

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Traditional Worship Service - 8:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Hymn #45)

Praise To The Lord The Almighty (Hymn #77)

Sing Praise To God The Father (Hymn #9)

Dismiss for Kids Church - 1st-5th Grades (No Beginners Church)

Offering & Prayer

Choir Anthem: "A Cannon of Praise"

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Message: Our VISION: Personal Local Evangelism

I Love to Tell the Story (Hymn #498)

Benediction

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 009

Let's get to know our Global Partners! In this episode, Pastor Eric sits down with Kwsind Clelland to hear a bit of his story and to talk about his ministry with Mokahum Discipleship Ministry in Cass Lake. Visit efcbemidji.org/podcast or listen via your favorite podcast app. Send an email to podcast@efcbemidji.org with your comments and feedback.

Women's Christmas Tea

CHRISTMAS TEA

Friday, December 6th, 2024 at 6:00pm. Tickets go on sale November 10th. Look forward to a new menu and a wonderful speaker/musician! Contact Jessica Westlund in the church office with questions.

📶 wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Contemporary Worship Service - 10:45 AM

Prelude: Goodness Of God

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Death Was Arrested

Jesus Messiah

Jesus Paid it All

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Offering & Prayer

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Message: Our VISION: Personal Local Evangelism

Let Your Kingdom Come

Benediction

Calling Singers!

Calling all who love to "sing a new song"! If you would like to sing with the Choir just for the Christmas cantata, we need you! Please talk to Ian Trosen, Tayler Borders, Taumi Wilson or Laura Engelstad. Or just come to our rehearsals Tuesdays at 7:15 PM. We'd love to have you!

Women's Overflow

The women of E-Free are invited to Overflow on Monday, October 28th from 6:30-8:00pm in the Connection Café. We will learn how to arrange a floral bouquet. Sign up in the Connection Café so we have enough supplies prepared.

Next Sunday, November 3, 2024

Message: Luke's Gospel

Luke 1:1-4, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

There are many ways to give at E-Free Bemidji.

1 Visit www.efcbemidji.org/give or by scanning the QR code (back page)

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 27

8:30 am - Kids Church (Lower Level, dismissed before sermon)
9:45 am - Kids Sunday School (Lower Level)
9:45 am - Youth Sunday School (Guys-Youth Room, Girls-511 Room)
10:45 am - Kids/Beginner Church (Lower, dismissed before sermon)

Wednesday, October 30

5:00-5:45 pm - Family Meal: Pizza (Gym)
6:00-7:45 pm - Kids Club, PreK - 5th Grade (Lower Level)
6:00-7:45 pm - Youth Group, grades 6-12 (Youth Room)

Wednesday, November 6

6:00 pm - Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

E-Free Kids Sunday School

9:45-10:30am - use secure check-in
PreK-Kindergarten (PreK Room)
1st-5th grade (5th grade class room)

Kids Club

E-Free Kids Club welcomes all children ages 4 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 Bible teaching, worship, snacks and games. Contact Amy with questions: agraf@efcbemidji.org



Operation Christmas Child

Our **Kids Club** Packing Party is November 6th. Anyone can begin to bring OCC donations this week. We are hoping to make **100** boxes again this year! Let's celebrate Christmas by giving to those in need, and sharing the love of Christ.

Items needed - socks, scarves, mittens, hats, coloring supplies, wash clothes, soap, and toothbrushes. Let's celebrate Christmas by giving to those in need, and sharing the love of Christ.

8:30 Service Kids Church

We are excited to invite Kids 1st - 5th Grade downstairs to Kids Church during the 8:30 Traditional service. Kids will be dismissed before the sermon.

Youth Ministry



Youth Group

E-Free Bemidji Student Ministry welcomes all 6th - 12th grade students! Most Wednesdays throughout the school year we meet for Youth Group for time with Jesus, Bible, fellowship, worship, and fun. Most Sunday mornings we have Sunday School during the Sunday School hour to connect, and pray about our week and have class. See Shelly Mustful or Danny Paddock with questions. shellymustful@gmail.com or paddocksonsautorepair@gmail.com

Youth Group

Youth group on October 30th will be a fun night at the church for small groups to work together as we do the EFCB Amazing Race! Bring a friend and see if your team can complete the challenges the fastest!

