

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Traditional Worship Service - 8:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Praise To The Lord The Almighty (Hymn #77)

My Faith Has Found A Resting Place (Hymn #495)

Offering & Prayer

Choir Anthem "Come Thou Fount"

Dismiss for Kids Church (1st-5th grade)

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:12-26, Ron Bouchie

Message: Authority to Heal and Forgive, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Communion

My Savior's Love (Hymn #478)

Benediction

BIG SALE!

Please check out our 100th Anniversary table in the Connection Cafe. We have a big BLOWOUT sale going on now! Buy any 2 items for \$5! You can get 2 T-shirts, 2 history books, or 1 of each! Please see Jessica in the church office if you don't see your t-shirt size.

Women's Overflow

Ladies! Come join us Monday, February 24th from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Connection Cafe for a calm evening of "Mindful Mending" with Sashiko. We'll also fellowship together over dessert and conversation. Stop by the Women's Ministry table to sign up.

📶 wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Contemporary Worship Service - 10:45 AM

Prelude: Healer

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Battle Belongs

Way Maker

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church (Pre-K-5th Grade)

Offering & Prayer

Jesus Name Above All Names

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:12-26, Lindsay Nygren

Message: Authority to Heal and Forgive, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Communion

Strong God

Benediction

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 026

We're back with another Testimony Tuesday episode of the Deeply Devoted Podcast. This week get to know one of our young adults, Rachel Eastling to learn more about how she came to know the Lord and how God has been at work in her life. Visit efcbemidji.org/podcast or listen via your favorite podcast app. Send your 'Ask the Pastor' questions to podcast@efcbemidji.org

Ask the Pastor

If you could ask our pastors one question, what would it be? Coming soon to The Deeply Devoted Podcast, we'll be answering your questions about theology, our church, culture, or whatever you're curious about. Submit your questions to podcast@efcbemidji.org or contact the church office.

Next Sunday, March 2, 2025

Message: Are Signs and Wonders for Today?

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, February 23

8:30 am - Kids Church (Lower Level, dismissed before sermon)

9:45 am - Kids Sunday School (Lower Level)

Youth Sunday School (511 Room)

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

Wednesday, February 26

5:00-5:45 pm - Family Meal: Pulled Pork Sandwiches

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

Youth Group, grades 6-12 (Youth Room)

E-Free Kids

Kids Ministry Envelope Fundraiser

This fundraiser is to help offset costs to kids attending the Shamineau 4/6 Retreat in April. The envelopes are in the Connection Cafe.

Grab an envelope, and insert the amount that is on the envelope and drop it in an offering plate, an offering box, or bring it to the church office. We are hoping to raise \$1000 (\$40/kid). Thank you for your generosity and helping kids attend this retreat!

Shamineau 4/6 Retreat

April 4-6, Calling all parents of 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Please make sure and pick up a registration form at the child check-in table in the main foyer if your child wants to attend this retreat. Registration forms and a non-refundable deposit of \$25 is due to Jessica at the church office by March 2nd. The remainder of \$50 is due by March 30th. If you have any questions, contact Amy or Jessica.

Youth Ministry



District Blitz -

LAST CALL!

April 11-13 is District Blitz in Duluth. This youth conference is for 6-12th grade students wanting to go deeper in their faith. Cost is \$175 with a **\$75 non-refundable deposit due February 26th**. Information packets and forms are found on the Parent Table just outside the gym. Scholarships are available! Contact Shelly with questions: shellymustful@gmail.com

E-Free Prom LAST CALL!

"Amongst the Stars," is March 8th from 7pm-11pm for 9th-12th grade students at the Nary School/Helga Town Hall. Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased in the church office until **March 1st**. Tickets will not be sold at the event.

Sunday School

March 2nd a new Sunday School class for grades 6-12 will be starting using The Money Challenge for Teens. We will be meeting together in the 511 room and it will be led by Matt & Shelbi Myrick.

Young Adults

Sunday, February 23

8:30 am - Traditional Service

9:45 am - Gospel of John (Room 10)
Church History Survey (Ch)

10:45 am - Contemporary Service

7:00 pm - CRU Women
(BSU library, 3rd floor)

Tuesday, February 25

6:30 pm - Anchor Life Group

Wednesday, February 26

7:15 pm - CRU Men (BSU, south
Conference Room of lower union)

Thursday, February 27

6:30 pm - Volleyball (gym)

7:30 pm - CRU Large Group (BSU
Crying Wolf room)

ANCHOR

Anchor is our young adult life group. We will 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 on BSU campus for the spring semester. Open to all BSU, Oak Hills, NW Tech, Leech Lake, & Red Lake Nation students.

See Mark C. or Terry H. with questions: mhockeymd@gmail.com
Terryleehewitt@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 23

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

Monday, February 24

- 6:30 am - Women's Overflow (Connection Café)

Tuesday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

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

Thursday, February 27

- 10:00 am - Halverson Life Group (Fireside Room)
- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)
- 2:00 pm - Pickleball (Gym)
- 6:30 pm - Worship Team (Sanctuary)
 - Women's Bible Study Fellowship BSF (Chapel)
 - Volleyball (gym)
- 7:00 pm - Shindelar Life Group (Fireside Room)

Friday, February 28

- 7:00 am - Men's Discipleship (Fireside Room)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Did you know...

After much discussion, in 2003 we began using two different styles of worship music: traditional at 8:30, and contemporary at 11:00. The change prompted a good response, suggestions, and feedback. Pastor Fred led the whole church through the book "The Red Sea Rules" in his messages. A huge praise was paying off the mortgage for the initial building at our current location; but more building was on the horizon.

