

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

Lex Zylka, 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 August 10, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$18,564

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$471,527

Needed YTD: \$511,552



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, August 10, 2025

276 onsite | 25 screens / 4 states
/ 1 Canada

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**

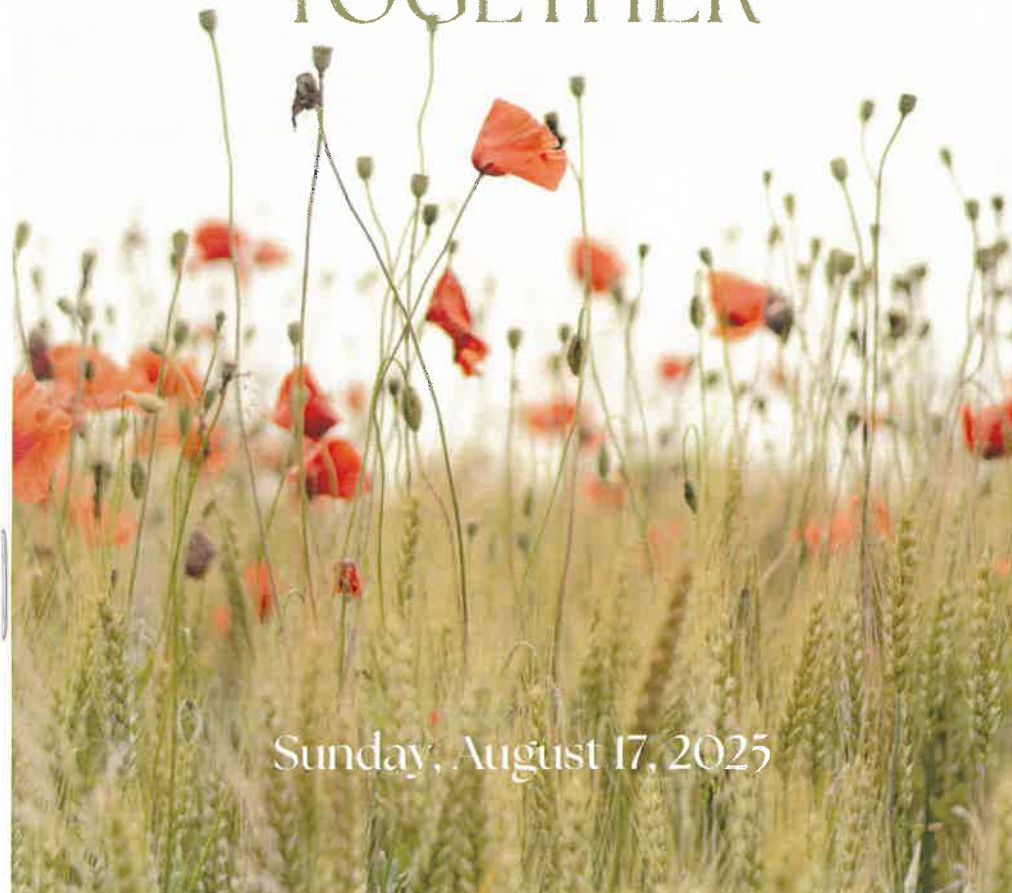
Prayer chain: text **efreepayer** to **94000**

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER



Sunday, August 17, 2025

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Combined Summer Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Laura Engelstad

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Death Was Arrested

Thank You God For Saving Me

In Christ Alone

Ministry Moment: VBS

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Almighty

Scripture Reading: Paul Thomas, Ephesians 5:3-16

Message: The Beauty of Innocence, Modesty, and Purity, Pastor Jerry

R.A. Johnson

Your Great Name

Benediction

Youth Band Worship This Sunday

Sunday August 17th the youth band is leading us in worship! These students are Lydia Nygren, Zaden Graf, Ethan Robeck, Bekah Helweg, and Layney Anderson.

The Deeply Devoted Podcast: Episode 046

On our latest episode of The Deeply Devoted Podcast, Pastor Eric, and guests Dan Evans and Neil Hall, share their recent experience at the movies, and chat about how good stories can point us to the gospel.

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Human Sexuality Sermon Series Disclaimer

Over the next 2 Sundays, (August 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 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.

Next Sunday, August 24, 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service

Message: A Compassionate, Truthful Response to LGBTQ+ (contains PG-13 themes)

Ephesians 4:14-15, Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

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

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

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 17

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

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 combined for today and next Sunday. Both groups will worship together back in the Lower Level Assembly Room on August 17th and 24th. There is no Beginner's/Kids Church on Sunday August 31st due to Labor Day weekend.

Community Outreach

Opportunity at Ridgeway - Tuesday, August 19th at 4:30pm-6:30pm
This is our final scheduled outreach at Ridgeway this summer.
Come and see how God has been working. Set up and tear down, serve food, meet new people, play with kids, give encouragement, invite kids/parents to church or to a life group, and share your faith!

VBS - Live it Out!

