Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Traditional Worship Service - 8:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Like a River Glorious (Hymn #594)

It Is Well With My Soul (Hymn #519)

The Solid Rock (Hymn #517)

Offering & Prayer

Thanksgiving Testimony: Tom Halverson

Ministry in Music: Amy Graf

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-56, Pastor Eric Nygren

Message: God of the Now, Jerry Drebelbis

God of the Ages (Hymn #363)

Benediction

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 013

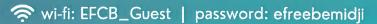
This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric visits with our two Choir Co-Directors Tayler Borders and Ian Trosen to talk about the role our choir ministry plays in discipleship. New episodes are posted every Tuesday. Visit efcbemidji.org/ podcast or listen via your favorite podcast@efcbemidji.org with comments or feedback.

Come Together in December! 9:30 Combined Services

All month long in December we are gathering together as one church family at 9:30 am for Combined Worship Services. Check the Advent schedule insert in the bulletin for details about each Sunday's programming.

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

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



Contemporary Worship Service - 10:45 AM

Prelude: There Is None

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)

Deeply Devoted

Offering & Prayer

Thanksgiving Testimony: Tom Halverson

Special Music: Amy Graf

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-56, Pastor Eric Nygren

Message: God of the Now, Jerry Drebelbis

Glorify Thy Name

Benediction

Women's Overflow

Ladies! You are invited to join us tomorrow, Monday, November 25 from 6:30-8:00pm to make a Christmas ornament and be encouraged by a God Story. Be sure to sign up at the Women's Ministry table in the Connection Cafe so we have enough supplies. We hope to see you there!

Now Hiring: Facility Supervisor

Please pray for our Search Team as we begin looking for our next Facility Supervisor. The job description is now available online, including our church website, and in the church office. If you or someone you know may be interested, please connect with us soon or email: efree@paulbunyan.net.

Next Sunday, December 1, 2024

Message: Zechariah's Song

Luke 1:57-80 Pastor Jerry Johnson

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 24

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- Green Room)

10:45 am - Kids/Beginner Church (Lower, dismissed before sermon)

Wednesday, November 27

REMINDER: NO KIDS OR YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, December 1

REMINDER: NO KIDS OR YOUTH Sunday School

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! Join us for dinner at 5pm. 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

Kids Christmas Service December 8th at 9:30am

Attention all PreK-5th Kids and Parents! **Kids Christmas Service Rehearsal will be Dec.1st from 11am-12pm in the Sanctuary.**

Please have your kiddos stay after church on Dec.1st to practice the songs and where they will stand.
Reminder - No costumes this year.
Wear Red/Green, or Christmas outfits. (suits/dresses).
Please watch for an email to the links for the songs.

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

Christmas Party

Looking ahead in Youth Group: December 18th is our Youth Christmas Party.

Young Adults

Sunday, November 24

9:45am - Church Hist. Survey (Ch) Gospel of John (Rm 10) Baptism Class (Rm 1)

Tuesday, November 26

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

ANCH[♣]R

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



EFREEKIDS

follow @efcb_sm | www.efcbemidji.org/youth

Text efcbsm to 94000 join our Student Ministries notification system.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 24

7:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)

8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service

9:45 am - A Survey of Church History, AD 100-600 (Chapel)

Gospel of John (Room 10)

Christmas Tea Hostess Meeting (Conference Room)

10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service

2:00 pm - Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays (Chapel)

Monday, November 25

6:30 pm - Young Men's Bible Study (Fireside Room)

6:30 pm - Women's Overflow (Connection Cafe)

Tuesday, November 26

10:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

5:45 pm - Handbell Practice (Sanctuary)

6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Chapel)

7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, November 27

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

REMINDER: NO KIDS OR YOUTH MINISTRY

Thursday, November 28

Church Office Closed

Friday, November 22

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

8:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

11:00 am - Treats in the Connection Cafe

2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

Monday, December 2

6:30 pm - Membership Class (Chapel)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Did you know...

By July 1988 a design was approved, financing was secured, and we finally saw groundbreaking for the new building on Carr Lake Road. Everyone wanted a turn at the shovel! Pouring concrete began in October, bulldozers were busy, and by the end of the year a snow-covered wooden shell finally rose above ground level.

Thanks for your ministry, Corbin!

Our Facility Supervisor, Corbin McCray has submitted his letter of resignation to the Trustees and is stepping away from the position as of December 13th. We are thankful for Corbin's ministry. If you have questions about the Facility Supervisor position, contact Stephen Helweg, our Trustee Chair.

Pick up a FREE Advent Devotional

Make the most of the upcoming Advent season with a FREE devotional. We have two options this year. Copies are available in the Connection Cafe. One copy per household, please.

Memorial Book Entry

Back in March of 2007 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Helena Wolfe, a memorial gift of hymnals was presented by her family and friends.

