

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..... facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving for March 23, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$ 9,952

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 176,587

Needed YTD: \$ 191,832



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325 onsite | 43 screens / 6 states

SS: 22 kids | 8 youth | 34 adults

Connection Café/Misc: 39

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

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Sign up for text notifications

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General notifications: text **efree** to **94000**

E-Free Kids Ministry: text **efreekids** to **94000**

Youth Ministry: text **efcbism** to **94000**

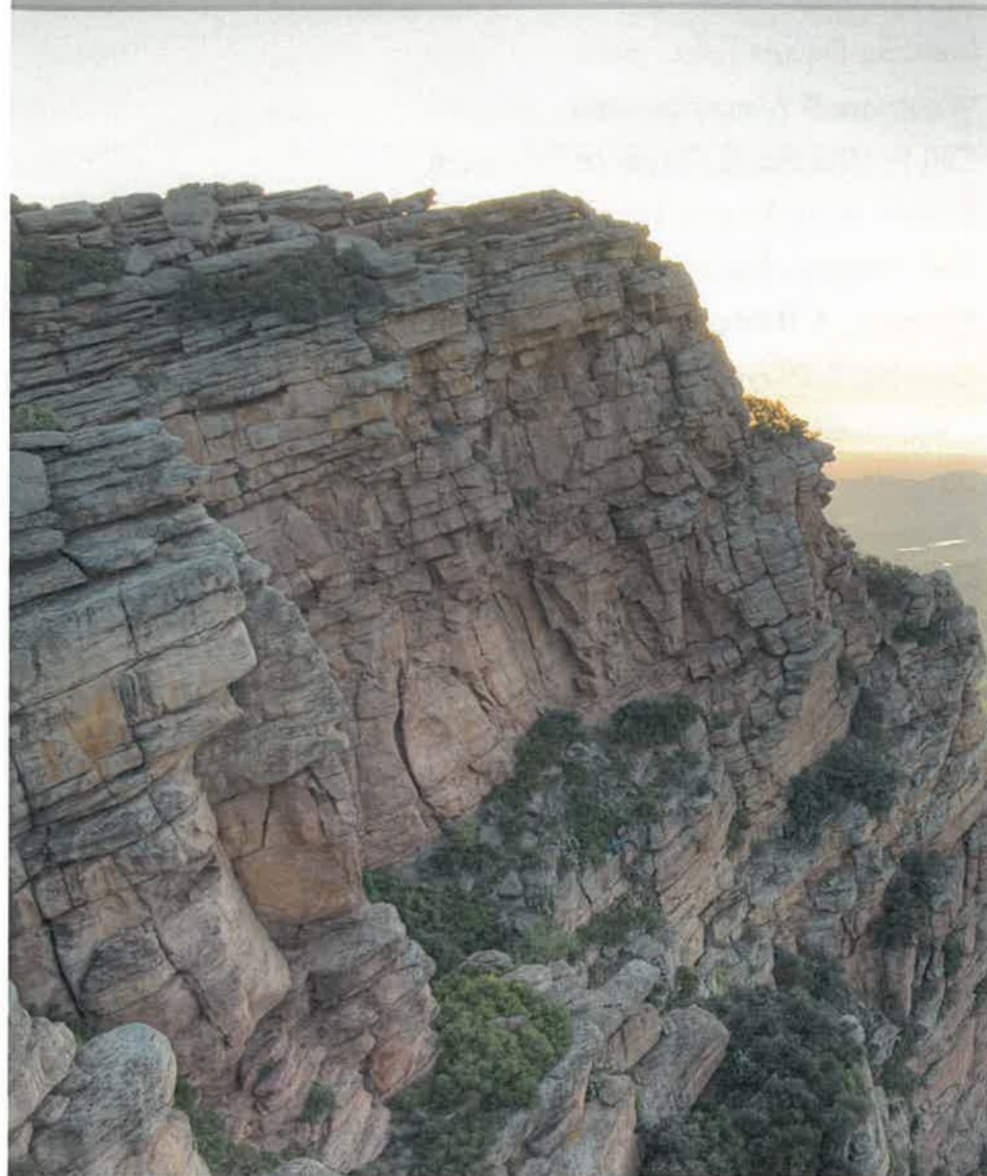
Prayer chain: text **efreeprayer** to **94000**

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Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together. @efcbemidji



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all
its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12



SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Traditional Worship Service - 8:30 AM

Prelude: Dwight Fultz, guitar

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Praise Him! Praise Him! (Hymn #96)

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It! (Hymn #505)

There Is A Redeemer

Offering & Prayer

Handbells: "Caribbean Praise on O For a Thousand Tongues"

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:12-16, Reed Carlson

Message: The Twelve, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

King Of Kings

Benediction

Holy Week

Please see your insert for events going on during Holy Week here at church starting on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

You can also visit efcbemidji.org/pco-events or download the Church Center app to view the full calendar.