We had a great week of VBS!
We had about 70 kids every night, and over 60 volunteers! Thank you to everyone for your prayers, donations, support, time, encouragement, and for serving one another. Ministry to kids and families cannot happen without volunteers and your prayers. The kids learned all about the love of Jesus.

Love One Another
Be Kind to One Another
Forgive One Another
Pray For One Another
Serve One Another

Keep encouraging one another to live and love like Jesus!

Youth Ministry



Youth Group & Sunday School

Sunday School will resume in September.

Youth & Young Adults Pastor

Welcome to the Team Pastor Shane Flemming! Make sure to stop and give a warm E-free Bemidji Welcome to him and his family as he begins his first day with us today, August 10th.



Young Adults

Sunday, August 17

9:30 am - Summer Combined Service

ANCHOR

Anchor is our young adult life group. We will start back up in September with Pastor Shane leading the way!



Look for more info at the end of 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 17

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 am - Fireside Chat (Fireside Room)

Tuesday, August 19

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)
- 5:00 pm - Outreach at Ridgeway
- 6:30 pm - Trail Life (Gym)

Wednesday, August 20

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

Thursday, August 21

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)
- 6:30 pm - Worship Team (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm - Elders Meeting

Friday, August 22

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

Saturday, August 23

- 10:00 am Not Forgotten - Adult Grief Group (Green Room)

Sunday, August 24

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 am - Fireside Chat (Fireside Room)
- 11:00 am - Musician & Tech Forum (East & West Chapel)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

E-Free Softball

Come on out and support our E-Free softball team Thursday nights! This week, August 21, our team continues the final playoffs at 6:30pm. **Go E-Free!!!**

August 23rd Adult Grief Group Meeting

Not Forgotten - an adult grief group, will be meeting at the church on Saturday, August 23rd at 10 am for a time of fellowship and connection. Those with questions are encouraged to contact Katrin Crow at (541) 410-8800 or LeAnn Frenzel at (218) 556-0350 for more information.

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."

Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Hilda Hubbell, a memorial gift of hymnals was presented by Roy Hubbell in 1985.

Musician & Tech forum

Musician and tech volunteers are invited to join us in the chapel at 11am next Sunday August 24th for a time of discussion after the service. Attendance is not required, but is welcomed and encouraged.

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you looking for a way to get involved serving at the church? we are in need of scripture readers for reading passages during Sunday services, ushers to help hand out bulletins and pass offering plates, and awareness team members to help monitor the church Sunday mornings. If you are interested in any of these serving roles, please contact the church office at officemanager@efcbemidji.org.

9:30 Combined Service Feedback Survey

As we prepare to return to two services on September 14th, we are looking for feedback about the 9:30 am Combined Worship Service this summer. Please share your comments to help our leadership evaluate and plan for the future. Please use the back of this sheet if needed.

Our aim for having one combined 9:30 am Worship Service this summer (May 25 - Sept. 7) was to enhance our church's unity as we came together as one church. We set out to learn to worship with one another's music, laying aside some of our preferences in love, knowing others may be blessed by a song that may not be among our personal favorites. We believed that combining into one service would have the added benefits of a more full Sanctuary over the summer and would allow some of our musicians and tech volunteers a bit of a breather. **How well did we do at achieving these goals?**

What did you enjoy/dislike about the 9:30 am Combined Worship Service this summer?

As our Worship Committee makes plans for future Combined Worship Services, are there any recommendations or changes you would like us to consider?

Which service do you typically attend during the year?

- ☐ 8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
- ☐ 10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service

Survey available online at www.etcbemidji.org/survey



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?*

Kyramme, 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

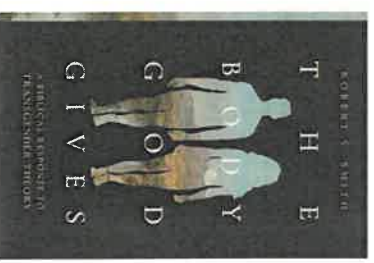
Ferguson, Samuel D. *Does God Care about Gender Identity?*

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.*

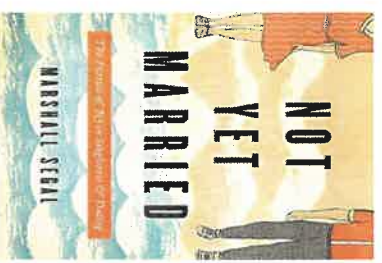


Singleness & Dating

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*.

Tripp, 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, Rosaria 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*.

THE
MEANING OF
MARRIAGE
FACING THE COMPLEXITIES OF COMMITMENT
WITH THE WISDOM OF GOD

TIMOTHY
KELLER
WITH KATHY KELLER

FACING THE COMPLEXITIES OF COMMITMENT
WITH THE WISDOM OF GOD

THE
MEANING OF
MARRIAGE

KEVIN DEYOUNG
What Does the Bible Really Teach about
Homosexuality?

