

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Kids Christmas Combined Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Praise

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading & Candle: Vinny & Melanie Recine

Offering & Prayer

Handbells: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Message: Out of the Mouths of Babies, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Hope Has Come: Piper Helweg & Khloe Solors, duet

Joy To The World

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Baptism Testimonies (Video)

Baptism: Isaiah Caster, Elijah Caster, Chloe Fliss

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Benediction

Pick up a FREE Advent Devotional

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

Allen Benson

Our brother in the Lord, Allen Benson went home to be with the Lord on Friday, December 6th. His service is Thursday, December 12th at noon here at E-Free Bemidji. Visitation begins at 11:00am and a light lunch will be served after the service.

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.

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 015

This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric chats with an old friend, Dr. Matthew Harmon, professor of New Testament studies at Grace Theological Seminary to talk about Christology and what it has to do with Christmas. New episodes are posted every Tuesday. Visit efcbemidji.org/podcast or listen via your favorite podcast app. Email podcast@efcbemidji.org with comments or feedback.

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

Fraud Alert

Please be careful NOT to respond to any email or text messages supposedly coming from one of the church staff or other church members that asks you to purchase gift cards or give contact information such as our church directory. This is a scam. We never share this kind of information! Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

Next Sunday, December 15, 2024

Message: Bethlehem's Child

Luke 2:1-20 Pastor Jerry Johnson

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

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

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 8

9:00 am - Kids Christmas Service Rehearsal (Assembly Room)

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

Youth Sunday School-Grades 6-12 (511 Room)

Wednesday, December 11

5:00-5:45 pm - Family Meal: Hot Dogs, Chips, Carrots

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

Youth Group, grades 6-12 (Youth Room)

Sunday, December 29

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR KIDS CHURCH

Wednesday, December 25 & January 1

NO KIDS OR YOUTH MINISTRY

E-Free Kids Sunday School

11:00 am - 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



Foster/Adopt Mom Support Group

NO Group on December 9th

November-We had 9 moms & 6 kids.

In December, we are having a Christmas party for the Foster/Adoption Families that attend the Support Group.

Foster Closet:

Thank you for your donations, what a blessing! We helped about 6 kids in the last month. Our greatest needs are clothing in sizes 7-10 (boys & girls). If you want to donate, please contact Mandi Buchan or Amy Graf. Please do not drop clothes off at the closet or church office without contacting us first. Thank you!

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

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 - Dec. 18

On December 18th Youth Group will be having a Christmas Party! Middle School kids bring a sweet snack to share. High School kids bring a savory/salty snack to share. Wear an ugly sweater and invite a friend!

Young Adults

Sunday, December 8

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⁺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

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

📷 follow @efcb_sm | www.efcbemidji.org/youth

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am - Worship Team Practice
- 8:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)
- 9:00 am - Kids Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service/Kids Christmas Service
- 11:00 am - Cake in the Connection Cafe for Corbin McCray
- 11:00 am - Adult Sunday School: Church History Survey (Chapel)
Gospel of John (Room 10)
- 2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)
- 6:30 pm - Second Sunday Prayer (Chapel)

Monday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 10

- 10:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)
- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)
- 5:45 pm - Handbell Practice (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm - Global Connections Meeting (Fireside Room)
- 7:00 pm - Trustee Board Meeting (Conference Room)
- 7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 11

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

Thursday, December 12

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)
- 2:00 pm - Pickleball (Gym)
- 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Chapel)
- 7:00 pm - Shindelar Life Group (Fireside)

Friday, December 13

- 7:00 am - Men's Discipleship (Chapel)
- 11:30 am - Senior Connection Potluck (Connection Cafe)
- 1:00 pm - Mom's in Prayer (Fireside)

Saturday, December 14

- 1:00 pm - Christmas Cantata practice (Sanctuary)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Did you know...

On a rainy Memorial Day in 1989 we moved out of the old church on Washington Av. Oak Hills Bible College let us use space for several months during this transition time, even providing offices for the staff. We are so grateful for their support through the years! Services in our new, lofty sanctuary began on July 30, 1989.

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.

Friday AM Men's Discipleship

Join us from 7:00-7:50 am for Friday AM Men's Discipleship. We are starting a new book this week, Hearing God by Dallas Willard. Contact Pastor Eric for a copy (\$15).

Memorial Book Entry

Back in December of 2007 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Eleanor Schmidt, a memorial gift toward Sanctuary Projection Equipment was presented by her family.

Thank You Corbin!

Today, 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.

Thank you Decorating Team!

Thanks so much to those who've decorated our church building so beautifully for this Christmas season!

Bibles and One-Year Devotional For Sale

We have a variety of NIV Bibles for sale in the Connection Cafe. Prices range from \$20 to \$35. We also have a new one-year devotional called Everyday Gospel available for \$10. Use the included envelope for payment. Pick one up to give as a Christmas gift or to start a Bible-reading habit in the new year.

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

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving for December 1, 2024

Weekly Giving: \$ 12,260

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 754,130

Needed YTD: 767,328

Remaining Mortgage: \$ 65,357.89



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, December 1, 2024

329 onsite | 24 screens / 5 states

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

61 adults, 68 children, 47 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.



And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 18:3 (NIV)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

See these penguins?

These winter days are getting awfully cold! So let's huddle for warmth! Ok, not exactly, but we are inviting our E-Free family to make room for one another and to make our visitors feel more welcome.



During the Christmas season, we have lots of guests and visitors who join us for worship. Let's do what we can to provide them with as many open seats, and open parking spaces, as we possibly can.

Therefore, would you please consider "Scooting Up and Parking Low"?

- *Scoot up and over a few seats toward the front and middle of our Sanctuary.*
- *Leave the back rows for those who may be running late.*
- *If you're able, park in the lower parking lot.*

These are simple but effective ways to bless one another as we worship together. So, what do you say? Could you please help us out by scooting up and parking low? 😊