Young Adults

Sunday, October 27

9:45am- Church History Survey (Chapel)
Gospel of John (room 10)

Tuesday, October 29

6:30 pm - Anchor
7:00 pm - CRU Small Groups
women: South Conference Room
men: Ozawindib Room
7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 31

7:30 pm -CRU -Crying Wolf Room

ANCHOR

Anchor is our young adult life group. We meet on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30 pm. Contact Jesse Schmidt at 218-760-5852 or email pastorjerry@efcbemidji.org with any questions.



Cru is back on BSU campus for the Fall Semester! Open to all BSU, Oak Hills, NW Tech, Leech Lake, and Red Lake Nation students. See Mark C. or Terry H. with questions: mhockeymd@gmail.com Terryleehewitt@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 27

7:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)
8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service
9:45 am - Church History Survey (Chapel)
Gospel of John (Room 10)
10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service
12:00 pm - All Church Potluck (Gym)
1:00 pm - Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

Monday, October 28

6:30 pm - Women's Overflow, see pg 2 for details (Connection Café)

Tuesday, October 29

10:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)
10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)
5:45 pm - Handbell Practice (Connection Café)
7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, October 30

7:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)
6:05 pm - Oasis (Green Room)
6:15 pm - Life Group (Conference Room & Fireside Room)

Thursday, October 31

10:00 am - Life Group (Fireside Room)
10:30 am - Bone Builders (chapel)
6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Chapel)
6:30 pm - Worship Team Practice (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm - Shindelar Men's Life Group (Fireside Room)

Friday, November 1

7:00 am - Men's Discipleship (Chapel)

Sunday, November 3

7:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)
8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service
9:45 am - Church History Survey (Chapel)
Gospel of John (Room 10)
10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service
2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Did you know...

In October 1984 our church celebrated its 60th anniversary with old-time clothing, a dinner, and speakers including former pastors Bob Page and John Kerth. Marie Mossefin, who played the piano for Sunday School classes in 1924, was also a special guest. The first church history booklet, compiled by James Schreiber and Charissa Grover, was handed out. And a slide show highlighted the church's history (no videos back then!).

Memorial Book Entry

Back in June of 2006 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Doris Edwards, a memorial gift of hymnals was presented by her friends and family.

Strategic Ministry Plan – Vote of Affirmation

There will be a vote of affirmation today October 27th at our congregational meeting regarding our Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Discipleship Pathway. Copies of our Strategic Ministry Plan are available in our Connection Café.

2025 Nominees for Church Officers

Elder Board Nominees:

Mark Carlson, Reed Carlson,
Randy McKain

Trustee Board Nominees:

Holly Howes, Todd Guntzel,
David Knudson

Church Clerk: Deb Baer

Congregational Potluck

Please join us today for an all-church Potluck in the Gym at 12 PM before the congregational meeting at 1:00pm. All are welcome! Please bring a main or side dish to share.

Congregational Meeting

Today, October 27 at 1:00 PM we will hold our Congregational meeting in the sanctuary. The agenda will include membership updates, vote on Strategic Ministry Plan commitment, vote on 2025 church officers, vote on 2025 Ministry Budget, and Financial report. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. We hope to see you there!

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

Amy Graf, Kids Ministry Director agraf@efcbemidji.org

Support Staff

Corbin McCray, Facility Supervisor facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org

Dan Evans, A/V Supervisor efcbemidjitech@gmail.com

Tom Halverson, Visitation Caregiver tom.halverson63@gmail.com

Jessica Westlund, Office Manager officemanager@efcbemidji.org

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving for October 20, 2024

Weekly Giving: \$ 21,017

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 650,486

Needed YTD: 671,412



Remaining Mortgage: \$ 87,574.84

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, October 20, 2024

356 onsite | 30 screens / 4 states

SS: 7 kids | 8 youth | 42 adults

Connection Café/Misc: 68

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

74 adults, 80 children, 48 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 **efcbsm** to **94000**

