

# Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

**Sunday, May 25, 2025**

**Combined Summer Worship Service - 9:30 AM**

Prelude: The Image

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

**This I Believe**

**The Solid Rock (Hymn #517)**

**In Christ Alone**

Global Partner Update: Dave Bliss, NCD

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: You Say, Layney Anderson & Anissa Zeman, Duet

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6, Brian Eastling

Message: Making Every Effort to Keep the Unity of the Spirit,

Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

**Take My Life And Let It Be (Hymn #568)**

Benediction

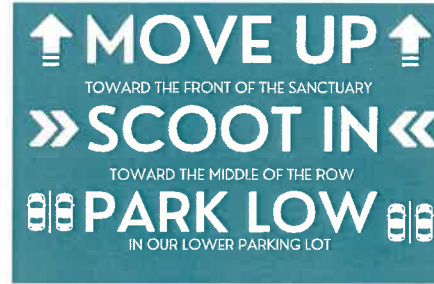
## **The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 038**

This week on the podcast, we're getting to know Dave Bliss, one of our Global Partners. Dave serves as the Director of Missions Mobilization for our EFCA North Central District.

## **Ken Wold**

The family of Ken Wold invites you to join us Saturday, May 31st in the Gym from 4 to 6 pm to honor Ken on the occasion of his 85th birthday and share cake, stories, and reminiscences !

wi-fi: EFCB\_Guest | password: efreebemidji



## **9:30 am Summer Combined Worship Service**

Beginning today, May 25th through Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 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 a full hour Beginners and Kids Church during the 9:30am 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.

## **Giving Update**

The Trustees and Elders are asking everyone who considers E-Free Bemidji their home church to prayerfully consider their financial giving. We are currently about \$40,000 behind on our budget and we need everyone's help to get back on track so that we can continue to do the work to which God has called us. Thank you for your generosity in both giving and service, and for worshipping God together this way. This is our shared privilege and responsibility as we Gather, Grow, Give, and Go.

## **June 1 Mortgage Payoff Celebration**

On Sunday, June 1, our combined 9:30 worship service will focus on celebrating God's faithful provision in helping us to pay off our building expansion loan. This will include sharing some special photos, hearing testimonies of God's provision, and worshipping God with songs focused on His faithfulness. We will also set aside time for prayer, recommitment, and burning the mortgage. Our worship service will be followed by a free hot dog lunch in our (fully paid off!) multi-purpose gym.

## **Next Sunday, June 1, 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service**

Message: Celebrating God's Faithful Provision

1 Chronicles 29:10-18, Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

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

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

## Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

### Sunday, May 25

No Beginners/Kids Church or Sunday School, Nursery is Available

### Sunday, June 1

9:30 am - Beginner's Church - ages 4 - K (Lower Level Assembly Room)  
Kid's Church - Grades 1 -5 (Youth Room)

### Tuesday, June 3

6:30 pm - Trail Life (Gym)

### Friday, June 6

6:00 pm - Movie Night (Gym)



## E-Free Kids

### Summer Worship for Beginners/Kids Church

Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, Beginners/Kids Church will be offered for the full hour during the 9:30am summer service. Kids Church will be in the Youth Room, Beginners Church will be in the lower Level Assembly Room. Please make sure to check in your children for their appropriate class.

### VBS - Sign up to Volunteer

Stop by the table today to volunteer for VBS! We need lots of small group leaders. Middle Schoolers/High Schoolers/Adults/Grandparents. We need you all!

### Save the Date - Our Summer Trainings for VBS Volunteers

Please choose one training to attend. June 22<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am - Sanctuary  
July 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am - Sanctuary

### How to support Foster Care and Adoption

Befriend a struggling or vulnerable family. The best way to impact the foster care system is to do all that we can to support families and keep kids out of the system. Support a single mom, make your home a safe after school space for kids until parents get home from work, get groceries for the parent who lost a job.

### Siblings in Foster Care

Research shows that nearly 70% of children entering foster care enter with at least one sibling. 75% of those sibling groups, though, are split up & separated into different placements. Sibling separation adds grief, confusion, and trauma to an already painful experience.

## Youth Ministry



### Youth Group & Sunday School

Shelly Mustful & Danny Paddock would like to thank everyone who help out with Youth Group and Sunday School this past year! We couldn't have done it without you!!!

The next summer youth group is planned for Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the Youth Room. We will be doing Polish Ping-Pong and Sundaes!

Sunday School will resume in September.

### Keep praying...

Please keep praying for the youth pastor search committee and the next youth pastor that God is preparing for us.

