

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Combined Summer Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Mary Larson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

This Is Amazing Grace

To God Be The Glory (Hymn #72)

Only A Holy God

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: McKain Team

Candidate Testimony: Shane Fleming

Scripture Reading: Psalm 78:1-8, David Knudson

Message: From Generation to Generation , Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

Holy Forever

Benediction

E-Free Softball

Come on out and support our E-Free softball team Thursday nights! This week, June 26, our team plays at 7:30pm in City field 1 against Bemidji First Assembly, and at 8:30pm in City field 1 against First Baptist Clearbrook. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin boards if you'd like to see it.
Go E-Free!!

Summer Bible Study

Wednesdays through July 30th at 9:00 a.m in room 10, 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. Men and women are welcome. Call Sue Cutler at 712-898-0936 if you are interested in joining us.

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



9:30 am Summer

Combined Worship Service

Now 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 a full hour Beginners and Kids Church during the 9:30am Service and Nursery will be available during church and Sunday School. If you are able, please park in our lower lot this summer to make room in the main upper lot.

Memorial Book Entry

Back in January of 2021 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Ginger Hubbell a memorial gift towards The Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji was presented by her family and friends.

Communion

Sunday, June 29th, the Lord's Supper will be served during our 9:30am worship service. 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.

Benevolence Fund

If you or someone you know from our church family is experiencing a financial hardship, please contact one of the Pastors or Elders. Our Benevolence Fund is managed by our elders and is there to help our church family with unexpected financial burdens (utility bill, repair bill, medical bill, etc.).

Next Sunday, June 29, 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service

Message: The Bread and the Juice

1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Pastor Jerry RA Johnson

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 22

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

Sunday, June 29

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm -Summer Youth Group (Youth Room)
• Incoming 6th graders through 12th grade

E-Free Kids



Summer Worship for Beginners/Kids Church

Beginners/Kid's Church will be offered for the full hour during the 9:30am summer service. Kid's Church will be in the Youth Room, Beginner's 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

It's not too late! If you would like to volunteer for VBS, please email Amy Graf at agraf@efcbemidji.org or let Jessica know in the office. We still need help with Small Groups, Snacks, Crafts, and Games

Community Outreach Opportunities

Summer Picnics at Ridgeway

July 8, July 22, August 19
916 30th St. NW Bemidji, MN

4pm-5pm - serve by helping to set up tables/chairs/activities

5pm-6:30pm - serve by building relationships with kids and adults (share your faith)

6:30pm-7:00pm - serve by helping to clean up/tear down tables/chairs

You can attend for 3 hours, or come and serve when you are available. Praying that God will give you a passion to "GO" into our community, to meet those who are lost, and to share the hope that you have found in Jesus.

Save the Date - Our Summer Trainings for VBS Volunteers

Please choose one training to attend. June 29th at 11:00am or July 20th at 11:00am - both trainings will be held in the Sanctuary.

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

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

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!!!

Sunday School will resume in September.

Sunday, June 29

6 - 8 pm -Summer Youth Group (Youth Room)

All youth going into 6th grade through recent grads are welcome to a night of Summer Youth Group. Bring a friend for Polish Ping Pong, sundaes, encouragement and fun!



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

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

Young Adults

Sunday, June 22

9:30 am - Summer Combined Service

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 with any questions.



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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 22

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

11:00 am - Congregational Q&A for Candidate Shane Fleming (Gym)

Tuesday, June 24 - June 26

Library Booksale (Gym)

Tuesday, June 24

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

Wednesday, June 25

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

9:00 am - Summer Bible Study (Room 10)

Thursday, June 26

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

6:30 pm - Worship Team (Sanctuary)

Friday, June 27

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

Sunday, June 29

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

10:45 am - Special Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

We will vote on the Search Committee and Elder Board recommendation of Shane Fleming as our new Youth and Young Adults Pastor.

11:00 am - VBS Training (Sanctuary)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji



church center

Download our Church Center app.

With the app you'll be able to:

- View upcoming events
- Find and join a group/class
- RSVP for events
- Sign up for text notifications
- Watch the live stream
- View the Sermon Archive
- View the Service Archive
- Give online
- Check in your family
- And more!

Need help installing or setting up the app on your smartphone or tablet? Contact our Office Manager, Jessica Westlund.

