lofgren

Message: Why did God Choose a Particular People?

Communion

Cornerstone

Benediction

Beginners (ages 3-5) & Kids Church (1st-5th Grade)

Before the sermon at the 10:45 Service, kids age 3 through 5th grade are dismissed for Beginners and Kids Church. Parents and guardians can use our secure child check-in system in the foyer and escort their children down to their designated spot: Ages 3-5 at the top of the stairs by the Nursery, 1st - 5th Grades at the top of the stairs by the office.



Secure Child Check-in

To take part in our Sunday morning and Wednesday night Kids Min activities, we ask that families register with our check-in system. Scan the QR code or visit www.efcbemidji.org/kids to get started.

Next Sunday, September 24, 2023

Message: God's Sovereignty, Part 1: God's Sovereign Right to Call and To Choose (Romans 9:6-29), Pastor Jerry Johnson

E-Free Kids

Kids Club

E-Free Kids Club welcomes all children age 3 through 5th grade! Use our Secure Child Check-In and drop your children off in their classroom by 6:00pm. Pickup your children in their classrooms by 7:45 pm. We meet each week in small group, large group teaching, worship, snacks and games. Contact Amy with questions: agraf@efcbemidji.org

Kids Club

Our first night of Kids Club was so much fun! It was great to see all of the kids and families. Welcome to all of our new families!

Volunteer Needs

There are a few remaining needs:
Wednesday Night Nursery Worker
Check-In/Welcome Table
Sunday School Teacher/Helpers
Beginner's Church Leaders
Kids Church Leaders
Wednesday Night Substitute
Helpers Please contact Amy if you can help: agraf@efcbemidji.org

****Children must be toilet trained or parents need to remain in the building if child needs to be changed.**

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 17

9:45 am - Kids Sunday School
(Lower Level)

10:45 am - Kids/Beginners
Church (Lower Level)

Tuesday, September 19

6:30 pm - Trail Life (Gym)

Wednesday, September 20

5:15 pm - Family Meal-Pizza (Gym)
6:00 pm - Kids Club
PreK - 5th Grade

Sunday, September 24

9:45 am - Kids Sunday School
(Lower Level)

10:45 am - Kids/Beginners
Church (Lower Level)

Youth Ministry

Youth Group

E-Free Bemidji Student Ministry welcomes all 6th - 12th grade students! Each Wednesday throughout the school year we meet for Youth Group for time with Jesus, Bible, fellowship, worship, and fun. Each Sunday morning we have Student Life Group during the Sunday School hour to connect and pray about our week. See Pastor Douglas with questions. pastordouglas@efcbemidji.org

Youth Group

This week, the youth will be looking at biblical and non-biblical historical sources on who Jesus is. We know that Jesus is not a myth made up centuries later. He was a real man who did miracles and made a claim to be God. On Wednesday, we will dive into what it means for us!

Fall Fling

Fall Fling at Camp Shamineau is near! We will be going Sept. 29th - Oct. 1st. Fall Fling is a time when Middle & High School students can get away, have fun in the woods, learn more about Jesus, & connect with their peers. More info can be found at the parents' table by the Gym entrance.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 17

9:45 am - Middle School & High School Sunday School
(511 Room)

Tuesday, September 19

6:30 pm - Trail Life (Gym)

Wednesday, September 20

5:15 pm -Family Meal-Pizza (Gym)
6:00 pm - Middle School & High School Youth Group
(CLC)

Fri. Sept. 29 - Sun. Oct. 1

4pm depart -Youth Fall Fling
Camp Shamineau

📷 follow [@efree_kids](https://twitter.com/efree_kids) | www.efcbemidji.org/kids

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

📷 follow [@efcb_sm](https://twitter.com/efcb_sm) | www.efcbemidji.org/youth

Text **efcbasm** to **94000** join our Student Ministries notification system.