Newcomers Lunch

Have you started coming to E-Free Bemidji recently? Do you still feel new to our church family? You're invited to be our guest for our Newcomers Lunch today, Sunday, March 30th at 12:00 pm.

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Contemporary Worship Service - 10:45 AM

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Mountain Song

Praise

Firm Foundation

Offering & Prayer

Offertory Song: God So Loved

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:12-16, Kyle

Message: The Twelve, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

King of Kings

Benediction

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 031

As spring arrives, this week on the podcast we are talking about gardening. Pastor Eric sits down with Scott and Laura Engelstad to chat about their love for growing things and what it means to garden to the glory of God.

Friday Men's Discipleship

Gentlemen, we're just getting started with a new video series, Fully Devoted from the makers of the movie The Forge. Join us on Friday mornings in the Fireside Room from 7:00-7:50 am for coffee and conversation. No prep needed. Just show up!

Next Sunday, April 6, 2025

Message: Preparing Our Hearts for the Cross

Isaiah 59:1-4, 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, March 30

8:30 am - Kids/Beginner Church (Lower Level)

9:45 am - Kids Sunday School (Lower Level)
Youth Sunday School (511 Room)

10:45 am - Kids/Beginner Church (Lower Level)

Tuesday, April 1

6:30 pm - Trail Life (gym)

Wednesday, April 2

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)

Friday - Sunday, April 4-6

Shamaineau 46 - Motley

E-Free Kids

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

To continue to serve our families and offer Nursery and Beginner's/Kids Church, we need more people to volunteer.

Please contact the office or Amy if you are considering helping.

Shamaineau 46 Retreat

Pray for our 25 Kids and 6 volunteers going to Camp Shamaineau this weekend. Pray for opportunity for spiritual growth, learning, and fun and pray for their safety, both physically and emotionally, and that they may make meaningful connections and friendships.

2025 VBS

Save the date!

August 10th-13th from 6:00pm-8:15pm

4 years-5th grade

We hope your kids will join us this year as we

Live It Out: Discover how to love like Jesus



📱 follow @efreekidz | www.efcbemidji.org/kids

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

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

Looking Ahead

No Youth Sunday School April 13th due to District Blitz. Feel free to join 2nd Sunday Prayer that week in the chapel.

Youth Outreach Night

Wednesday, April 16th 6:00-8:00pm

With no Kids Club this night, youth will get the gym for the evening! 6th-12th grade invite your friends for a night of pizza, volleyball, games and testimony!

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

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

Young Adults

Sunday, March 30

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, April 1

6:30 pm - Anchor Life Group

Wednesday, April 2

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

Thursday, April 3

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

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, March 30

- 8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service
- 9:45 am - Gospel of John (Room 10)
 - Church History Survey (Chapel)
- 10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service
- 12:00 pm - Newcomer's Lunch (gym)
- 2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

Monday, March 31

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

Tuesday, April 1

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

Wednesday, April 2

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

Thursday, April 3

- 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, April 4

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

Saturday, April 5

- 8:30 am - Master Gardener Event (gym)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Did you know...

In 2014 Pastor Fred announced his retirement after 36 years of ministry. The church family was saddened to hear this news, but happy for the Martins to be able to eventually move near family. (Fred and Berta continued to fellowship with the church until 2020). Interim Pastor Peter Kolb ably guided us through the transition process in 2014-2016, helping us look at our needs as a church and plan for the future.

Memorial Book Entry

Back in 2011 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Lowell "Ted" Gillet, a memorial gift toward Sanctuary Projection Equipment was presented by family and friends.

April Senior Potluck

Seniors, join us for our potluck on Friday, April 11 at 11:30 in the Connection Cafe. We'll enjoy lunch and fellowship together. The Sheriff's Dept. will update us on current scams to watch out for, and Jessica from the church office will also share examples. Contact Laura at 218-209-8190 with questions. Feel free to bring a friend!

Softball Practice

Spring is here and so is church softball! Here are the first practice dates: April 7th and 21st starting at 6:30pm in the E-Free Gym. Co-ed, ages 14+ are welcome to join, no experience necessary. Contact Matt Myrick with questions 218-242-0822.

Women's Overflow

Ladies! Join us Monday, March 31st at 6:30 PM as we hear from Dr. Gale Struthers, Director of Biblical Studies at Oak Hills Christian College, as she speaks on "Women at the Cross and Tomb". Stop by the Women's Min table in the Connection Cafe and sign up!

Handbell Music

The handbell piece today is an arrangement of Hymn #130: O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.

