

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

Thank you for your continued prayers for our church. 1 Corinthians 12:12 reminds us, “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” With this in mind let’s pray fervently for one another individually, and for our church as a whole.

Pray for those impacted by the June 21st storm, especially those who are still recovering. Pray for safety in the cleanup efforts and repairs. Pray for favor with insurance companies. Pray for the mental and emotional strain that continues to weigh on many people throughout our community. Pray for an increased awareness of our spiritual need for God who is with us in, through, and after this storm. Pray also for our church building and grounds as there is still much to do. Pray for our Trustees as they determine next steps, and as they work with various volunteers and contractors to get our building and grounds back in shape. Pray for our Roof Fund, and praise God for the generous \$15,000 gift toward this need from our sister E-Free church in Thief River Falls!

Please also pray for our current 2025 budget shortfall, as well as the work that is now beginning in preparing our 2026 ministry budget. Pray for our Trustees, Elders, and Treasurer as they all work together to make plans, trust God, and lead the ministry of our church. Pray for wisdom, collaboration, and unity in making decisions and taking care of the financial realities of our ongoing ministry. Please also pray for strong and generous giving in the 2nd half of 2025 so that we can continue full throttle with our gospel opportunities in Bemidji and beyond. In Philipians 4:18-19, the Apostle Paul described financial gifts this way: “... They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” Pray that we will trust God to meet all of our needs, both as a church and as individual followers of Jesus.

Pray for our Strategic Ministry Plan implementation which continues to move forward as we head toward fall ministry kickoff. Pray that our church will hold fast to our gospel mandate. Ask God to help and empower us in our mission of Becoming Deeply Devoted Followers of Jesus Together. Pray that our Vision, Core Values, and Discipleship Pathway will come to fruition in ways that bear genuine spiritual fruit and that bring God glory. Pray that each and every believer at E-Free Bemidji will commit to our Gather, Grow, Give, and Go for God’s Kingdom purposes.

Please give God thanks for our hardworking staff! We’ve been without a Youth and Young Adults Pastor for a full year now, and many of our staff and volunteers have been stepping up for a long time and filling in those gaps. Praise God for such a committed group of servants for Christ. And, praise God that Pastor Shane Fleming is beginning his ministry as our Youth and Young Adults Pastor on Sunday, August 10! Please pray for him and his wife Kristine, and their 2 ½ year old son, Harrison, as they make their move from Grand Forks. Pray for the goodbyes they will need to say, and for their move to a new home and a new church community.

Also pray for our search for a new Church Custodian and a new Office Manager. Pray that our search teams will have the time and energy to find a good match for each of these ministry positions. Pray for good discernment and God’s provision. Please also pray for our current staff as we work with some great interim people like Payton Michaels (custodial) and Kate Trosen (office), but also as our remaining staff and various volunteers fill in some of the remaining gaps. Some of us are tired but we’re all trusting Christ together as we serve side by side. God is good and He will guide us through

this season. We are encouraged by God's words in Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."

Please pray for our Kids Ministry. Pray for our Sunday full-hour Kids and Beginners Church, as well as our VBS which is scheduled for August 10-13 from 6-8:15 p.m. each evening. Pray for the well-trained and Jesus-loving adult leaders, and for all the hard work and logistics to come together. Pray for LOTS and LOTS of kids to come, kids from our church but also their friends, as well as those from our Bemidji community. Pray that this will be a gospel outreach when many, many children place their faith and trust in Jesus as their personal Savior. In the words of 2 Corinthians 6:2, "...I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." So let's all pray, pray, pray for salvation!

Pray also for our Senior Connection potluck on August 8. Pray for great food and fellowship and encouragement. Pray that many seniors will be invited and attend and be blessed. Pray for Scott and Laura Engelstad as they lead and work hard. And pray for the scheduled program, "All About Hospice." May this be effective in increasing everyone's understanding.

Pray for the many other ongoing ministries like our Deeply Devoted Podcast, our softball team, our neighborhood outreaches, and more. Please cover all of these ministries and ministry events in prayer. Pray that we'll all be growing in our faith this summer as we continue in worship, instruction, fellowship, evangelism, and service. Pray also for gospel opportunities as many of us participate in area events like Dragon Boats, the Beltrami County Fair, and so on. Pray the words of Matthew 5:14-15, that our lights will shine wherever we go and whatever we do: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

As always, please continue to 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 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, and for families who may be serving while apart from one another due to various circumstances. 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 and government resistance. Pray for good follow-up and lasting fruit from our many weeks of summer camp ministry. Pray for rest and recovery for our camp workers who've been going hard all summer long.