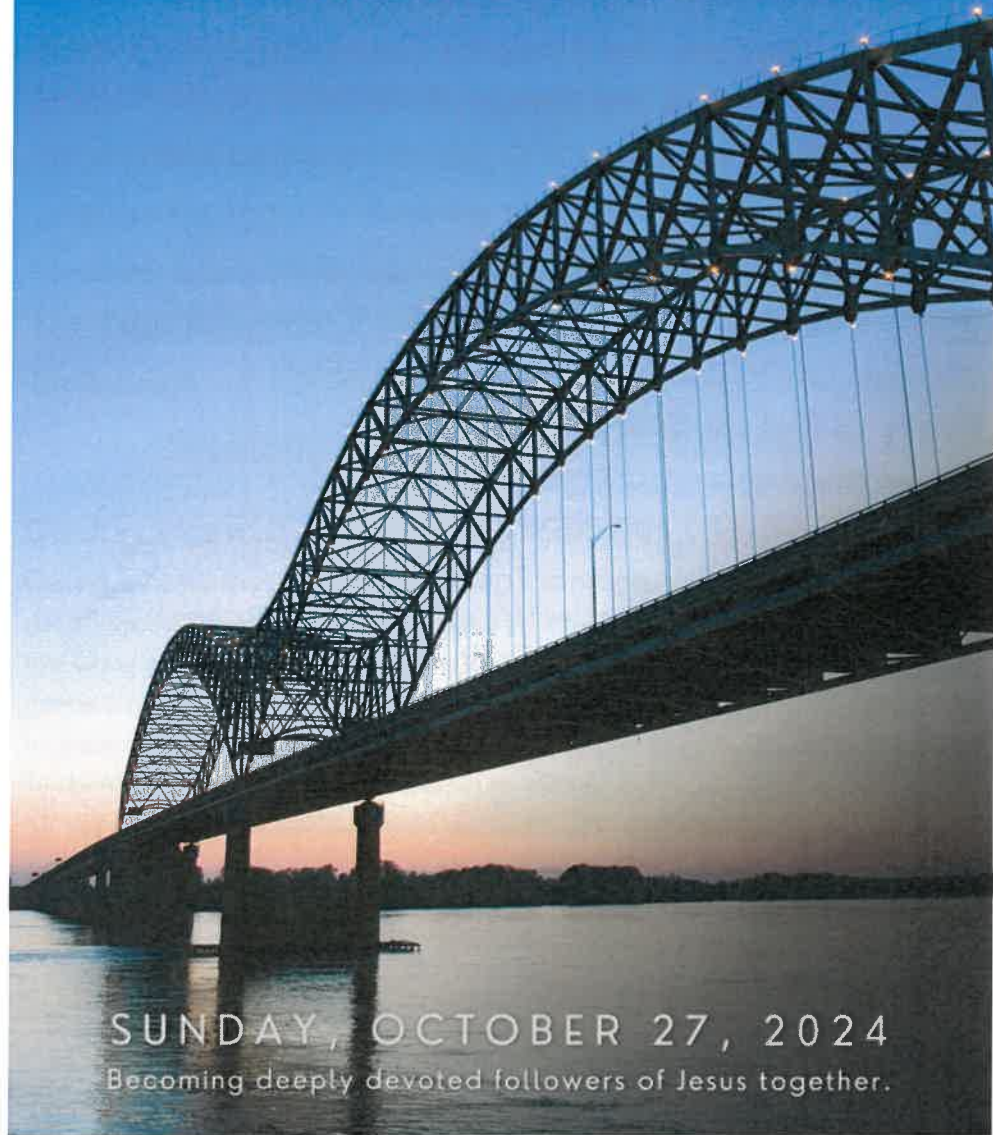
Prayer chain: text **efreeprayer** to **94000**

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



WE IMPORE YOU
ON CHRIST'S BEHALF:
BE RECONCILED TO GOD.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:20



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

As our church continues moving forward after our church's 100th anniversary celebration, let's make sure that we continue to be a church who prays. In John 15:5 Jesus teaches His disciples, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." So please pray that we'll remain committed to daily dependence on God and that we'll stay in close connection with Christ.

