

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 27, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$9,484

Weekly Need: \$ 15,986

Giving YTD: \$424,194

Needed YTD: \$479,580



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, July 27, 2025

293 onsite | 19 screens / 9 states

11:00am Connection Time: 132

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**

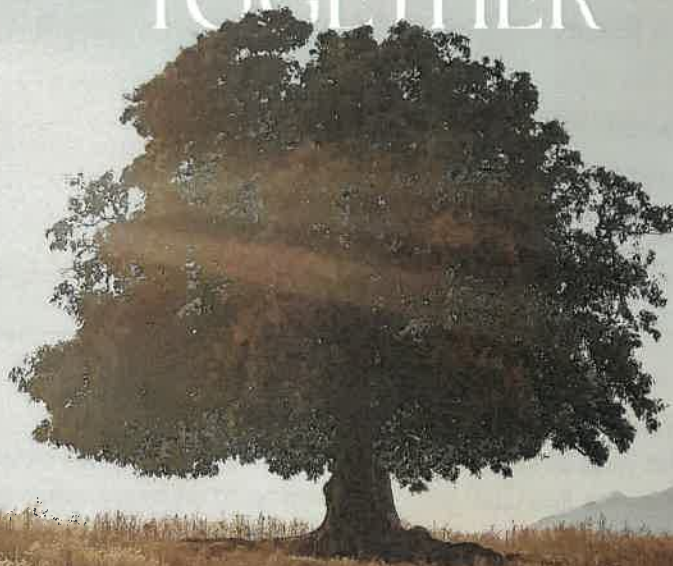
Prayer chain: text **efreeprayer** to **94000**

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER



Sunday, August 3, 2025

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Combined Summer Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Goodness of God, Worship Team

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

How Firm a Foundation #612

The Image

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Mary Larson

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:25-35, Sylvia Johannes

Message: The Beauty of Christian Singlehood, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Communion

Instrumental: Mary Larson

He will hold me fast

Benediction

Giving to our Roof Fund

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."

The Deeply Devoted Podcast

The Deeply Devoted Podcast is moving to an every other week schedule. We're off this week, but look for our next episode to post Tuesday, August 12th. In the meantime, catch up on past episodes on your favorite podcast platform or by visiting efcbemidji.org/podcast.

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

Senior Connection Potluck Memorial Book Entry

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.

Handbell Concert

Strikepoint, the award-winning handbell choir from United Methodist Church in Duluth, will present a concert Monday, Aug. 4 at 7 PM at First Baptist Church in Bemidji. If you enjoy handbells, you will love this!

Back in 1985 to the glory of God, in loving memory of Richard Konoske, a memorial gift of Hymnals was presented by his wife, Dorothy Konoske

E-Free Softball

Come on out and support our E-Free softball team Thursday nights! This week, August 7, our team plays St. Marks at 7:30 in field 3 Tenstrike 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!!

Next Sunday, August 10, 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service

Message: The Beauty of Christian Marriage (may contain PG-13 themes)

Ephesians 5:21-33 , Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 3rd

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

Sunday, August 4th

6:00pm Foster the Family meeting (date changed from 11th)

Sunday, August 10th

6:00pm -8:15 pm VBS Begins!

Tuesday, August 19

4:30- 6:30 pm - Ridgeway 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 Registration Open

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



Nymore Nights/Bemidji Community Picnic Recap

Tuesday's Park Outreach was incredible! Thank you to all who came out to set up, serve, and to begin building relationships with the people of the Nymore/Bemidji Community.

Headwaters Regional Development Center served food to over 500 people, and shared lots of information about community resources.

We were able to begin building relationships through activities and play, and share about our events coming up at our church. Conarch Farms brought their petting zoo (which was a huge hit!) Thank you to Justin and Kara Nicholson (and kids) for sharing your animals. It was a great night!

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, August 3rd

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, August 3rd

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

Tuesday, August 5

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

Wednesday, August 6

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

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

Thursday, August 7

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

6:30 pm - Worship Team (Sanctuary)

Friday, August 8

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

Sunday, August 10

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

Human Sexuality Sermon Series Disclaimer

Over the next 4 Sundays, (August 3, 10, 17, and 24), our church will be continuing our sermon series on Human Sexuality. A number of these messages will contain some "PG-13" themes, so we wanted to give families a heads up. In addition to offering full-hour Beginner's Church and Kids Church, we're also providing families with an option for their pre-teens and young teens to help with Kids Church down in the youth room. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amy Graf or one of the pastors.

Now Hiring: Church Custodian

Please pray for our Search Team as we look for a Church Custodian (formerly Facility Supervisor). The job description is available online, including our church website, and in the church office. If you or someone you know may be a good fit, please connect with us in the main office or email: efree@paulbunyan.net.