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

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

Shane Fleming, Youth & Young Adults Pastor..... pastorshane@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

Kate Trosen, Interim Office Manager officemanager@efcbemidji.org

Payton Michaels, Interim Facility Supervisor.... facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving through July 20, 2025

Weekly Giving July 13th: \$17,268

Weekly Giving July 20th: \$12,354

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$414,709

Needed YTD: \$463,594



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, July 20, 2025

302 onsite | 21 screens / 6 states

11:00am Connection Time: 162

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**

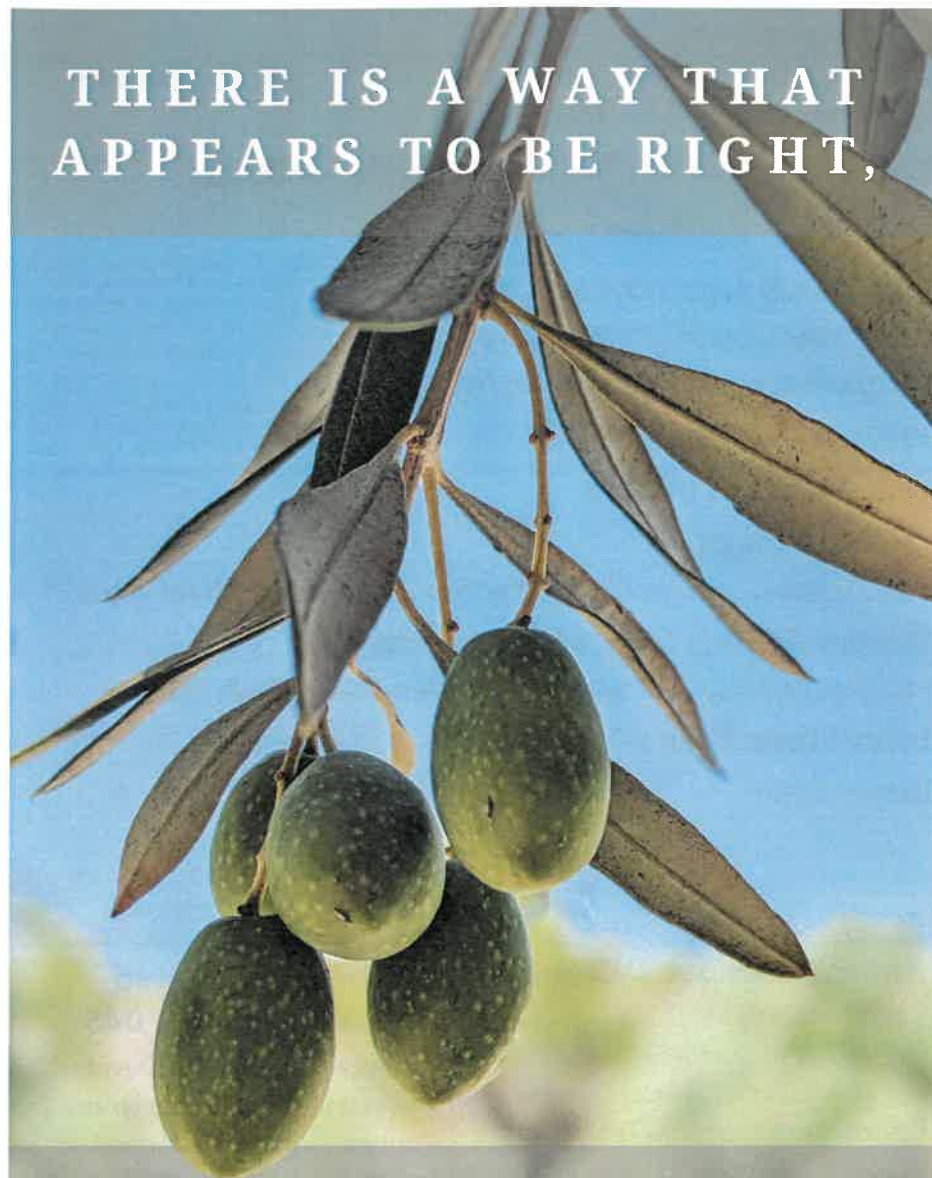
Prayer chain: text **efreeprayer** to **94000**

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



THERE IS A WAY THAT
APPEARS TO BE RIGHT,



BUT IN THE END
IT LEADS TO DEATH.
PROVERBS 14:12

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, July 27, 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)

Jesus Thank You

The Wonderful Cross

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Summer Choir, "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-6, Joel Hoover

Message: A Way That Seems Right, Pastor Jerry R. A. Johnson

Jesus I love Thee (Hymn #101)

Benediction

Annual Cookout & Cornhole Tournament

We regret to announce that we will not be hosting our annual Summer Cookout and Cornhole Tournament this year. We hope to bring this event back next summer. Plans are underway for our Kickoff Sunday Ministry Fair and Tailgate Cookout in September. Stay tuned!