Praise God for the many ministries that are up and running. As you glance through our church bulletin and other reminders, please pray for each of the many ways that God is working in and through our church. Pray that our worship will be pleasing to Him. Pray that instruction in His Word will be effective in building up believers and guiding them to greater maturity and discernment for everyday living. Pray for our upcoming sermon series on the Gospel of Luke. Pray that each person in our church will have opportunity for heartfelt, gospel fellowship and genuine Christian community with others. And please pray for local evangelistic opportunities, through our church's various ministries, but also through each of our daily lives out in the community. Pray that we will be prepared and courageous in sharing our faith as God provides windows of opportunity throughout our everyday lives (1 Peter 3:15). Also pray for active service not only within our church walls but also out in our community. Pray that we will be the salt of the earth and not lose our saltiness. Pray that we'll shine our lights brightly and not "put our lamp under a bowl." Pray that our good deeds will point people toward the Heavenly Father (Matthew 5:13-16).

Please pray for our Youth and Young Adults Pastor search team. Pray for energy and endurance as they continue in the long journey of looking through various applications, making reference calls, doing interviews, etc. Pray for godly discernment for them and for the particular person that God is preparing to come to our church.

Please pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Especially with the holidays approaching, please pray for God's tender mercy and comfort in the coming season. Pray that we'll be a church who loves one another deeply from the heart (1 Peter 4:8). Also please pray for the ongoing ministry of Grief Share, for people in our church as well as people from throughout our community.

Pray for people who are new to our church. With all of the focus on our past 100 years, there's been a lot of celebration of God's past faithfulness, which is very appropriate. Moving forward, pray that we'll minister well to those who are here right now, and those who will be joining our church family in the coming months and years. Pray for connections and friendships, and opportunities to grow and serve alongside one another for Christ.

Pray for our various boards and committees. Please pray in particular for our congregational meeting this Sunday, October 27. Pray for God-honoring dialogue and decisions as we update our membership list, vote on our 2025 ministry budget, vote on new church officers, and vote on our Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Discipleship Pathway. Pray that God will grant us unity moving forward, as we seek to be in step with His direction for our church. As always, let's continue to pray sincerely that God will help our church become more and more the church He would have us be.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, thank you for praying!

Pastor Jerry

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together

100th Anniversary Recommitment by E-Free Bemidji

Pastor: We have gathered together this morning as the Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji to remember and celebrate God's faithfulness to our church. And we now recommit ourselves to His future purposes for us. Fully depending on the empowering of His Spirit, we now recommit ourselves to being the church that God would have us be.

Congregation: With God's help, we commit ourselves to loving the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We commit to loving our neighbors as ourselves. We commit to seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness.

Pastor: We commit ourselves to Jesus Christ as the Head of our church, and the Lord of our lives. We commit ourselves to fully embracing who Jesus is, and all that He has done through His life, death, and resurrection. We commit to resisting sin and seeking holiness.

Congregation: As the body of Christ, we commit to being a body that builds one another up. We commit to caring for one another, and using our spiritual gifts in gospel service. We commit ourselves to discipling every generation, from the youngest to the oldest.

Pastor: We commit ourselves to gathering together for God's gospel purposes. We will not give up meeting together. We will encourage one another in the faith, and we will spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Congregation: We commit to loving one another deeply, from the heart. We commit to bearing with one another in love. We commit to having a gospel testimony in our community, so that the watching world will know that we are Christians by our love.

Pastor: We commit to seeking God's good, pleasing and perfect will. We commit to worshipping God in our actions and attitudes. We commit to reverent congregational worship, and joyful singing together from our hearts.

Congregation: We commit to spending time in God's Holy Word and obeying its truth. We commit to reading it, teaching it, and living it out in our public and personal lives. We commit to growing together into strong, mature, and steadfast believers.

Pastor: We commit to our Great Commission Mandate of going and making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that Jesus has commanded.

