

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Traditional Worship Service - 8:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

I Will Sing Of My Redeemer (Hymn #492)

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Hymn #45)

Oh, the Mercy of God

Ministry Moment: Women's Ministry/Overflow

Offering & Prayer

Dismiss for Kids/Beginner Church (PreK-5th grade)

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:17-26, Brian Eastling

Message: Allowing Blessings and Woes to Inform our Worldview,
Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

We Are God's People (Hymn #700)

Benediction

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 035

This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric is recording from downtown Indianapolis at TGC25, The Gospel Coalition Conference. Visit efcbemidji.org/podcast or search for The Deeply Devoted Podcast wherever you listen to your podcasts.

May 9 Senior Potluck

Seniors, join us for our next potluck on Friday, May 9 at 11:30 in the Connection Cafe. We'll plan again to hear from the Sheriff's Dept. about scams to watch out for. We'll also encourage each other in our Christian walk, and enjoy lunch together. Come check out our new tea table area! For questions, call Laura at 218-209-8190.

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

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

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Contemporary Worship Service - 10:45 AM

Prelude: The Blessing

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Not To Us

Praise

Holy Forever

Offering & Prayer

Ministry Moment: Women's Ministry/Overflow

Dismiss for Kids/Beginner Church (PreK-5th grade)

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:17-26, Reed Carlson

Message: Allowing Blessings and Woes to Inform our Worldview,
Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Benediction

Baby Shower!

Seth & Zirah Neill are awaiting a sweet baby girl! Please join them May 10th in the Connection Café from 11 - 1 pm for their baby shower. Please RSVP to 218-760-5615. They are registered at Target.

Open House

Please join the Eastlings in celebrating Ben and his graduation from High School. Their open house is May 4th from 2-4pm at Camp Oak Hills.

Women's Overflow

Ladies! Join us Monday, April 28th at The Bemidji Community Food Shelf for our last Overflow of the year. Bring an item or two to donate. Popular but understocked items include: canned tuna or chicken, spices, Bisquick or muffin mixes, canned fruit, and name brand cereals. Stop by the Women's Min table for a reminder invite!

Next Sunday, May 4, 2025

Message: Being Kind to the Ungrateful and the Wicked
Luke 6:27-36, Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 27

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

Wednesday, April 30

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

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

Youth Group, grades 6-12 (Youth Room)

E-Free Kids

5th Graders Visit Youth Group!

5th graders will be joining the Youth Group this night, April 30th! Please check in your 5th grader & walk them to the 5th grade room on the lower level. They will walk to youth group as a class. Please pick them up at 7:45 in the 5th grade 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

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 would considering helping. Ideally, if enough people volunteered you would only need to serve once per month or every couple months.

2025 VBS

Save the date!

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

4 years-entering 6th graders

We hope your kids will join us this year as we Live It Out: Discover how to love like Jesus. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office or Amy Graf.



📷 follow [@efreekidz](https://www.efcbemidji.org/kids) | 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 paddocksonsaautorepair@gmail.com

New Sunday School Class

The Youth has a new Sunday School class starts today, April 27th at 9:45am in the 511 Room. This four week class will look at what science says about the origins of the earth using [The Science Dilemma](#) video series.

Senior Words of Wisdom

At Youth Group on May 7th our Seniors have the opportunity to share what God has taught them. Be praying for them as they think about the wisdom and advise they would give to the younger students. May 14th is our last night of regular Youth Group.

📷 follow [@efcb_sm](https://www.efcbemidji.org/youth) | www.efcbemidji.org/youth

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

Young Adults

Sunday, April 27

8:30 am - Traditional Service

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

10:45 am - Contemporary Service

12:00 pm - All-Church Potluck (Gym)

1:00 pm - Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, April 29

6:30 pm - Anchor Life Group

Wednesday, April 30

7:00 pm - CRU Men (BSU, south
Conference Room of lower union)

Thursday, May 1

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, April 27

8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service
9:45 am - Adult Sunday School: Gospel of John (Room 10)
Church History Survey (Chapel)

10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service
12:00 pm - All Church Potluck (Gym)
1:00 pm - Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 28

6:30 pm - Softball practice (Gym)
-Women's Overflow (Bemidji Food Shelf)

Tuesday, April 29

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

Wednesday, April 30

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

Thursday, May 1

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

Friday, May 2

7:00 am - Men's Discipleship (Fireside Room)
5:00 pm - Heartland Christian School Banquet (Gym)

Sunday, May 4

8:30 am & 10:45 am - Traditional & Contemporary Worship Services
- Child Dedication (see page 6 for details)
9:45 am - Adult, Youth, Kids Sunday School

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

9:30 am Summer Combined Worship Service

Beginning Sunday, May 25th through Sunday, September 7th we are coming together again as one church for our 9:30 am Summer Combined Worship Services. Stick around after church this summer for the Connection Time in the Gym with coffee and goodies and for our Intergenerational Sunday School. There will be Beginners and Kids Church during the 9:30 Service and Nursery will be available at 9:30 and 11:00 am. If you are able, please park in our lower lot this summer to make room in the main upper lot.

Deeper Life

On May 4th, Deeper Life will have a table set up in the Connection Cafe with a display. Stop by and check it out so you can learn more about the ministry Deeper Life has in Blackduck!

Child Dedication

We are having a Child Dedication Service on Sunday, May 4th. If you have any questions or are interested in having your child dedicated, please contact PastorJerry@efcbemidji.org no later than Wednesday, April 30th.

Congregational Meeting & All-Church Potluck

Please join us today, April 27th for an all-church Potluck in the Gym at 12 PM before the congregational meeting at 1:00pm. The meeting agenda will include voting on new members, on by-law changes, and our Global Partner chair. We will hear a financial report. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. We hope to see you there! The by-law changes are available in the church office if you didn't get it in your bulletin last week.