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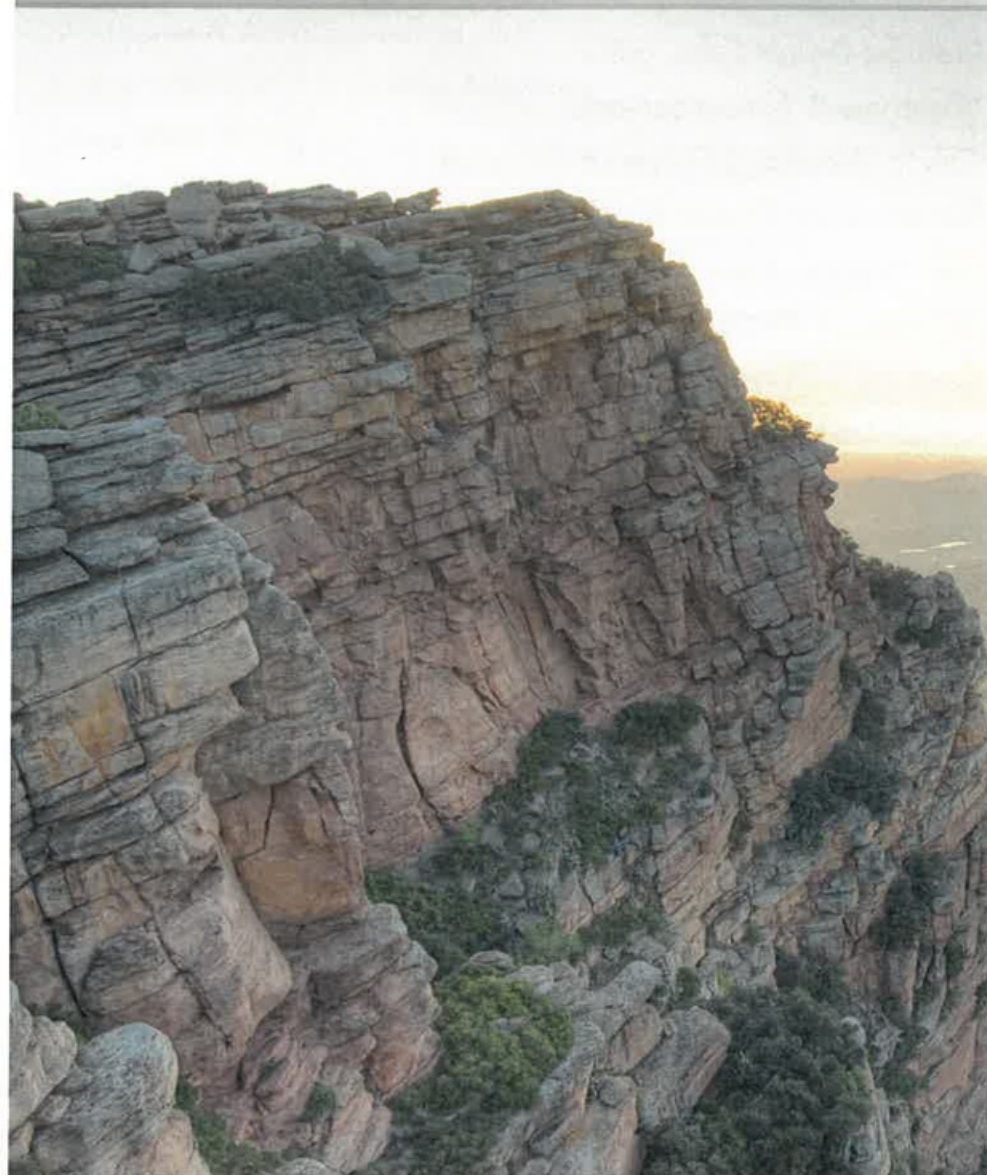
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1 Corinthians 12:12



SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

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Holy Week

at E-Free Bemidji

Palm Sunday, April 13th

Hosanna! Holy Week begins with praise to Christ our King. Jason Robeck, our 10:45 Music Director will share a message on the topic of worship at both services. In between services, our Trail Life troop will host a free Pancake Breakfast in the Gym. No Sunday School classes on Palm Sunday.

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

9:45 am Pancake Breakfast hosted by Trail Life

10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service

Tuesday, April 15th

The Deeply Devoted Podcast: Episode 033

The Hope of the Resurrection with special guest Dr. Jeff Brannon
Professor and Chair of Biblical Studies Department, Belhaven Univ.

Good Friday, April 18th

Our focus for the evening will be on the finished work of Christ. The service will be an evening of music from our Handbell Choir, Worship Team, Choir, and Youth Band. Pastor Eric will give a message about Christ's finished work and we will share in Communion together. Nursery will be available.

7:00 pm Good Friday Service: *It Is Finished!* with Communion

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! We celebrate the resurrection with a morning of music, testimony, prayer, and a message about our salvation in Christ from Pastor Jerry. We will have refreshments in the Connection Café in between services. No Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday.