Men's Breakfast

Gentlemen! Our next men's breakfast is coming up on Saturday, December 7th from 8:30-10:00 am. Come hungry because we've got biscuits and sausage gravy, breakfast potatoes, and plenty of bacon on the menu. We'll feed you spiritually too with a testimony of faith and a brief devotional. Bring a friend!

Membership Class

Join us on Monday, December 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm for a group discussion on what it means to become a member of a local church and why it's important. This membership class is an important first step in the membership process at E-Free Bemidji. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend. Copies of the Membership Handbook are available in the office or on our website.

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@efcbemidii.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 November 17, 2024

Weekly Giving: \$ 10,725 Weekly Need: \$ 15,986 Giving YTD: \$ 724,609

ONLINE GIVING

Giving Y1D: \$ /24,609 Needed YTD: 735.356

Remaining Mortgage: \$75,343

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, November 17, 2024 330 onsite | 36 screens / 5 states SS: 14 kids | 5 youth | 54 adults Connection Café/Misc: 51

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

69 adults, 70 children, 55 youth

Sign up for text notifications

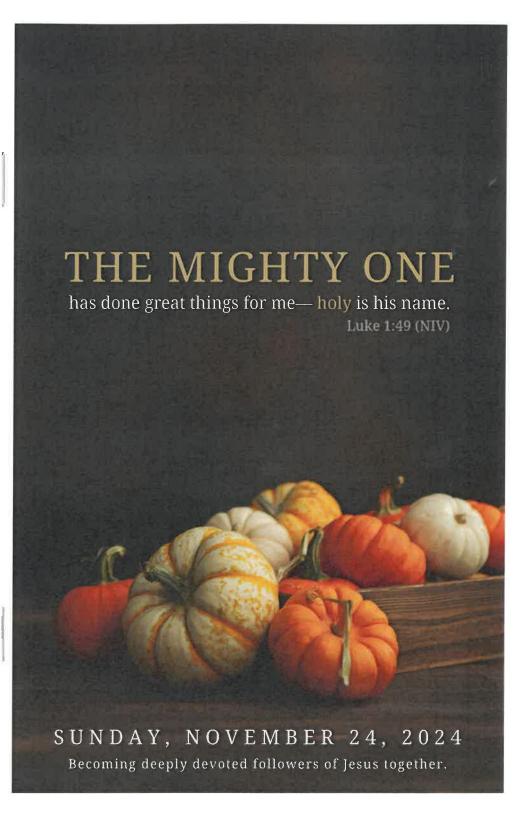
Stay connected by signing up to receive our text notifications.

General notifications: text efree to 94000 E-Free Kids Ministry: text efreekids to 94000

Youth Ministry: text efcbsm to 94000
Prayer chain: text efreeprayer to 94000

efcbemidji.org | (218) 751-8834 | efree@paubunyan.net Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.





GIVE THANKS & SHARE

IN THE 44th ANNUAL

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY MEAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

This year, dinners will be delivered to those who are homebound. Requests must be made by noon on Monday, November 25, 2024, to guarantee delivery. Call Karen at 218-368-3601 to make a request for homebound delivery

Interested in volunteering?

Wednesday, Nov 27 (prep pies, rolls, etc) 5PM to 6:30PM at the Eagles Club

Thursday, Nov 28 (Delivery Drivers, Kitchen, Preparing delivery containers for drivers and cleanup)

Call Karen at 218-368-3601 to volunteer

Monetary donations are welcome. Checks may be made to Bemidji Community Meals

Mail to: LaMae Ritchie

1424 Otterpoint Ln SW

Bemidji MN 56601



YEAR-END GIVING

We remain grateful for the faithful and generous giving of our congregation.

This enables a variety of ministries to nurture our church family

and to point others toward Christ.

AS YOU PLAN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

Please prayerfully consider including the Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji in your year-end giving. Donations to the church are tax-deductible. Even if you don't itemize your federal taxes, look into the options available for claiming charitable giving on your state taxes.

STOCK TRANSFER

Did you know that you can transfer stock? If you desire to transfer stock to E-Free Bemidji, the form and information are available in the church office. Pick up a form from the office and ask your agent about the benefits.

BE AWARE OF THE CUT-OFF DATES

Be aware of the cut-off dates for 2024 tax-deductible donations. Handdelivered gifts must be received in the wooden offering boxes no later than Tuesday, December 31. Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31. Electronic transactions must also be initiated by the final day of the year.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements for 2024 will be mailed in January. If your address needs to be added to or updated in our database, please notify our church office with your current contact information.

Again thank you to each individual and family in our congregation for your prayerful consideration. May God be honored in the stewardship of our personal and church finances.