Young Adults

Anchor

The Young Adult Life Group, Anchor, meets on Tuesday nights from 6:00pm-9:00pm. We start with food and fellowship. We start into the Bible Study portion at 7:00pm. Anyone who considers themselves a young adult is welcome to come. See Lydia Johnson or Pastor Douglas for more information and location. pastordouglas@efcbemidji.org

Cru

Cru is a college ministry that is open to all students at BSU, OHCC, NTC, and LLTC. We have Bible Studies on campus at BSU and meet each Thursday night from 7:00pm - 9:00pm in the Crying Wolf Room on BSU's campus. See Pastor Douglas for more information. pastordouglas@efcbemidji.org

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 17

9:45 am - Sunday School
Ruth (Room 10)
Topic of Worship
(West Chapel)

Tuesday, September 19

6:00 pm - Anchor

Thursday, September 21

7:00 pm - Cru at BSU

October 6-8

Cru Fall Retreat

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Trail Life

Trail Life USA is a Church-Based, Christ-Centered, Boy-Focused mentoring and discipleship journey that speaks to the heart of a boy. Established on timeless values derived from the Bible and set in the context of outdoor adventure, boys from Kindergarten through 12th grade are engaged in a Troop setting by male mentors where they are challenged to grow in character, understand their purpose, serve their community, and develop practical leadership skills to carry out the mission for which they were created.

Trail Life meets at E-Free twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Contact Allen Caster with questions allen.caster@yahoo.com

Handbell Practice

The E-Free Handbell group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 5:45 pm beginning September 19th. If interested please contact Laura Engelstad: sengel@paulbunyan.net Training opportunities are provided.

Adult Sunday School

We've got two great options for Adult Sunday School starting up today, September 17th. The Adult Bible Study resumes at 9:45 am on the Book of Ruth in Room 10. Join us for prayer, fellowship, and discussion as we explore together what it means to live a life worthy of the Lord. We will also be starting a three-week class at 9:45 am in the West Chapel on the topic of Worship. We'll be exploring why we worship, who we worship, and how we worship. Our Nursery will be open and we'll have Sunday School for kids and youth as well. Make 9:45 am a part of your Sunday Morning routine!

Choir Practice

The E-Free Choir meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:15 pm. All singers are welcome! The choir sings twice a month typically at the 8:30 am Worship service. Please plan to join us and celebrate our Lord in music. Contact Ken Wold with questions: knnthwold@gmail.com

Looking for a way to use your gifts to serve others? Visit www.efcbemidji.org/serve to discover opportunities for you to serve.

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Lord's Supper Celebration

Today, Sept.17th, the Lord's Supper will be served during our worship services. 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.

Benevolence Fund

One of the ways we demonstrate our love for one another as the body of Christ is by giving a special gift to our church's Benevolence Fund on Communion Sunday. This expresses our unity in Christ and our spirit of caring for one another. The Elders distribute these funds to anyone in our church family who needs help with a utility bill, rent, car repair, medical bill, or whatever might be creating a financial hardship right now.

Womens Overflow

The women of E-Free are invited to our first Overflow women's event on **Monday**, September 25th from 6:30-8:00pm. Join us as we kickoff the new year with s'mores, worship, and a God story. Bring a camp chair and roasting sticks if you have them!

Dates to mark in your calendar for the Womens Overflow events:
September 25th
October 23rd
November 27th
January 22nd
February 26th
March 25th
April 22nd

Contact Debbie Johnson with questions at 218-760-4072 or bemidjidebbie@msn.com

Congratulations!

We rejoice with Michele & Kyle Sorenson on the birth of their daughter Ellene Deià Sorenson. She was born on September 10th, weighing 8lbs 4oz, 21" long.

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Bemidji Area Community Food Shelf

August Giving
1,037 households
3287 individuals, including 1,177 kids and 405 seniors
65,058 pounds of food distributed
209 first-time customers

We could still use canned fruit, and any canned meat. Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, we couldn't do it without you. We could still use a few more volunteers. If anyone is interested contact Linda Shutter at (218) 766-7171. It is one Friday a month for a 3-hour shift.

Rubys Pantry

Ruby's Pantry (www.rubyspantry.org) will be held Wednesday, September 20th at the Sanford Center from 2pm-6pm. This program is for people who need some grocery help. We also need volunteers. If you are interested in helping, you can contact Jim Hodgson at jimhodgson@oakhills.edu or by signing up on their website.