## Young Adults

### Sunday, May 25

9:30 am - Summer Combined Service

### Thursday, May 29

6:30 & 8:30 pm - Softball Game  
(city fields 1 and 4)

### Sunday, June 1

9:30 am - Combined Service  
11:00 am - All Church Cookout  
(Gym)

### ANCHOR

Anchor is our young adult life group. Stay tuned for our bonfire events this summer. Contact Jesse Schmidt at 218-760-5852 or email [pastorjerry@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pastorjerry@efcbemidji.org) with any questions.



Cru has ended for the semester. Look for more info in August when we start back up again.

📷 follow @efreekidz | [www.efcbemidji.org/kids](http://www.efcbemidji.org/kids)

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

📷 follow @efcb\_sm | [www.efcbemidji.org/youth](http://www.efcbemidji.org/youth)

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

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, May 25

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

### Tuesday, May 27

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

### Wednesday, May 28

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

### Thursday, May 29

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

6:30 pm - Worship Team (Sanctuary)

6:30 & 8:30 pm - Softball Game (city fields 1 and 4)

### Friday, May 30

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

### Saturday, May 31

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Graduation Party (Connection Café)

4:00 pm - 6:00pm - Ken Wold 85th Birthday Party (Gym)

### Sunday, June 1

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

11:00 am - All Church Cookout (Gym)

## What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

### If you feed them, they will come!

The Connection Café Crew is in need of some extra hands. Our crew helps provide a welcoming atmosphere that encourages both new and long term church attenders to grow together in unity. We are looking for people teenage and older who are willing to volunteer about once a month to bring treats or help set up or clean up during the Sunday school hour. Scheduling is flexible, and you are able to sign up for the weeks that work for you. If you would like to be a part of this fabulous team (I might be biased) please reach out to Rylie Helweg. Email: [Rylie.Helweg@gmail.com](mailto:Rylie.Helweg@gmail.com) or Phone: 218-407-4692

### Summer Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, June 4 at 9:00 a.m, we will be studying Women of the Bible. While the lessons will come from the book, 12 Daring Women of the Bible; the book is not required for the class. We will meet for 8 Wednesdays in June and July from 9 to 11am, in room 10. Men and women are welcome. Call Sue Cutler at 712-898-0936 if you are interested in joining us.

Our Life Groups are all about learning together and loving one another. Visit [www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups](http://www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups) for more info.

### Operation Christmas Child: Central Drop Off Leader

After 17 years of leading the national collection week drop off site for Operation Christmas Child, Anna Johnson has decided to retire! If this is a spot you might be interested in stepping into please call Sarah Schmidt at 218-255-2980.

### E-Free Softball

Come on out and support our E-Free softball team Thursday nights! This week, May 29, our team plays at 6:30pm in City field 1 against Solway Bible Chapel, and at 8:30pm in City field 4 against Tenstrike. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin boards if you'd like to see it.

**Go E-Free!!**

### Memorial Book Entry

Back in December of 2018 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Tom Turney a memorial gift towards Technology was presented by his daughter, JoAn Thamm.



## Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji

115 Carr Lake Rd. SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 | [www.efcbemidji.org](http://www.efcbemidji.org)



### Church Office

Email: [efree@paulbunyan.net](mailto: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](mailto:pastorjerry@efcbemidji.org)

Eric Nygren, Associate Pastor ..... [pastoreric@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pastoreric@efcbemidji.org)

Amy Graf, Kids Ministry Director ..... [agraf@efcbemidji.org](mailto:agraf@efcbemidji.org)

### Support Staff

Dan Evans, A/V Supervisor..... [efcbemidjitech@gmail.com](mailto:efcbemidjitech@gmail.com)

Tom Halverson, Visitation Caregiver..... [tom.halverson63@gmail.com](mailto:tom.halverson63@gmail.com)

Jessica Westlund, Office Manager ..... [officemanager@efcbemidji.org](mailto:officemanager@efcbemidji.org)

Justin Nicholson, Facility Supervisor..... [facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org](mailto:facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org)

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

### Giving through May 4, 2025

Weekly Giving: 14,136

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 247,036

Needed YTD: \$ 287,748



### Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, May 18, 2025

366 onsite | 32 screens / 5 states

SS: 18 Kids | 5 Youth | 23 Adults

Connection Café/Misc: 109

**May 11 and 18 to be announced.**

### 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 **efreepayer** to **94000**

[efcbemidji.org](http://efcbemidji.org) | (218) 751-8834 | [efree@paulbunyan.net](mailto:efree@paulbunyan.net)  
Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



**Be completely humble and gentle;  
be patient, bearing with one another in  
love. Make every effort to keep the  
unity of the Spirit through the bond of  
peace. Ephesians 4:2-3**



**SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025**

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

**Making Every Effort to Keep the Unity of the Spirit**  
**Ephesians 4:1-6 on May 25, 2025**

Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

Psalm 133:1 says...