Congregation: We commit to stewarding our finances and our facilities for God's gospel purposes. We commit to the cheerful giving of our financial resources. We commit to sending out and supporting our Global Partners. And we commit to going wherever God may call us.

Pastor: We commit to sharing the gospel with those outside of our church walls. We commit to sharing Jesus with our friends and neighbors as God provides opportunities.

All Together: We commit to becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together. We commit to denying ourselves, and taking up our cross and following Jesus, until He returns, or calls us home. To all of these things, we recommit ourselves for the glory of God. Amen.

Recommended Resources

Personal Global Evangelism Resources

Where Will God Send You? A Guide to ReachGlobal Ministry <https://helps.efca.org/resources/reachglobal-booklet>

How Can I Support International Missions? by Mark Collins

Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global by Andy Johnson

When Everything Is Missions by Denny Spitters and Matthew Ellison

Let the Nations Be Glad by John Piper

Joshua Project www.joshuaproject.net

EFCA ReachGlobal, reachglobal.ministries.efca.org
<https://reachglobal.ministries.efca.org/>

Personal Local Evangelism Resources

Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus by J. Mack Stiles

How Do I Get Started in Evangelism? by J. Mack Stiles

The Gospel and Personal Evangelism by Mark Dever

Stay Salt by Rebecca Manley Pippert

Bringing the Gospel Home: Witnessing to Family Members, Close Friends, and Others Who Know You Well by Randy Newman



Reed Carlson

Elder Nominee

Family: My wife Jan and I have been married 45 years. We have eight children: Sarah, Hannah, Isaiah, Naomi, Mary, Leah, and Sam. Rachel, Isaiah's twin, was still born and is buried at Oak Hills Cemetery. Our kids live in Alaska, Massachusetts, California and in Bemidji. We have 18 grandchildren.

Involvement in Church: Jan and I started attending the Free Church in the early 1980s and became more and more involved at E Free as the decade went on. I served on the Elder Board with Don Emery and Reldon Severson for a few years before we moved to Alaska in 1988. Upon return to the Bemidji area in 2012 Jan and I immediately started attending E Free Bemidji again.

Hobbies/Interests: I have been involved in public school education for about 45 years as a teacher, principal, teacher mentor, principal coach, and now presently working part time as a supervisor of student teachers for Bemidji State University. Jan and I are enjoying and are grateful to God for our semi-retirement. We love to walk and pray for our kids and grandkids and enjoy quiet evenings together. I still play old man's hockey during the winter months a couple times a week, and play golf whenever I can during the spring, summer, and fall, often with some of the guys from E Free. I always have a woodworking project going in the garage for one of the kids or grandkids.

Testimony: As an 18-year-old freshman attending a state university in Illinois, through the wonderful grace of Jesus, I was granted repentance and faith. That following summer (1975) I searched out Bible Schools in which I might attend. I decided upon Oak Hills Bible Institute. I was baptized at the Oak Hills boat bay the summer of 1976 by Don Wagner, Oak Hills professor.

I know from His Word and from my own experience, that faith in Christ is solely a gift of God's grace and God gives only His elect a new heart. It is because of this blessed gift that I am "in Christ", that I can desire God, that I can love Him and His Word more and more. (Ephesians 2, Romans 12). This understanding is foundational to me both in my own sanctification, which is the work of God's free grace (WSC 35), and in my personal evangelism.



Randy McKain
Elder Nominee

Family: My wife, Mishele, and we have three adult children, Joshua, Bethany (Richard), and Corban, and three grandchildren, Layney, Sadie, and Ezra.

Involvement in Church: I have been on the Worship Teams, Life Group Co-Leader, Men's Bible Study, helped with VBS, taught Sunday School both adult and youth. Kid's Ministry sub, Elder Board, College Ministry Team, Server for the Christmas Tea, helped in the Connection Café, played on our church softball team. I have worked at Oak Hills Christian College for the past 12 years. Currently, I am Chairman of the Department of Christin Ministry, the Program Director of Youth Ministry and Addiction Counseling, the Program Advisor for Pastoral Ministry, and the Interim Cross Country Coach. Before Oak Hills, I spent 12 years in full-time youth ministry and 14 years in mental health, residential treatment, and addiction programs as a practitioner and director of these programs.

