

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Combined Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading & Candle: Katrin Crow, Dennis Crow

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (Hymn #157)

Offering & Prayer

Cantata - Part 1

Dismiss for Kids/Beginners Church

Message: Bethlehem's Child

Cantata - Part 2

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Hymn #173)

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.

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.

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

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

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Now Hiring:

Facility Supervisor

Please pray for our Search Team as we look for our next Facility Supervisor. The job description is 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 016

This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric talks about one of his favorite things—books. Tune in to learn about our first Podcast Read-Along in 2025, an opportunity to read a Christian classic together in the new year. 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.

Jerry Hannah

Jerry passed away on Sunday Dec 10th. We are glad to know he is with his Lord. Please keep his wife Mary in your prayers. His funeral will be Tuesday, December 17 at 2:00pm at the E-Free church.

Flowers

The flowers on display this Sunday are left in memory of Allen Benson.

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 22, 2024

Message: The Consolation of Israel

Luke 2:21-40 Pastor Jerry Johnson

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 15

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

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

11:00 am - Youth Sunday School (511 Room)

Tuesday, December 17

6:30 pm - Trail Life (Gym)

Wednesday, December 18

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 Party, 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

Dec. 15th and Dec. 22nd at 11am

All Kids are welcome.

PreK/Kind (PreK Room)

1st-5th grade (5th grade classroom)

Thank you!

A special Thank you to Becky Eastling, Deb Graves, Barb Capes, Karissa Evans, Nordica Dodge, and Allison Volante for teaching our Kids Sunday School this year. It has been beautiful to watch the kids build a relationship with these leaders and learn about the Bible.



Kids Club Christmas Party

Our Kids Club Christmas Party is this Wednesday, Dec. 18th. Kids are encouraged (but not required) to wear Red/Green, Christmas PJ's, or Ugly Christmas Sweaters to help celebrate our night! Each class will have their party in their classroom and we will have a big celebration in the gym with bouncy houses and games! Hope to see you all on Wednesday to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

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 15th and 22nd

6th-12th Grade Guys and Ladies are combined and will meet in the 5:11 room at 11:00am.

Christmas Party - Dec. 18

On December 18th Youth Group will be having a Christmas Party! Ugly Sweater contest, cookie decorating, friends and fun! Middle School kids bring a sweet snack to share. High School kids bring a savory/salty snack to share.

Sugar Cookies needed!!!

If you like to bake, we need plain sugar cookies for the students to decorate. Let Shelly know if you can bring some. 218-760-2821

Young Adults

Sunday, December 15

9:30 am - Combined Service

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

Tuesday, December 17

6:30 pm - Anchor Christmas Party

7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 19

2:00 pm - Pickleball (gym)

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 will resume January 23, 2025. 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 **efcbasm** to **94000** join our Student Ministries notification system.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service | Cantata

11:00 am - Adult Sunday School: Church History Survey (Chapel)
Gospel of John (Room 10)

2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

Monday, December 16

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

Tuesday, December 17

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

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

2:00 pm - Jerry Hannah Funeral

5:45 pm - Handbell Practice (Sanctuary)

6:00 pm - Conquer (Room 2)

7:15 pm - Choir (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 18

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

3:00 pm - Ruby's Pantry (Sanford Center)

6:05 pm - Oasis (Green Room)

Thursday, December 19

10:00 am - Tom H. Life Group (Fireside Room)

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

2:00 pm - Pickleball (Gym)

6:30 pm - Elder Board Meeting (Conference Room)

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

6:30 pm - Worship Practice (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm - Shindelar Life Group (Fireside)

Friday, December 20

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

1:00 pm - Mom's in Prayer (Fireside)

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:45 am - Prayer (Fireside Room)

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service | Cantata

11:00 am - Adult Sunday School: Church History Survey (Chapel)
Gospel of John (Room 10)

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.

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.

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).

Barnabas groups

In a Barnabas group we are committed to pray and care for one or a few of our Global Partners. A group usually meets for prayer quarterly or bi monthly. Please, inquire with Peter Eriksson or Pastor Eric if you are interested in praying and caring for a specific Global Partner. Tonight and tomorrow there will be two different groups meeting:

- 1) Sunday night, December 15th at 6:30 in the Eriksson's home praying for the work in South Asia. Call Peter and Kay Sue Eriksson for any questions. 218-766 -9991
- 2) Monday morning, December 16 at 9:30am in the Thomas home, praying for two newly sent young couples starting work in N. Africa. This group is meeting for the first time. Call Paul Thomas 218 - 759 - 9026 for any questions.

Gilmen Tinnies

Gilmen passed away on Sunday Dec 8th. We are glad to know he is out of pain and with his Lord. Please keep his wife Bonnie in your prayers. His funeral will be in Oslo in the spring.

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

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 8, 2024

Weekly Giving: \$ 12,368

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 766,499

Needed YTD: 783,314

Remaining Mortgage: \$ 65,357.89



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, December 8, 2024

345 onsite | 34 screens / 11 states

2 countries

SS: 7 kids | 11 youth | 21 adults

Connection Café/Misc: 96

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

64 adults, 66 children, 54 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 **efcbism** to **94000**

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

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



But the angel said
to them, "Do not be
afraid. I bring you
good news that will
cause great joy for
all the people.

Today in the town of
David a Savior has been
born to you; he is the
Messiah, the Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11 (NIV)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024
THE THIRD 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? 😊

Bethlehem's Child

by Victor C. Johnson
and Lloyd Larson
December 15, 2024

Part 1

- #1 Come and Worship
- #2 Our Hope Is in Emmanuel
- #3 Waiting and Longing
- #4 My Soul Does Magnify the Lord

Part 2

- #5 Christ Is Born in Bethlehem
- #6 Run, Shepherds!
- #7 Cradle Carol
- #8 Bethlehem's Child

Directors: Tayler Borders, Ian Trosen
Piano: Laura Engelstad
Flute: Taumi Wilson
Narrator: Kate Trosen

Cantata Choir

Soprano

Melodie Allen
Rachel Bolles
Jan Carlson
Mona Carter
Judy Emery
Chavvah Fricke
Nichole Hassebroek
Sharna Johnson
Patti Lofgren
Ruth Lofgren
Becky Martinez

Alto

Becky Eastling
Linda Garrett
Holly Howes
Karen Oftelie
Tracy Parthun
Taumi Wilson

Tenor

Tayler Borders
LaDon Howes
John Lofgren
Bill Oakes
Ian Trosen

Bass

Reed Carlson
Aaron Johnson
Chris Parthun
Nate Wilson