Making every effort to keep unity...

1) Begins by remembering that \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Calls us to \_\_\_\_\_.

3) Calls us to \_\_\_\_\_.



Visit **[www.efcbemidji.org/sermons](http://www.efcbemidji.org/sermons)** to listen, watch, or read today's sermon. You'll find an archive of past messages on our website as well.

***Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,***

Let's begin by praying that each one of us will be a person of prayer; daily, abiding, prayer without ceasing prayer. Pray that we will "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" (Ephesians 6:18).

Praise God for all that He's done in and through our church over this past school year. Praise God for Shelly Mustful and Danny Paddock who worked so hard in leading our youth ministry during our search for our next Youth and Young Adults Pastor. Thank God also for Terry Hewitt and Mark Carlson who served with Cru. And praise God for many others who served faithfully in so many ways. Please continue to pray for our search for our next Youth and Young Adults Pastor. We may be getting close – more details coming soon! Please also pray for many of our ministries who are now evaluating this past year's ministry, and carefully considering what needs to be changed or tweaked for next fall. Please also keep our church finances in prayer, as we are currently behind budget.

Please keep our various graduates in your prayers, including our 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are transitioning to the middle school, as well as our high school and college graduates. Praise God for these milestones! And please pray for clear discernment and direction in what lies ahead. Let's also pray for one another in general as we all switch gears to summer. As Pastor Eric mentioned in this week's Deeply Devoted podcast, "Don't let your discipleship take a summer vacation." Please pray Hebrews 10:23-25 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."

Please continue to pray for our Strategic Ministry Plan implementation. Our elders met again last Saturday and we're making encouraging progress. We are now in "beta testing" mode for our diagnostic assessment tool. In other words, we are beginning to implement our Strategic Ministry Plan with a few ministries to make sure that our assessment tool is effective and ready, before we launch it comprehensively into every ministry area. Please pray that we'll stay on track with where God has been leading us; that we'll Gather, Grow, Give, and Go for the Gospel! Pray that we'll make any adjustments that may be needed. Pray that our entire church body will fully embrace our mission, vision, values, and discipleship pathway. Pray for unity in our church around, in, through, and for the gospel.

Please pray for the teaching and preaching of God's Word over the summer. Pray for our sermons which will cover topics like unity, God's faithful provision, the Lord's Supper, and the danger of deception. Pastor Eric is also preparing a 2-week sermon on the Old Testament minor prophet Joel. Pray that God's Word will be rightly preached, rightly understood, and rightly lived out by each and every one of us. Pray also for the teaching that occurs in our various summer ministries, including our full-hour Kids and Beginners Church, VBS, intergenerational Sunday School, the Deeply Devoted Podcast, Trail Life, Senior Connection Potluck, Grief Share loss of a spouse session, and so on. Pray for the ministry of our softball team, our neighborhood outreaches, our movie night, and more. Please cover all of these ministry events in prayer. Pray that we'll all be growing in faith this summer as we continue in worship, instruction, fellowship, evangelism, and service.

Please pray for the ongoing daily ministry of our Global Partners. Pray for those who are serving locally in our community, domestically in the U.S., as well as those who are serving in foreign countries. Pray for God's call on new workers to be clearly heard and then responded to with joy. Pray for encouragement, health, finances, and hard-working perseverance in each situation. Please pray for favor with cultural and language challenges, and for visas and the other logistics of traveling to/from different ministry locations. Pray for those who are doing translation work and language learning. Pray for those in various stages of transition onto or off of the mission field. Pray for those in dangerous places. Pray for those who may feel "stuck" or unsure of how to break through the strongholds of hard-hearted people and spiritual oppression. Pray for our camp ministries as they prepare for the plunge into summer ministry. Pray for finances, facilities, staff, and lots of attending campers. Pray for strength, health, spiritual maturity, and gospel impact.

Let's also be sure to pray that each one of us is able to enjoy some wonderful times of refreshment and rest this summer. Pray for times of vacation, and travel and adventure. Pray that we'll have fun with family and friends, and that we'll enjoy the many good things with which God has blessed us. Pray that we'll enjoy His bounty and the beauty of His creation which is all around us. To God be the praise for His magnificent creation!

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

*Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together*