Did you know...

AND FINALLY! October 2024 brought us to the 100th Anniversary of our church! A long weekend filled with activities helped us Remember, Reconnect, and Recommit to serving our Lord. The worship service Oct. 13 brought 450 people together in person to rejoice in God's faithfulness. What began in 1924 with children's Sunday School meeting in the Carr Lake schoolhouse, by the grace of God has grown to the ministry and facilities we have today. May we always give Him the glory as we look to the future of E-Free Bemidji!

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 April 20, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$ 13,012

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 224,621

Needed YTD: \$ 255,776



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, April 20, 2025

598 onsite | 37 screens / 12 states

2 Countries

9:45 Connection Time: 153

Remaining Mortgage: \$ 17,979

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

56 adults, 69 children, 45 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 **efreeprayer** to **94000**

efcbemidji.org | (218) 751-8834 | efree@paulbunyan.net
Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,
because great is your reward in
heaven. For that is how their ancestors
treated the prophets."

Luke 6:23



SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

Praise God for a wonderful Easter season filled with praise and service to God! Pray that there will continue to be spiritual fruit from all that was sung, preached, prayed, and experienced by people leading up to and during passion week. Pray that more and more spiritually lost people will find salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Praise God for our 4th through 6th graders who attended Camp Shamineau in early April. And praise God for our middle and high school students who attended our Districts Spring Blitz weekend in Duluth. Over 3,000 people attended this event at the DECC with 200+ reporting that they started a relationship with Jesus – praise the Lord! Praise God for our partnership with the North Central District of the E-Free who put on this event in partnership with Converge. Please pray for healthy spiritual formation in the lives of our young people.

Praise God for the many faithful volunteers throughout our church. An estimated 300-400 people serve at least once a month in some ministry or another here at E-Free. Praise God! Pray that each person who serves will be growing in Christian maturity and well-equipped for their particular role in the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 reminds us, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” So please pray that God will continue to raise up and empower each and every part of our local church body for His gospel purposes.

As we look ahead, please pray for our Spring quarter congregational meeting on Sunday, April 27. Pray that we’ll make wise decisions and that we’ll be unified moving forward together. Pray for progress in our Strategic Ministry plan implementation. Pray that each person serving, and each ministry area, is aligned with and excited about our mission of “becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.” Please pray for our search for our next Pastor of Youth and Young Adults. Pray that whoever he is and wherever he is, God is preparing him and drawing him toward our church. Please pray for strength and perseverance for our faithful search committee.

Please pray for our church finances. We are currently about 12% (\$30,000) behind on our 2025 budget. Pray that we’ll begin to see an uptick in giving soon so that no ministry cuts will need to be considered. Also pray for wisdom for our Trustees as they navigate our spending priorities. Praise God that we are SO close to having our mortgage paid off – praise the LORD! Pray for wisdom and direction regarding our building’s various maintenance needs. Pray that we’ll know what to prioritize and that we’ll have the funds to do the much-needed repairs and replacements.

Pray for our 5th graders as they visit youth group on Wednesday, April 30. Pray they’ll feel loved and accepted, and that they’ll be eager to start attending youth group. Pray also for our high school and college grads as they celebrate this milestone in their learning and then prayerfully follow God’s leading for their next chapter. Pray that each of these life stages will be a blessing as well as an opportunity to seek God’s will and follow. Pray that each one will follow Christ faithfully and enjoy the blessing of Psalm 128:1, “Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him.”

Please pray for our various Global Partners. If you have one of our church flipbooks, take some time to flip through each page and lift up our partners in prayer. If you don't have a flipbook, pray for the Global Partners with whom you're familiar. Pray for our local and domestic Global Partners as well as those who are serving overseas. Pray for spiritual maturity and protection from the devil's schemes. Pray for favor with paperwork and administrative needs, as well as financial provision. Pray for gospel fruitfulness, for first time believers as well as deepening maturity in those who've come to faith. Pray for godly leaders who will demonstrate maturity and lead in love and unity. Pray for favor with culture and language dynamics. Pray for insights into current struggles and opportunities as well as long-range planning and recruiting. Pray for Camp Oak Hills as they are in the midst of recruiting and training summer staff. Pray for several of our newly launched Global Partners, most of whom are going into some very challenging geographical areas. Pray for effectiveness for those who are translating the Bible into other languages and cultures. Please also pray for those who are in various seasons of transition, including changing roles as well as moving to part-time or full-time retirement.

Pray for our final women's Overflow even for this school year on Monday, April 28. Pray that their service to the food shelf will be a blessing. Pray for our softball team as they begin preparing for our summer season. Pray for safety and fun, as well as opportunities for Christian fellowship, witness, and growth. Pray for our summer plans for outreach to our community. Pray for a strong finish to our various Sunday School classes in May, and also for the current planning process for summer Sunday School. Pray that our Wednesday night youth group and kids ministry will finish strong. Praise God for these faithful leaders, including our kitchen team, nursery, and others who serve behind the scenes. Pray for any other upcoming ministry events that you know of. Let's be a church who is faithful to bathe every ministry in prayer. 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

STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLAN

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF BEMIDJI



MISSION

*What we are
supposed to be
doing as a church.*



VISION

*A picture of
what the mission
will look like when
it is realized.*

**BECOMING
DEEPLY DEVOTED
FOLLOWERS OF
JESUS TOGETHER.**

WE WILL BE 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
- PERSONALLY SHARES THE GOSPEL LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



*A plan to guide
disciples toward
maturity in Christ.*



CORE VALUES

*The biblical beliefs that empower
and guide our ministries.*

GOD'S GLORY

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

CARING FOR THE BODY OF BELIEVERS

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

EVANGELIZING THE LOST