Hobbies/Interests: In our spare time, we like to be active outdoors in various seasonal activities and sports, including golf, making maple syrup, raising chickens, snowshoeing, skiing, fishing, and bike riding. This past summer I had knee replacement surgery. So, I am slowly resuming these activities, and I have taken up a "new to me" sport - pickleball.

Testimony: I became a Christian around the age of 8 through programs in church like Sunday School, VBS and youth Bible Study. Upon graduation, I worked in a variety of social service occupations but felt a call to full-time ministry. This led me to become a youth pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church, where I served for many years. My Christian growth & discipleship has been a consistent pursuit to understand, follow, and commit to the Lord's leading in my life.



Holly Howes
Trustee Nominee

Family: LaDon and I have been married for 37 years and have spent our married life at this church.

Involvement in Church: Over the past 37 years I have been involved in numerous activities in the church. The most recent activities are Strategic Leadership Team, Hand Bells, Choir, Women's Ministry, Bible Study Leader, Lead for Christmas Eve-Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Hobbies/Interests: I am currently working at First National Bank. I support Northwoods Care Center & was involved in the Pregnancy Center board for over 11 years. I have a very keen interest in tea. Study of God's Word is huge in my life. Went to Oak Hills Bible Institute (Now OHCC) & graduated with degrees in Biblical Studies, Counseling, & Youth Ministries. I also enjoy spending time with my beloved LaDon, photography, gardening, geocaching and just learning.

Testimony: During the early 1970's there was a huge movement of the Holy Spirit throughout the US & in 1972 that movement hit our little town of Centuria, WS. I was one among many who learned about Jesus & what he did for us & I put my trust in him at that time. We moved up to Warroad in 1976 where I learned about Oak Hills Bible Institute. After a mission trip to the Philippines, I came to Oak Hills to study the Bible. Planning for 1 year & finished with a brand new 4-year program. I enjoy learning about the Bible, how do I apply it & tell others in my everyday living. I have seen God working during my time at Rainbow Gift & Book Shoppe for 19 years, and my own Tea & Gift Shoppe for 14 years in reaching out to people, praying for people & minister in any way God was moving me. I recently went through some cancer issues last year & again watching God's hand working through that was amazing. I could see how He had been using me & how God's hand was on me.



David Knudson

Trustee Nominee

Family: My Son Seth, Daughter-In-Law Kari and Grandchildren William and Annika, My daughter Christa, Son-In-Law Kent and Grandson Breyden. Wife Jane is deceased and I am a Widower.

Involvement in Church: Life Group, Greeter, Reader and help on special events with meals and cleanup.

I also work full time as a Realtor at Century 21 Dickinson Realtors.

I volunteer at Sanford Health, am a member of Bemidji Sunrise Rotary and serve as the President/Treasurer of our Townhome Association.

I also serve on two Scholarship Committees.

Hobbies/Interests: Golf, fishing, hunting, travel, spending time with Family.

Testimony: My daughter brought me to the Lord around 2000.



Deb Baer
Church Clerk Nominee

Family: John & I have been married for 10 years. Altogether, we have 6 adult children, and three grandchildren.

Involvement in Church: I started attending E-Free around 1985. I began volunteering for various children's ministry roles in the 90's, eventually becoming the first Children's Ministry Coordinator. I attend Bible Study Fellowship, serve on the Connection Café team, attend a Life Group, and love volunteering for VBS when I can. My husband and I became official members of EFC in 2022. I have worked with the Department of Justice and the MN Judicial Branch for the past 12 years to implement Domestic Violence Court Projects throughout MN.

Hobbies/Interests: I love being a mother and grandmother and enjoy spending time traveling with my husband, cooking and baking, house and garden projects, and church and community events.

Testimony: I grew up in Bemidji and at the First Assembly of God church, where I remember praying the salvation prayer when I was very young at Vacation Bible School.