

# Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

## Combined Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson/Laura Engelstad, piano duets

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading & Candle: Teddy & Rose Eastling

**What Child Is This? (Hymn #150)**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem (Hymn #155)**

**We Have A Savior**

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Offering & Prayer

Choir: "Hurry, Shepherds, Run!"

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:57-66, Lea Cermak

Message: Zechariah's Song, Pastor Jerry R. A. Johnson

**He Shall Reign Forevermore**

Benediction

## The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 014

This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric visits with our church's A/V Supervisor, Dan Evans to talk about worship technology, Big Ten football, and his faith in Jesus Christ. New episodes are posted every Tuesday. Visit [efcbemidji.org/podcast](http://efcbemidji.org/podcast) or listen via your favorite podcast app. Email [podcast@efcbemidji.org](mailto: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.

wi-fi: EFCB\_Guest | password: efreebemidji

## 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](mailto:efree@paulbunyan.net).

## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone involved in Operation Christmas Child. This year we received 7,098 shoeboxes which is up from last years number of 6,663. Thank you also to all who donated towards the shipping of a Christmas box.

## 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.

## Special Treats!

Do you have a favorite Christmas cookie or treat that you would like to share with the church? December 15th, we will be hosting a special Connection Cafe for the Christmas Cantata displaying favorite Christmas cookies and treats from your fellow church members. If you would like to bring something to share, please reach out to Rylie Helweg for details and to get your name on the list of participants. 218-407-4692 [Rylie.Helweg@gmail.com](mailto:Rylie.Helweg@gmail.com)

## Next Sunday, December 8, 2024

Message: Baby Jesus is Born

Luke 2:1-20 Pastor Jerry Johnson

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

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

## Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 1

9:30 am - Kids/Beginner Church (Lower, dismissed before sermon)

11:00 am - Kids Christmas Service Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, December 3

6:30 pm - Trail Life (Gym)

### Wednesday, December 4

5:00-5:45 pm - Family Meal: Spaghetti

6:00-7:45 pm - Kids Club, PreK - 5th Grade (Lower Level)

Youth Group, grades 6-12 (Youth Room)

### Sunday, December 8

9:00 am - Kids arrive to warm up and get into line

9:30 am - Kids are in the Sanctuary the entire service, no Kids Church

11:00 am - Kids Sunday School (Lower Level)

## 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

Dec. 1st - Attention all kids!

Please stay after the service today for our rehearsal for the Kids Christmas Service. We are meeting in the sanctuary at 11:00am.

December 8th at 9:00am.

All PreK -5th grade kids, please arrive at the Assembly Room on the lower level at 9:00am, dressed (in red/green or Christmas outfits) and ready to go. We will warm up and get lined up. We are beginning our 1st song at 9:20am for prelude. Please take care of bathroom breaks beforehand. Looking forward to celebrating and worshipping together!

## 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 paddocksonsaautorepair@gmail.com

### No Sunday School

There is no Kids or Youth Sunday School on Sunday December 1st.

### Youth Sunday School

Dec 8th, 15th and 22nd

6th-12th Grade Guys and Ladies are combined and will meet in the 5:11 room at 11:00am. Take a moment to slow down together during this busy season and join us in looking at the King of Humility as we think about Christmas. Enjoy some food, friends and fellowship!

### Christmas Party

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

## Young Adults

### Sunday, December 1

9:30 am - Combined Service

11:00 am - Treats in Connection Cafe

### Tuesday, December 3

6:30 pm - Anchor

7:00 pm - CRU Small Groups

women: South Conference Room

men: Ozawindib Room

7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, December 5

7:30 pm - CRU - Crying Wolf Room

## ANCH<sup>✚</sup>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

📷 follow @efreekidz | [www.efcbemidji.org/kids](http://www.efcbemidji.org/kids)

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

📷 follow @efcb\_sm | [www.efcbemidji.org/youth](http://www.efcbemidji.org/youth)

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

## Upcoming Events

### 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)

### Tuesday, December 3

10:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)  
10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)  
5:45 pm - Handbell Practice (Sanctuary)  
6:00 pm - Conquer (Room 2)  
6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Chapel)  
7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

### Wednesday, December 4

7:30 am - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)  
6:05 pm - Oasis (Green Room)

### Thursday, December 5

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)  
6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Chapel)  
7:00 pm - Shindelar Life Group (Fireside)

### Friday, December 6

7:00 am - Men's Discipleship (Chapel)  
1:00 pm - Mom's in Prayer (Fireside)  
6:00 pm - Ladies Christmas Tea (Gym)

### Saturday, December 7

8:30 am - Men's Breakfast (Gym)

### Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)  
9:30 am - Combined Worship Service/Kids Christmas Service  
11:00 am - Cake in the Connection Cafe for Corbin McCray  
2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)  
6:30 pm - Second Sunday Prayer (Chapel)

## What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

### Did you know...

In April 1989 we hired Pastor Dave Smith as Transition Facilitator. He led a leadership class and spent long hours on the building. Over 115 people put in 8,000 hours of volunteer labor! A Book of Remembrance was published to acknowledge each of those workers and praise God for all that was accomplished.