Fireside Chat Sermon Discussion

Anyone interested in discussing one of our upcoming sermons on Human Sexuality is invited to join Pastor Jerry in the Fireside Room at 11 a.m. each Sunday. The sermon schedule is as follows: The Beauty of Christian Singlehood (August 3); The Beauty of Christian Marriage (August 10); The Beauty of Innocence, Modesty, and Purity (August 17); A Compassionate, Truthful Response to LGBTQ+ (August 24). Feel free to grab whatever coffee or refreshments you'd like from the gym, and then walk on over to the Fireside Room for a friendly dialogue and to ask any questions that you may be wondering about.

Now Hiring: Office Manager

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.

Biblical Human Sexuality Resources

Biblical Human Sexuality & Cultural Engagement

Allberry, Sam. *What God Has to Say about Our Bodies: How the Gospel Is Good News for Our Physical Selves.*

Allberry, Sam. *Why Does God Care Who I Sleep With?*

Kvanme, Jennifer M. *More to the Story: Deep Answers to Real Questions on Attraction, Identity, and Relationships.*

Oshman, Jen. *Cultural Counterfeits: Confronting 5 Empty Promises of Our Age and How We Were Made for So Much More.*

Roberts, Alastair. *Five Principles of the New Sexual Morality.*
www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-principles-of-the-new-sexual-morality

Tripp, Paul David. *Sex in a Broken World: How Christ Redeems What Sin Distorts.*

Trueman, Carl R. *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution.*

Yuan, Christopher. *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel: Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story.*



Why
does God
care who
I sleep
with?

SAM ALLBERRY

Gender Identity, Gender Dysphoria, & Transgender Issues

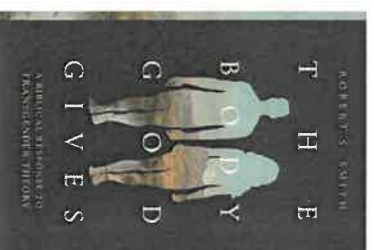
Ferguson, Samuel D. *Does God Care about Gender Identity?*

Roberts, Vaughan. *Transgender.*

Smith, Robert S. *The Body God Gives: A Biblical Response to Transgender Theory.*

Walker, Andrew T. *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say About Gender Identity?*

Yarhouse, Mark A. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture.*



Singleness & Dating

Allberry, Sam. *7 Myths about Singleness.*

Danylack, Barry. *Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life.*

Segal, Marshall. *Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness and Dating.*



Note to the reader: While we believe that these books and articles may be helpful for you in thinking through matters related to biblical human sexuality from a gospel-centered worldview, we advise you to read these resources with prayerful discernment. If you have questions about any of these resources, please contact one of the pastors.

Marriage

Harvey, Dave. *When Sinners Say "I Do": Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage*.

Keller, Timothy and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*.

Ortlund, Ray. *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel*.

Thipp, Paul David. *Marriage: 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs to Make*.

Homosexuality & Same-Sex Attraction

Allberry, Sam. *Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions About Jesus, the Bible, and Same-Sex Sexuality*.

Butterfield, Rosalia C. *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith*.

DeYoung, Kevin. *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?*

Gagnon, Robert A. J. *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*.

Gilson, Rachel. *Born This Way: Coming Out, Coming to Faith, and What Comes Next*.

Grenz, Stanley J. *Welcoming but Not Affirming: An Evangelical Response to Homosexuality*.

Perry, Jackie Hill. *Gay Girl, Good Girl: The Story of Who I Was, and Who God Has Always Been*.

Yuan, Christopher. *Out of a Far Country: A Gay Son's Journey to God. A Broken Mother's Search for Hope*.

Pornography, Sexual Addiction, & Temptation

Kell, J. Garrett. *Pure in Heart: Sexual Sin and the Promises of God*.

Lambert, Heath. *Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace*.

Ortlund, Ray. *The Death of Porn: Men of Integrity Building a World of Nobility*.

Willingham, Russell. *Breaking Free: Understanding Sexual Addiction and the Healing Power of Jesus*.

Resources for Parents

Gilson, Rachel. *Parenting without Panic in an LGBT-Affirming World: Discipling Our Kids with Jesus' Truth and Love*.

Holcomb, Justin S. and Lindsay A. Holcomb. *God Made All of Me: A Book to Help Children Protect their Bodies*.

Jones, Stan and Brenna Jones. *How and When to Tell Your Kids about Sex: A Lifelong Approach to Shaping Your Child's Sexual Character*.

Walker, Andrew T. *What Do I Say When...? A Parent's Guide to Navigating Cultural Chaos for Children and Teens*.