Communion

Today, February 23, the Lord's Supper will be served during our 8:30am and 10:45am worship services. We will be using our non-alcoholic communion juice and gluten free bread. All who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior are invited to celebrate with us. Please take time to reflect upon your walk with the Lord and relationships with other Christians. 1 Corinthians 11:28 urges, "We ought to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup." The Lord's Supper represents Christians' union with Jesus and unity with other believers.

Pastor of Youth and Young Adults Search Committee Update

Hello, church family. I want to update you on the progress of the Pastor of Youth and Young Adults search and ask for your continued prayers. At the congregational meeting, I mentioned that the committee was close to a candidate. After weeks of calling references and conducting Zoom and in-person interviews, we were one interview away from voting as a committee to recommend a candidate to the elders. Before the last interview was scheduled, the individual asked to be put on hold while he and his wife clarified their call from God with regard to ministry. After months of work, we are back to square one. Please pray for the committee as we continue seeking the individual God has for our church. God is in control and has a plan! Pray that His plan will be clear to us as a committee.

Respectfully,
Danny Paddock Committee Chair

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

Justin Nicholson, Facility Supervisor..... facilitiesupervisor@efcbemidji.org

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving for February 16, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$ 36,832

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 118,135

Needed YTD: \$ 111,902



Remaining Mortgage: \$ 37,753.18

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, February 16, 2025

322 onsite | 47 screens / 11 states

SS: 17 kids | 12 youth | 24 adults

Connection Café/Misc: 67

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

76 adults, 71 children, 58 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 **efcbm** to **94000**

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

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



@efcbemidji

WHEN JESUS SAW THEIR FAITH, HE SAID,
FRIEND, YOUR SINS ARE
FORGIVEN

LUKE 5:20 (NIV)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

As we continue to pray for one another, and for our little local church up here on the south end of Bemidji, let's praise God that He hears our prayers and is attuned to our needs. Praise God that we can approach His throne with freedom and confidence. Hebrews 4:16 exhorts us, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Praise God for providing Justin Nicholson as our new Facility Supervisor. Please pray for Justin as he learns the ropes and gets his head around a lot of square footage to keep clean and well maintained. Also, please continue to pray for our Youth and Young Adult Pastor search committee. We are prayerfully seeking just the right fit, and we are trusting God to provide this person according to His perfect timing. Please pray for strength, wisdom, and perseverance for our faithful search committee which includes: Bethany Anderson, Caleb Caster, Jerry Drebelbis, Amy Graf, Jerry Johnson, Shelly Mustful, Eric Nygren, Danny Paddock (chair), and Alexa Zylka.

Please pray for the many leaders in our church who are serving on various boards, committees, and teams throughout the church. Pray for gospel focus and effectiveness. Pray for unity and alignment in and among us as brothers and sisters in Christ. We have varying opinions about things, differing skillsets, and a broad range of personal preferences which we often need to surrender for the sake of others. Pray that we'll be mutually obedient and in step with God's perfect will all along the way. Pray that we'll be openhearted and open-minded when things need to change. And pray that we'll apologize to one another and reconcile with one another whenever we need to. Pray that we will all live according to God's Word as best as we can. Pray that we'll embrace and live out the truth of Ephesians 4:29–32, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Pray that we'll be good stewards of all of the many things with which God has gifted us, including our personal time, talents, and treasures, as well as our corporate finances, facilities, and ministries. Pray that God will be honored this year as our church implements our Strategic Ministry Plan. Pray that we'll be a church that's on mission as people who are "becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together." Pray for our vision to be realized as a church who glorifies God in all of life, is transformed by God's Word, serves and cares for each other in love, welcomes all people and cares for our neighbors, and personally shares the gospel locally and globally. Pray that our core values of God's glory, a biblical foundation, congregational worship, caring for the body of believers, connecting with the community, and evangelizing the lost will empower and guide each and every one of our ministries.

Let's also pray that our Discipleship Pathway will guide us toward maturity in Christ together. May our 4 gospel G's be more than a memorable alliteration. Pray that we will GATHER around the gospel and not lesser things. Pray that we'll GROW in the gospel in authentic, spiritual maturity. Pray that we'll GIVE toward the gospel both financially and in serving with our spiritual gifts. Pray that we'll GO with the gospel both locally and globally.

In terms of gathering, pray the words of Hebrews 10:23-25 for yourself and for our church:

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

In terms of growing, pray the words of 2 Timothy 3:14-17 for yourself and for our church:

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

In terms of giving, pray the words of 1 Peter 4:10-11 for yourself and for our church:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

In terms of going, pray the words of 2 Corinthians 5:14-20 for yourself and for our church:

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

Please keep each of our Global Partners in prayer as they carry the gospel to places nearby and far away. Pray for their overall health and wellness. Pray for financial favor and good stewardship. Pray for favor with the logistics and paperwork and travel arrangements that often make our break their opportunities to serve. Pray for Spirit led inroads with the various people and cultures in which they serve, and pray for a good understanding of the various intricacies of foreign languages and practices. Pray for language skills and the ability to get culturally appropriate discipleship materials and Bibles. Pray for spiritual protection from our enemy, and for discernment in spiritual warfare.

Looking ahead to March, please pray for a meaningful season of Lent leading up to Easter. Pray for all of the various special events, as well as the regular weekly and monthly discipleship activities that happen day after day. As always, let’s continue to pray that God will help us to become more and more the church that He would have us be.

Together for Christ, Pastor Jerry

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together