God of the Now

Luke 1:39-56 on November 24, 2024 Jerry Drebelbis

I. God can use ordinary people best when we are
"I am the Lord's servant,May your word to me be fulfilled."
2. God can use ordinary people best who are
"and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant."
3. God can use ordinary people best who are
(v. 45)
"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"
Allow God to define

Visit www.efcbemidji.org/sermons to listen, watch, or read today's

sermon. You'll find an archive of past messages on our website as well.



- 1. Scripture tells us God sends angels to serve (minister) His people (Heb. 1:14; Ps. 34:6–7). Have you ever experienced or know of someone who has experienced such an event?
- 2. In v. 45 Elizabeth gives Mary a general blessing; Blessed is she who has believed. How are we to understand this blessing in our own lives? Has the Lord ever spoken to you in such a way that gave you a direction or guidance?
- 3. Reflecting back on your life, do you see God doing "great" things for you that you cannot explain other than being divine intervention? (cf. vv. 46–49).
- 4. God's mercy is for those who fear Him "from generation to generation." Have you experienced God's mercy in your family's life or a close friend's life? (Ps. 44:4–8; Zeph. 3:17).



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

In the spirit of thanksgiving and gratefulness, let's devote this month's prayer letter to glorifying God by giving Him thanks and praise for the many ways that He blesses us. Psalm 106 urges God's people to "Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise?" Who can? We can! At least, we can give it our best effort. Psalm 107 exhorts us, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story."

Part of my story lately has been God's faithfulness in providing me with surgery for my GERD. I thank and praise God for this! I thank Him for good medical care and good insurance. I thank God for sustaining me through 2 weeks of a liquid only diet. I'm thankful for protein shakes and juice. And today, as I officially move up to a diet of smooth foods, I'm sincerely thankful for things like cottage cheese, scrambled eggs, and mashed potatoes. What foods and beverages are you thankful for today? Let's all spend some time giving God praise for His daily provisions of our basic necessities of food, sleep, and shelter. In the words of Psalm 23, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." How has God provided for you lately? Thank and praise Him for each of those things, no matter how great or small these provisions might seem.

I also praise God for the many prayers and encouraging words/cards/texts/emails/etc. that people have sent me over these past two weeks. Praise God for our praying church, who prays for one another's various surgeries and medical procedures and doctor's appointments. And praise God that He cares for us enough to hear and answer our prayers according to His goodness and wisdom. 1 Peter 3 reminds us, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer." Thank You God for paying attention to our daily needs!

Thank God for His amazing provision for our church's General Ministry Fund over these past two months. After falling some \$50,000 behind, God has faithfully provided through His people to put us within about \$10,000 of our 2024 annual ministry budget. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, praise the LORD with me! Thank You God for meeting all of our needs according to the riches of Your glory in Christ Jesus! (Philippians 4:19)

Let's thank God for our new Global Partners, as well as for those who've been serving for some time now. Praise God that His gospel is a gospel for all peoples, for all nations, for every tribe and tongue. Praise the LORD that His gospel is not just for some, but for all who will receive it by faith in Christ. Let's all take some time this week to "thank our way" through each page of our Global Partner flipbook. Thank God for each person that's serving, and for each place where the gospel is being declared globally. Thank God for each culture, each people group, and each language in which God is being glorified and lifted up. Praise God that each of us has the honor and privilege and calling to share this gospel good news locally. Praise God for His Spirit which convicts people of their sin and convinces them of their need for God. Praise God that as we're faithful to be salt and light, it's His supernatural work that leads people to saving faith and new life in Christ.

Praise God that our recent election had a clear result, and that so far the transition process into new leadership is going smoothly. Give God thanks that, regardless of our political opinions, or our particular feelings about these election results, He watches over every leader, and He holds them all accountable. Thank God that He is ready and willing to provide them with the wisdom they need, if they only look to Him and ask (James 1:5). Praise God that even though there are multiple wars and

conflicts around the globe today, our God still reigns over all things. Psalm 47 reassures us, "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne." Thank You God for Your good, sovereign, powerful rule and reign over this entire universe. Thank You LORD that we can trust You no matter how baffling the circumstances around us may be.

Let's give God thanks for His powerful, practical, and reliable written Word. Praise God that we have so many fantastic English translations that are readily available to us. Thank God that we have so many opportunities to hear His Word preached and taught on Sunday morning and throughout the week at various Life Groups and Bible studies. What a blessing we have on Friday mornings and Thursday nights, and Wednesday nights and Tuesday mornings, and on and on, just about every day and time of the week from which we'd like to choose. Praise God for time in His Word with fellow believers as well as our personal times on our own. What an incredible gift to be able to read and understand and apply God's Word to our daily living and victory in Christ! Thank You LORD! Thank the LORD for our livestream services, and for our Deeply Devoted Podcast, and more.