### Christmas Senior Potluck

Senior adults (age 50+) are invited to a special Christmas Senior Connection Potluck on Friday, Dec. 13 at 11:30. Bring a dish for lunch (simple or fancy, homemade or store-bought), and we'll fellowship around the tables. Feel free to wear that Christmas sweater if you like! Then we'll enjoy a musical program with piano by Kay Sue, Mary, and Laura; the Story Behind the Carol, and some singing too. Call Laura at 218-209-8190 with questions.

### Thank You Corbin!

On Sunday, December 8, we'll be thanking Corbin McCray for his service as our church's Facility Supervisor. After our combined 9:30 worship service, we'll enjoy some delicious cake in his honor in the Connection Café.

### Memorial Book Entry

Back in October of 2007 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Elizabeth M. Martin, a memorial gift of Communion Ware was presented by friends of the Martin family.

### 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!

### 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.



## Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji

115 Carr Lake Rd. SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 | [www.efcbemidji.org](http://www.efcbemidji.org)



### Church Office

Email: [efree@paulbunyan.net](mailto: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](mailto:pastorjerry@efcbemidji.org)

Eric Nygren, Associate Pastor ..... [pastoreric@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pastoreric@efcbemidji.org)

Amy Graf, Kids Ministry Director ..... [agraf@efcbemidji.org](mailto:agraf@efcbemidji.org)

### Support Staff

Corbin McCray, Facility Supervisor..... [facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org](mailto:facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org)

Dan Evans, A/V Supervisor..... [efcbemidjitech@gmail.com](mailto:efcbemidjitech@gmail.com)

Tom Halverson, Visitation Caregiver..... [tom.halverson63@gmail.com](mailto:tom.halverson63@gmail.com)

Jessica Westlund, Office Manager ..... [officemanager@efcbemidji.org](mailto:officemanager@efcbemidji.org)

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

**Giving** for November 24 , 2024

Weekly Giving: \$ 17,261

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 741,871

Needed YTD: 751,342



**Remaining Mortgage:** \$ 75,343

### Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, November 24, 2024

373 onsite | 36 screens / 5 states

SS: 13 kids | 11 youth | 39 adults

Connection Café/Misc: 68

### 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**

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**Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.**



@efcbemidji



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

## Zechariah's Praise-filled Prophecy

Luke 1:57-80 on December 1, 2024

Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Zechariah's praise-filled prophecy...

1) ...is preceded by \_\_\_\_\_ which causes people to be \_\_\_\_\_.

2) ...declares that \_\_\_\_\_.

3) ...reveals that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Visit [www.efcbemidji.org/sermons](http://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.



SPOILER ALERT: you may want to read these after hearing the sermon.

1. In Luke 1:57-58, Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives share her joy when her son is born. Tell us about a time when you shared in someone else's joy because God blessed them in some way.
2. In Luke 1:61, Zechariah's neighbors and relatives expect him to follow the naming traditions of his people. In verses 63-64, Zechariah declares, "his name is John," and he gets back his ability to speak. How might we learn from Zechariah's decision to obey God rather than being swayed by tradition or peer pressure?
3. Verses 65-66 say that all the neighbors were filled with awe when his parents named him John. They wondered "What then is this child going to be?" since the Lord's hand was with him. Why do you think verse 66 asks "What" this child is going to be, rather than "Who"? (*Hint: Consider verses 76-77.*)
4. Verse 69 refers to Jesus as a "Horn of Salvation." Verses 78-79 refer to Him as "the rising sun" who will shine on those living in darkness. How do you think these descriptions help us to better understand Jesus, and the hope of our salvation?
5. Verses 74-75 highlight how our salvation enables us to serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness. Do you think about your salvation this way? Explain.
6. Read Luke 1:78-79. What specific, modern-day examples come to mind when you consider God's tender mercy, those living in darkness, and the path of peace?

Our Life Groups are all about learning together and loving one another. Visit [www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups](http://www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups) for more info.



# 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. Hand-delivered 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.

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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.