Pursuing a Strategic Ministry Plan

Why are we pursuing a strategic ministry plan? As the Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji (EFCB) approaches its 100th anniversary in 2024, and as we prayerfully consider what the Lord might have in store for us in the years to come, the EFCB Elder Board believes that this is an opportune time for us as a church to formulate a strategic plan for our ministry. We believe that the work of developing a strategic ministry plan will help us to (1) clearly define our church's disciple-making mission, (2) envision a God-honoring pathway forward for fruitful ministry, and (3) identify and set measurable ministry goals for the future that will continue to lead us toward becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together. Our elders will be available after both services on Sunday, September 24, to talk about this plan and answer any questions. Please join us in praying for the Lord's direction and blessing for our local church body.

Looking for a way to use your gifts to serve others? Visit www.efcbemidji.org/serve to discover opportunities for you to serve.

Looking for a way to use your gifts to serve others? Visit www.efcbemidji.org/serve to discover opportunities for you to serve.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 17

- 7:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)
- 8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service
- 9:45 am - Adult Sunday School: Ruth (Room 10)
Why We Worship (West Chapel)
- 10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service
- 2:00 pm - Grief Share (Room 3)
- 3:00 pm - Golf Scramble (Greenwood Golf Course)

Monday, September 18

- 6:30 pm - Trustee Meeting (Conference Room)

Tuesday, September 19

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)
- 5:45 pm - Handbell Practice (Sanctuary)
- 7:15 pm - Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, September 20

- 7:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)
- 9:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Thursday, September 21

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)
- 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Chapel)
- 6:30 pm - Worship Team Practice (Sanctuary)

Friday, September 22

- 7:00-7:50 am - Friday AM Men's Discipleship
- 2:00 pm - Moms in Prayer (Fireside Room)

There are many ways to connect and grow at E-Free Bemidji. Visit www.efcbemidji.org/events for a complete calendar of events.

We're glad you're here!



Welcome! If you're our guest this morning, we would invite you to fill out a Connection Card online at efcbemidji.org/connectioncard or by scanning the QR Code with your mobile device and letting us know that you joined us for worship today. Be sure to stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer to pick up a free gift. Watch our calendar for an upcoming Newcomer's Lunch—a special event just for you!

Watch our services online

Every Sunday, we offer a live stream of both of our services on our website. Visit www.efcbemidji.org/live on your computer or mobile device. Our live stream is also available on Roku, Apple TV, and Amazon Fire TV. Connect to the BoxCast through your streaming device and search for E-Free Bemidji.

Sermon and Worship Service Archive

Check out our Worship Service Archive at www.efcbemidji.org/archive to watch any of our worship services from the past 90 days. Past sermons are also available online at www.efcbemidji.org/sermons or on our YouTube page (@efc_bemidji). Sermons are available on our website in video, audio, and transcript format. Please contact the church office if you would like to request a sermon transcript be sent to you via mail or email.

Ways to give

We invite you to prayerfully consider 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.



Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji

115 Carr Lake Rd. SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 | www.efcbemidji.org



Church Office

Email: efree@paulbunyan.net | Phone: (218) 751-8834

Office hours: Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am - 8:30 am; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Ministry Staff

Jerry Johnson, Lead Pastor pastorjerry@efcbemidji.org

Eric Nygren, Associate Pastor pastoreric@efcbemidji.org

Douglas Daube, Youth & Young Adults Pastor ... pastordouglas@efcbemidji.org

Amy Graf, Kids Ministry Director agraf@efcbemidji.org

Support Staff

Corbin McCray, Facility Supervisor

Dan Evans, A/V Supervisor

Jan Hendrickson, Visitation Caregiver

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Jessica Westlund, Office Manager officemanager@efcbemidji.org

Giving for September 10, 2023

Weekly Giving: \$13,120

Weekly Need: \$15,195

Giving YTD: \$509,922

Needed YTD: \$562,215



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, September 10, 2023

410 onsite | 30 screens / 7 states

SS: - kids | - youth | - adults

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

73 adults, 85 children, 55 youth

Sign up for text notifications

Stay connected by signing up to receive our text notifications.