The Deeply Devoted Podcast - Episode 045

This week, The Deeply Devoted Podcast returns to wrap up our Podcast Read Along through C. S. Lewis's Mere Christianity. New episodes post on Tuesdays.

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

July 27 Quarterly Congregational Meeting

We'll receive an update on our mid-year financials, learn about a quasi-endowment fund, and more at our quarterly congregational meeting today, Sunday, July 27th at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary.

Members are urged to attend to help us reach a quorum, and, as always, anyone who is interested in our church's ministry is welcome to attend.

Senior Connection Potluck

Seniors, please join us for our potluck on August 8 at 11:30 in the Connection Cafe. Bring a simple dish to share and come enjoy time together. Our program this month is "All About Hospice." What is hospice care, and how does it work? Staff from Sanford will share information that we can all use.

Anyone is free to join us for this program! You can reach Laura at 218-209-8190 with questions.

Memorial Book Entry

Back in February of 1983 to the glory of God, in loving memory of William E. Hemp, a memorial gift of Hymnals was presented by his wife, June Hemp.

Next Sunday, August, 3 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service

Message: The Beauty of Christian Singlehood

(NOTE: may contain PG-13 themes)

1 Corinthians 7:25-35, 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, July 27

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

Tuesday, July 29

5:00 - 6:30 pm - Nymore Outreach



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 Assembly Room. Please make sure to check in your children for their appropriate class.

VBS Donations

This year's theme is Live It Out (Camp Theme) - Living out the love of Jesus! We are not doing T-shirts this year, but each child will receive a backpack with a water bottle and camping supplies (compass, flashlight, keychain, etc). This is your opportunity to donate. Each backpack full of supplies is \$5. Also, you can donate towards our snacks for VBS - \$5. Make all your donations to VBS if you are using a check or paying online. You can donate cash in the giving box on the VBS table in the Connection Cafe.

Community Outreach Opportunities

Tuesday, July 29th,

Bemidji Community Picnic Nymore City Park 5-7:30pm.

This is a great opportunity to meet people in our community and share our hope in Jesus. We are bringing activities such as: 9 square, bubbles, jump ropes, corn hole, and spike ball to aid in connecting with the community. Feel free to bring an activity to share or just come with an open heart to serve/play/relate

VBS Registration Open

Register your child now for VBS:
August 10-13 from 6:00pm - 8:15 pm



for children
4 years old
up to 6th grade

Aug 19th - Ridgeway Outreach
4:30pm-6:30pm

Youth Ministry



Youth Group & Sunday School

Sunday School will resume in September.

Youth & Young Adults Pastor

Shane Fleming will officially begin as our new Youth and Young Adults Pastor on Sunday, August 10th. Please be praying for him and his family as they make their move from Grand Forks.



Young Adults

Sunday, July 27

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, July 27

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

11:00 am - Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, July 29

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

5:00 pm - Outreach Opportunity - Nymore

Wednesday, July 30

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

9:00 am - Women of the Bible (Room 10)

Thursday, July 31

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

6:30 pm - Worship Team (Sanctuary)

Friday, August 1

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

Sunday, August 3

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Now Hiring: Office Manager Giving to our Roof Fund

Please pray for our Search Team as we look for an Office Manager. The job description is available by stopping by the church office or on our website

(www.efcbemidji.org/jobs).

Applicants can email efree@paulbunyan.net with a letter of inquiry and resume.

E-Free Softball

Come on out and support our E-Free softball team Thursday nights! This week on July 31st our team plays First Baptist at 7:30 in field 1 and St. Marks at 8:30 in field 3. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin boards if you'd like to see it. **Go E-Free!!**

Our church roof suffered significant damage in the June 21 storm. If you'd like to give a financial gift, above and beyond your regular giving, to help toward these repairs, please designate it "Roof Fund."

Now Hiring: Church Custodian

Please pray for our Search Team as we look for a Church Custodian. The job description is available by stopping by the church office or on our website

(www.efcbemidji.org/jobs).

Applicants can email efree@paulbunyan.net with a letter of inquiry and resume.