Congregational Meeting

On June 29th at 10:45 AM we will hold a special Congregational meeting in the sanctuary. All are welcome but members are especially urged to attend this brief meeting for a vote on the Search Committee and Elder Board recommendation of Shane Fleming as our new Youth & Young Adults Pastor. Our Trustees will explain his pay and benefits. Our by-laws require a yes vote of at least 75% in order to hire a pastor.

Facility Supervisor Update

Our Facility Supervisor, Justin Nicholson, informed our Trustees that he is resigning from his position. He really appreciated this opportunity to serve. He and his family will continue to attend and be part of our church.

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 \$35,000 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.

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 through June 15, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$ 10,611

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 348,272

Needed YTD: \$ 383,664



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, June 15, 2025

273 onsite | 25 screens / 6 states

11:00am Connection Time: 156

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 **efcbsm** to **94000**

Prayer chain: text **efreepayer** to **94000**

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Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.

Psalm 78:4



SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

June 2025

Dear Church Family,

I've said it before, but I'll say it again: no one I know is *good* at prayer. What I mean is, no one I know thinks their prayer life is outstanding (maybe you do). Most Christians I know wish they prayed more often, more consistently, and with greater motivation. As one author I read recently said (I can't remember who), "No Christian will get to the end of their life and wish they had prayed *less*." It will always be my aim as a follower of Jesus to grow in prayer.

Yet, I'm also a realist when it comes to prayer. At least I know I'm in good company with the disciples whose spirit was willing, but whose flesh was weak, for I too have been known to doze off when attempting to pray (Mk. 14:40).

So, rather than try to run a prayer-athon, maybe it's better keep things short.

As a pastor-friend of mine used to say, "Don't hear what I'm not saying." I'm not suggesting we lower the bar. I'm simply reminding you (and me) that prayer is not a competition; it's a conversation.

That's why I'm a big fan of one-minute prayers. What's a one-minute prayer? It's a prayer that takes you 60 seconds to pray. Sixty seconds doesn't sound like a lot, but do you know what it's longer than? Zero seconds. I'd rather take 60 seconds to pray than not pray at all.

Need Scripture to back this up? Check out this passage from Nehemiah.

"In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" The king said to me, "What is it you want?" **Then I prayed to the God of heaven**, and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it" (Neh. 2:1-5, NIV).

How long do you think Nehemiah's prayer lasted? One minute? Thirty seconds? Maybe 10? I bet he prayed something like this: "Okay, God. Grant me favor before the king. Here goes. Amen." Just a few seconds long. And you know what? God answered that prayer.

I don't understand how prayer-math works. If I set aside 15 minutes to pray, I usually run out of things to say after about 3 minutes—a 20% success rate. But if I commit to praying for 60 seconds, I often find myself praying for 5-10 minutes—or more!

So here goes. Today, let's **take 60 seconds to pray**. Pray for any (or all) of the following:

1. Take 60 seconds to thank God for his goodness, grace, and mercy.
2. Take 60 seconds to pray for a pastor or ministry leader.
3. Take 60 seconds to pray about your prayer life.
4. Take 60 seconds for boldness to share your faith.
5. Take 60 seconds to pray for our church.
6. Take 60 seconds to pray for a different church.
7. Take 60 seconds to pray for a student you know.
8. Take 60 seconds to pray for a Global Partner.
9. Take 60 seconds and pray for VBS this summer.
- 10. Take 60 seconds and pray for our church finances.
11. Take 60 seconds and pray for our country.
12. Take 60 seconds and pray for a different country.
13. Take 60 seconds and pray for our Summer Outreach opportunities.
14. Take 60 seconds and pray for the campers and staff at Camp Oak Hills.
15. Take 60 seconds to pray for an enemy.
16. Take 60 seconds and pray for someone who doesn't know Christ.
17. Take 60 seconds and pray for that person you haven't seen in church for a while.
18. Take 60 seconds to thank God that you have access to a Bible in your own language.
19. Take 60 seconds and pray for those awaiting the Bible in their own language.
20. Take 60 seconds and pray for that politician you don't like.
21. Take 60 seconds and pray for that person at church you don't like (or doesn't like you).
22. Take 60 seconds and pray for more of the Fruit of the Spirit in you (Gal. 5:22-23).
23. Take 60 seconds and ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers (Matt. 9:38).
24. Take 60 seconds and pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20).

That should do it.

Praying for you all,

Pastor Eric