General notifications: text **efree** to **94000**

E-Free Kids Ministry: text **efreekids** to **94000**

Youth Ministry: text **efcbasm** to **94000**

Prayer chain: text **efreepayer** to **94000**

efcbemidji.org | (218) 751-8834 | efree@paulbunyan.net

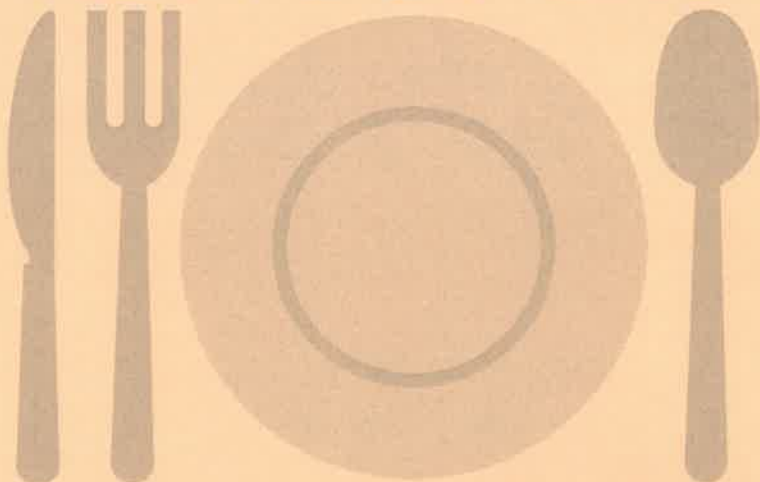
Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER E-FREE BEMIDJI

September 17, 2023

NEWCOMERS



LUNCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
12:00 PM

Have you started coming to E-Free Bemidji recently? Do you still feel new to our church family? You're invited to be our guest for lunch as a way for us to welcome you and to help you to get connected here. Please RSVP using the form below and return it to the office or drop it in the offering box.

NEWCOMERS LUNCH / OCTOBER 1ST

NAME(S):

HOW MANY WILL ATTEND?

Contact Information Update FALL 2023

It's time again to make sure that we've got your latest contact information on file. Please fill out the form below, or complete the form online at www.efcbemidji.org/churchdirectory. Scan the QR code to access the form on your smartphone.



Name: _____
(Last, First) (cell phone number)

email: _____

Spouse: _____
(Last, First) (cell phone number)

email: _____

Address: _____

_____ (city) _____ (zip)

Landline phone: _____

Childrens Names (kids at home)	Grade	birthday mm/dd/yy	allergies, health concerns, special needs

I am presently a college student enrolled at: _____

Please circle which service you typically attend:
8:30am 10:45am in person Livestream

Would you like:

- to receive occasional **text notifications**: weather-related & event reminders? Yes No
- to receive the **weekly bulletin** by email? Yes No
- your information to be listed in the **printed directory**? Yes No

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



JOIN A LIFE GROUP

LIFEGROUPS

learning together • loving one another

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS
4:00 PM Hosted by Matt & Amy Graf (start 9/17)			5:30 PM Hosted by Karl & Dorothy Salscheider (start 9/20)	11:00 AM Hosted at Church by Jerry Drebelbis (start 9/14)
	6:30 PM Hosted by Randy & Mishele McKain (start 9/11)	6:00 PM Anchor / Young Adults Hosted by Lydia Johnson (start 9/12)	6:15 PM Hosted at Church by Dan Evans (start 9/13)	
	7:00 PM Hosted by Tayler & Rissa Borders (start 9/18)	6:30 PM Hosted by Mark & Mishel Carlson (start 9/12)	6:15 PM Hosted at Church by Pastor Eric (start 9/13)	7:00 PM Men's Life Group at Church by John Shindelar (start 9/14)

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



JOIN A LIFE GROUP

FIND YOUR FIT

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.

Kids Sunday School Teachers & Helpers ● 9:45

- Assist with Kids Sunday School during 9:45 SS hour

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.