Thank God for the ministry of GriefShare, in our church as well as throughout our nation. Praise God for this Sunday's, November 24, Surviving the Holidays. Let's give God thanks that we can find strength by gathering together for mutual encouragement as we share our heavy burdens of loss and mourning (Romans 12:15). And thank God for the hope and confidence He brings us even in our darkest hours. Praise the LORD who not only comforts us, but then teaches us to comfort one another with the comfort we've received from Him (2 Corinthains 1:3-4). Oh how good and gracious and kind our God is, to meet all of our needs so tenderly and completely. Thank You LORD!

Let's thank God together for our recent vote of affirmation for our new Strategic Ministry Plan's Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Discipleship Pathway. Praise God that we can continue moving forward in becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together. Thank God for guiding us forward to Gather, Grow, Give, and Go for the Gospel. Thank God for the many servants who contributed toward crafting this ministry plan together. And thank God that we can now serve together as a local church body to help carry it forward into 2025 and beyond. Praise the LORD!

Thank God for our many servant leaders at E-Free Bemidji. As particular people come to mind, thank God specifically by name. Thank God for our faithful behind the scenes cleaners, kitchen helpers, and hall monitors. Praise God for the many who serve by wiping down tables, emptying garbages, and repeatedly setting up and taking down our tables and chairs. Thank God for those who bring treats and coffee, and clean up the mess afterwards! Thank God for those who serve in our nursery, and clean up the mess afterwards! Thank God for those who decorate our church so beautifully. Thank God for those who serve in our men's and women's ministries. Thank God for those who serve on our various committees, search teams, and boards. Thank God for our musicians who faithfully prepare each week and hone their various skills for God's glory. Praise God for the season of Advent, and all of the work and planning that's going into making this Christmas honoring to Christ.

And finally, let's give thanks that God continues to faithfully answer our prayers by enabling us to become more and more the church He would have us be. Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, how deeply blessed we are to be serving Christ together. Praise Him! Thank Him! Give Him the glory that is due His Name!

Together for Christ, Pastor Jerry

ADVENT

CELEBRATING THE SEASON AT E-ERFE BEMIDJI

THANKSGIVING WEEK

SUN | Nov 24

8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service

9:45 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John

Adult Sunday School: A Survey of Church History (AD 100-600)

Kids & Youth Sunday School

10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service

2:00 pm - Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays

MON | Nov 25

6:30 pm - Women's Overflow (sign-up required)

TUES | Nov 26

6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship

WED | Nov 27

No Wednesday Kids Club, Youth Group, or on-site Life Groups

THU | Nov 28

Church Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

No Women's Bible Study Fellowship (BSF)

FRI | Nov 29

Church Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

No Friday AM Men's Discipleship

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

SUN | Dec 1 - First Sunday of Advent

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

11:00 am - Treats in the Connection Cafe - No Sunday School

WED | Dec 4

5:00 pm - Wednesday Night Family Meal

6:00 pm - Kids Club, Youth Group, & on-site Life Groups

FRI | Dec 6

6:00 pm - Women's Christmas Tea (tickets required)

SAT | Dec 7

8:30 am - Men's Breakfast

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

SUN | Dec 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service / Kids Christmas Service (Pre-K - 5th Grade)

11:00 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John

Adult Sunday School: A Survey of Church History (AD 100-600)

Kids & Youth Sunday School

6:30 pm - Second Sunday Prayer

WED | Dec 11

5:00 pm - Wednesday Night Family Meal

6:00 pm - Kids Club, Youth Group, & on-site Life Groups

FRI | Dec 13

11:30 am - Senior Connection Christmas Potluck, the Story Behind the Carol, and special music

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

SUN | Dec 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service / Choir Christmas Cantata

11:00 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John

Adult Sunday School: A Survey of Church History (AD 100-600)

Kids & Youth Sunday School

WED | Dec 18

5:15 pm - Wednesday Night Family Meal

6:00 pm - Kids Club, Youth Group, & on-site Life Groups

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

SUN | Dec 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service & Communion

11:00 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John

Adult Sunday School: A Survey of Church History (AD 100-600)

Kids and Youth Sunday School

TUES | Dec 24

6:00 pm Christmas Eve - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Service

WED-THUR | Dec 25 & 26

Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

FRI | Dec 27

No Friday AM Men's Discipleship

WEEK OF DECEMBER 29TH

SUN | Dec 29

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service - NO Kids Church

11:00 am - Treats in the Connection Cafe - NO Sunday School

WED | Jan 1

Church Office Closed for New Year Holiday

SUN | Jan 5

8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service

9:45 am - Adult Bible Study: John

Adult Sunday School: A Survey of Church History (AD 100-600)

Kids & Youth Sunday School

10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service

WED | Jan 8

5:00 pm - Wednesday Night Family Meal

6:00 pm - Kids Club, Youth Group, & on-site Life Groups