

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Combined Summer Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

My Savior's Love (Hymn #478)

Behold The Lamb

Offering & Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 46:1-11, Launa Schlador

Message: God is Our Refuge and Strength in Times of Trouble

Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Communion

Living Hope

Benediction

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 042

This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric sits down with Kim Kaml to talk about baptism. If you're considering baptism or want to know more about baptism at E-Free Bemidji, this episode is for you!

Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped out at the church as we started getting cleaned up after the storm!

- patched our roof
- extracted water
- vacuumed
- cleaned our grounds
- prepared food & hosted our Cooling Center.
- Brought in bars
- and more!

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

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

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Congregational Meeting

July 13th 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. Members please help us reach our quorum.

Memorial Book Entry

Back in February of 2024 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Janet Collette a memorial gift towards purchasing the KORG keyboard was presented by her children: Dave, Denise, Steve, and Debbie (Johnson).

Summer Bible Study

Wednesday, Women of the Bible, we have no Bible study the following week on July 2. We will resume on July 9 and Laura Engelstad will be teaching.

Communion

Today, 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, July 6, 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service

Message: From Generation to Generation

Psalm 78:1-8, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 29

9:30 am - Beginner's Church - ages 4 - 5th (Lower Level Assembly Room)

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

Tuesday, July 1

6:30 pm - Trail life (Gym)



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 and Beginner's Church will both 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.

Youth Ministry



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!

Youth/Parents Event

Saturday, July 5th, from 5-7:30 p.m.

Middle School and High School students will meet with Shane for food, fun, a devotional from God's Word, and a time for Q&A. The night will begin with a time for parents to meet Shane and ask him questions. They can then head out in order to give the youth some focused time with Shane.

Young Adults

Sunday, June 29

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.

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 29

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

11:00 am - VBS Training (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, July 1

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

Wednesday, July 2

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

Thursday, July 3

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

6:30 pm - Worship Team (Sanctuary)

Friday, July 4

Church Office is Closed

Sunday, July 6

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service - no Kids/Beginners Church

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Senior Potluck July 11

Join us for our July Sr. Connection

Potluck on Friday, July 11 at 11:30.

Bring a dish to share and a friend.

We are pleased to have Nate Wilson's Dad, Harley, come share his

woodworking skills. He specializes in

carving birds and butterflies. All are

welcome to join us; you don't have

to be a senior to enjoy his

presentation. Questions? Call Laura

at 218-209-8190.

E-Free Softball

Come on out and support our

E-Free softball team Thursday nights!

This week, July 3rd is a bye week.

There is a schedule posted on the bulletin boards if you'd like to see it.

Go E-Free!!

Bemidji Food Shelf

We can really use personal care

items like toothpaste, shampoo, bar

soap and toilet paper. Call Linda with

questions 218-766-7171.

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

\$46,000 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..... facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving through June 22, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$ 5,073

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$ 353,345

Needed YTD: \$ 399,650



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, June 22, 2025

No church due to storm damage

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**

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER E-FREE BEMIDJI

June 29, 2025

Youth and Young Adult Pastor Candidating Weekend with Shane Fleming

Shane Fleming grew up in a Christian home in the Pine River, MN area. He is 29 years old. He received his undergraduate degree in Youth Ministry from Oak Hills Christian College, and hopes to pursue further education, as well as licensing with the EFCA.

Shane has served in various leadership roles at a church in Laporte, Park River Bible Camp in North Dakota, Timber Bay in Bemidji, Hope Church in Grand Forks, as well as doing a one-year internship at Calvary Evangelical Free Church in Walker, MN.

He and his wife, Kristine, have been married for 7 years. They have a 2 ½ year old son named Harrison. Kristine grew up in Laporte and, among other things, she has been involved with North Homes Children and Family Services in Bemidji. They are very excited for this opportunity to serve at E-Free Bemidji!

NOTE: Copies of Shane's resume and testimony, as well as the ministry description for our Youth and Young Adults Pastor, are available at the church or by emailing OfficeManager@efcbemidji.org. Also, feel free to direct any questions to any of our Elders or a member of our Search Committee: Bethany Anderson, Caleb Caster, Jerry Drebelbis, Amy Graf, Jerry Johnson, Shelly Mustful, Eric Nygren, Danny Paddock (chair), and Lex Zylka.



Opportunities to get to know Shane

Breakfast with our Boards Saturday, July 5th, at 8:30 a.m.

Our Elders and Trustees will be having breakfast with Shane on Saturday, July 5th, at 9 a.m. We'll enjoy some good food together and talk about life and ministry. This will be held in the East Chapel of the Community Life Center.

Lunch with the Staff Sunday, July 5th, at 12:00 p.m.

Our staff will enjoy getting to know Shane a little better over a lunch meeting in our East Chapel of the CLC.

Youth/Parents Event Saturday, July 5th, from 5-7:30 p.m.

Middle School and High School students will meet with Shane for food, fun, a devotional from God's Word, and a time for Q&A. The night will begin with a time for parents to meet Shane and ask him questions. They can then head out in order to give the youth some focused time with Shane.

Combined Service Sunday, July 6th, at 9:30 a.m.

Our entire church will gather for our normal combined Sunday worship service with music, preaching, etc. During this service Shane will share during an extended ministry moment, introducing himself and sharing his faith testimony and call to ministry.

Congregational Q&A Sunday, July 6th, at 11:00 a.m.

Join us in the Community Life Center Gym for refreshments and a Q&A time with Shane. We'll also have a chance to meet his wife Kristine and their son Harrison.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, July 13th, at 10:45 a.m.

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 as our new Youth and 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.

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