

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 - 9:30 am; 10:30 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 17, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$15,743

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$487,269

Needed YTD: \$527,538



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, August 17, 2025

304 onsite | 24 screens / 7 states
/ 1 Canada

Connection Time: 160

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 **efcbism** to **94000**

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

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Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



BECOMING
DEEPLY DEVOTED
FOLLOWERS OF
JESUS
TOGETHER

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Combined Summer Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

And Can It Be That I Should Gain (#473)

You Are My King

Scandal Of Grace

Ministry Moment: Music Ministry

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Jesus Is, Bethany Anderson, chorus on pg. 6

Scripture Reading: Lindsay Nygren, Ephesians 4:14-15

Message: A Compassionate, Truthful Response to LGBTQ+,

Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson

Goodness of God

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: Episode 047

This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric sits down with the new guy, Pastor Shane Fleming to get to know him better and to talk about his role as E-Free Bemidji's Youth and Young Adults Pastor.

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

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

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Human Sexuality Sermon Series Disclaimer

This is the final Sunday of our sermon series on Human Sexuality. A number of these messages contain some "PG-13" themes, so we wanted to give families a heads up. In addition to offering a full-hour of 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 our last sermon on Human Sexuality is invited to join Pastor Jerry in the Fireside Room at 11 a.m. today. The sermon discussion today will be on: 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 31, 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service

Message: Seeking God's Kingdom

Matthew 6:33, Jerry Drebelbis, Church Elder

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 24

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

Kid's Church - Grades 1 -5 (Lower Level Assembly Room)



E-Free Kids

Summer Worship for Beginners/Kids Church

Beginners/Kid's Church will be combined today. Both groups will worship together back in the Lower Level Assembly Room today as well. There is no Beginner's/Kids Church on Sunday August 31st due to Labor Day weekend.

Kickoff Sunday

Sunday September 7th is kickoff Sunday. Come eat and join us at 11 am in the Gym. Stop by the Kids Ministry Table for games, cards, and fun! Don't forget to wear your favorite jersey!

Kids Club Returns!

Kids Club begins Wednesday, September 10th at 6-7:30 pm. The meal will be served from 5-5:45 pm.

Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of Classroom helpers and substitutes for Kids Club and Sunday School. Let us know if you're interested.

Volunteer Leaders Meeting

On Wednesday September 3rd at 5:30 pm in the Connection Cafe we will be having a volunteer leaders meeting. A meal will be provided.

Youth Ministry



Youth Group & Sunday School

Youth Leaders Meeting

A Youth Leaders Meeting is being held at 5:30-7:30 pm on September 3rd with Pastor Shane and Amy. All planning or interested in volunteering with Student Ministry this upcoming year should attend.

Youth Group is Back

Our first youth group of the year is on Wednesday, September 10th at 6-7:45 pm. the meal will be served from 5-5:45 pm.

Sunday School Begins!

Sunday School start back up on September 14th. Our topic is, "Faker or Follower."



Young Adults

Sunday, August 24

9:30 am - Summer Combined Service

ANCHOR

Anchor is kicking back up on September 2nd! Enjoy Qdoba and Questions as you get to know Pastor Shane and what this upcoming year may look like. Bring an appetite, questions, and a desire for fellowship!



Look for more info at the end of August when we start back up again!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 26

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

Wednesday, August 27

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

Thursday, August 28

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Chapel)

Friday, August 29

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

Sunday, August 31

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

E-Free Softball

Congratulate our team on a season well played! **Go E-Free!!!**

Musician & Tech forum

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

Kickoff Sunday - September 7th

Get ready for our annual Kickoff Sunday celebration in two weeks! Wear your team colors to the 9:30 Service and then join us at 11:00 am in the Gym for our Ministry Fair and Kickoff Cookout.

More Books Available!

We've added some additional titles to our resource shelf in the Connection Cafe. Check out the variety of books available for sale to go with our current sermon series on Biblical Human Sexuality.

Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Hastings Foust, a memorial gift of hymnals was presented by, his son, Charles Foust in 1985.

Special Music - "Jesus Is"

Chorus:

The Prince of Peace and perfect love

That's who He is and where I run
I can't count the ways that I'm not enough

But thank God, oh, thank God,
Jesus is

Join Our Music Ministry

Would you like to use your musical skills to help worship our Lord? Our Music Ministry is looking for more volunteers. We are looking for worship leaders, singers, and instrumentalists (guitar, drums, keyboard, piano, organ, flute, strings, brass, etc.). Please contact our Music Directors for more info: Laura for 8:30 service (218-209-8190) and Jason for 10:45 service (218-242-9603).

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.*

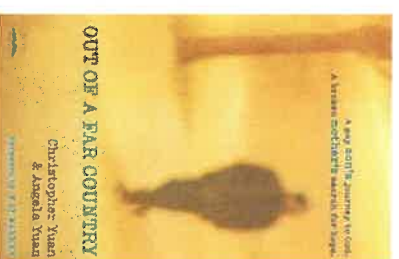
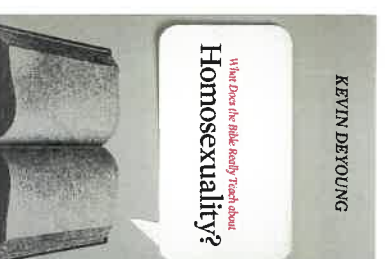
Resources for Parents

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.*



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?*

Kramme, 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

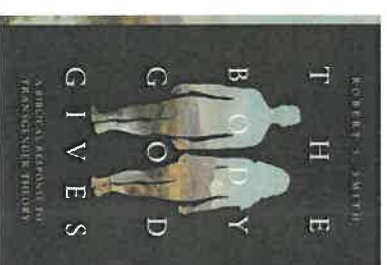
Ferguson, Samuel D. *Does God Care about Gender Identity?*

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.

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.efcbemidji.org/survey