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service

with music from our Choir, Handbells, and brass players

9:45 am Refreshments in the Connection Café

10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service

with music from our Worship Team and Handbell Choir

Visit efcbemidji.org/pco-events or download
the Church Center app to view the full calendar.

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

As we come to the end of March, let's begin with prayers of thanksgiving and praise for all that God has been doing in and through our church. If you have a Sunday bulletin handy, take some time to page through it and thank God for the many ministries and ministry workers who are serving in our church. Praise God for our Life Groups meeting onsite and in various homes, and thank God for our many Life Group leaders. Praise God for our staff and the ministries they oversee. Praise God for our various Bible studies throughout the week, and the men and women who lead them. Praise God for bone builders, pickle ball, volleyball, and other healthy and wholesome activities that happen in our gym. And praise God for the men and women who lead these activities. And please pray for our upcoming softball ministry this summer. Praise God for our worship teams, song leaders, choir, handbells, and various other musicians who serve and lead on Sundays, Wednesdays, and throughout the week. Praise God for Trail Life and Kids Ministry and Youth Ministry, and the many leaders who serve in these ministries faithfully each week. Pray that genuine discipleship and spiritual growth will occur.

Praise God for Cru and our Anchor Life Group and other young adults ministries, as well as the leaders who help keep them going. Praise God for multiple prayer groups that meet inside and outside of our church building all throughout the week. Pray that our prayers would be pervasive and abundant, as we lift up all of our praises, confessions, and requests to God. Praise God that our ministries and our lives are being bathed in prayer. Pray that 2nd Sunday prayer would continue to grow in attendance and fervor. Praise God for our monthly Senior Potluck as well as the many visits that various people from our church are able to make in people's homes and care centers throughout the month. Praise God that so many people are being ministered to and not forgotten. Praise God for our elders and trustees as they faithfully serve and care for the needs of our church behind the scenes as well as upfront. Pray that they'll have wisdom and unity in leading the mission and vision of our church. Praise God for our Men's Breakfast and our women's Overflow ministries, and the leaders who help with them. Praise God for the perseverance of our Youth and Young Adults Youth Pastor search committee. Pray that God is preparing our next pastor to come here soon. And praise God that these two opening paragraphs are filled with so many great things for which we can give God praise! And feel free to praise God for anything else that may not have been mentioned above.

Please pray for the needs on our prayer chain. Pray for our various Global Partners. Pray for our Global Connections Team as they serve our Global Partners, and also as they prayerfully consider some short-term mission opportunities for our church family in the year ahead. Pray for our Newcomers Lunch this Sunday, March 30. Pray for Nametag Sundays, and our Connection Café times, and our welcome team ministry and ushers, as we give our best effort each week to welcoming new people and helping them get plugged in to our church family. Pray for our membership classes as we invite people to consider the next level of commitment to the life and ministry of our church.

Pray for our church's vision of becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together. May God deepen our faith and direct us daily in following Jesus well. Pray that we'll love God and love people as we're empowered by the Holy Spirit within us. Pray for our vision to be a local church who glorifies God and is transformed by His Word. Pray that we'll serve and care for each other in love. Pray that we'll welcome all people and care for our neighbors. Pray that each one of us will personally share the gospel, whether that be locally, globally, or both.

Pray that our congregational worship will be pleasing to God and done with as much excellence as we can muster, because God is worthy of our best. Please pray for our Discipleship Pathway, that as people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, we can then guide them toward maturity in Christ. Please pray for our 4 gospel Gs. Pray that each one of us will consistently *Gather around the gospel* on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Pray that we'll *Grow in the gospel* as we encourage, teach, and spur one another on in the faith. Pray that each one of us will *Give toward the gospel* generously, as we worship God with our time and energy in serving, and with our tithes and offerings in financial giving. And pray that all of this will lead us to energetic mission and enthusiasm to *Go with the gospel* to our friends and neighbors, to our classmates and work colleagues, and to strangers nearby and around the globe.

Looking ahead to April, please pray for a meaningful Easter season. Pray not only for the preparation of all of the many ministry activities, but pray also for the preparation of our hearts. Pray for our hearts as believers, that we'd be honest about our sin and confess it freely. Pray that our hearts will be prepared to worship God fully and freely for all that Jesus has done for us. Pray that we can celebrate the risen Christ in a renewed and reverent way. Pray that these next few weeks will be an impactful time of outreach to those who do not yet know Christ. Pray that God will be preparing the hearts of those who are spiritually lost. Pray for spiritual hunger and curiosity. Pray that each of us will be active in our personal witness, and eagerly looking for opportunities to talk with people who are spiritually searching and in need. Pray that we'll be ready to invite them to come to our church and learn more about the Good News.

And 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