

## Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji

115 Carr Lake Rd. SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 | [www.efcbemidji.org](http://www.efcbemidji.org)



### Church Office

Email: [efree@paulbunyan.net](mailto: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](mailto:pastorjerry@efcbemidji.org)

Eric Nygren, Associate Pastor ..... [pastoreric@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pastoreric@efcbemidji.org)

Shane Fleming, Youth & Young Adults Pastor..... [pastorshane@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pastorshane@efcbemidji.org)

Amy Graf, Kids Ministry Director ..... [agraf@efcbemidji.org](mailto:agraf@efcbemidji.org)

### Support Staff

Dan Evans, A/V Supervisor..... [efcbemidjitech@gmail.com](mailto:efcbemidjitech@gmail.com)

Tom Halverson, Visitation Caregiver..... [tom.halverson63@gmail.com](mailto:tom.halverson63@gmail.com)

Lex Zylka, Interim Office Manager ..... [officemanager@efcbemidji.org](mailto:officemanager@efcbemidji.org)

Payton Michaels, Interim Facility Supervisor.... [facilitiesupervisor@efcbemidji.org](mailto:facilitiesupervisor@efcbemidji.org)

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

### Giving through August 24, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$13,409

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$500,678

Needed YTD: \$543,524



### Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, August 24, 2025

277 onsite | 22 screens / 9 states

Connection Time: 117

### 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 **efcbesm** to **94000**

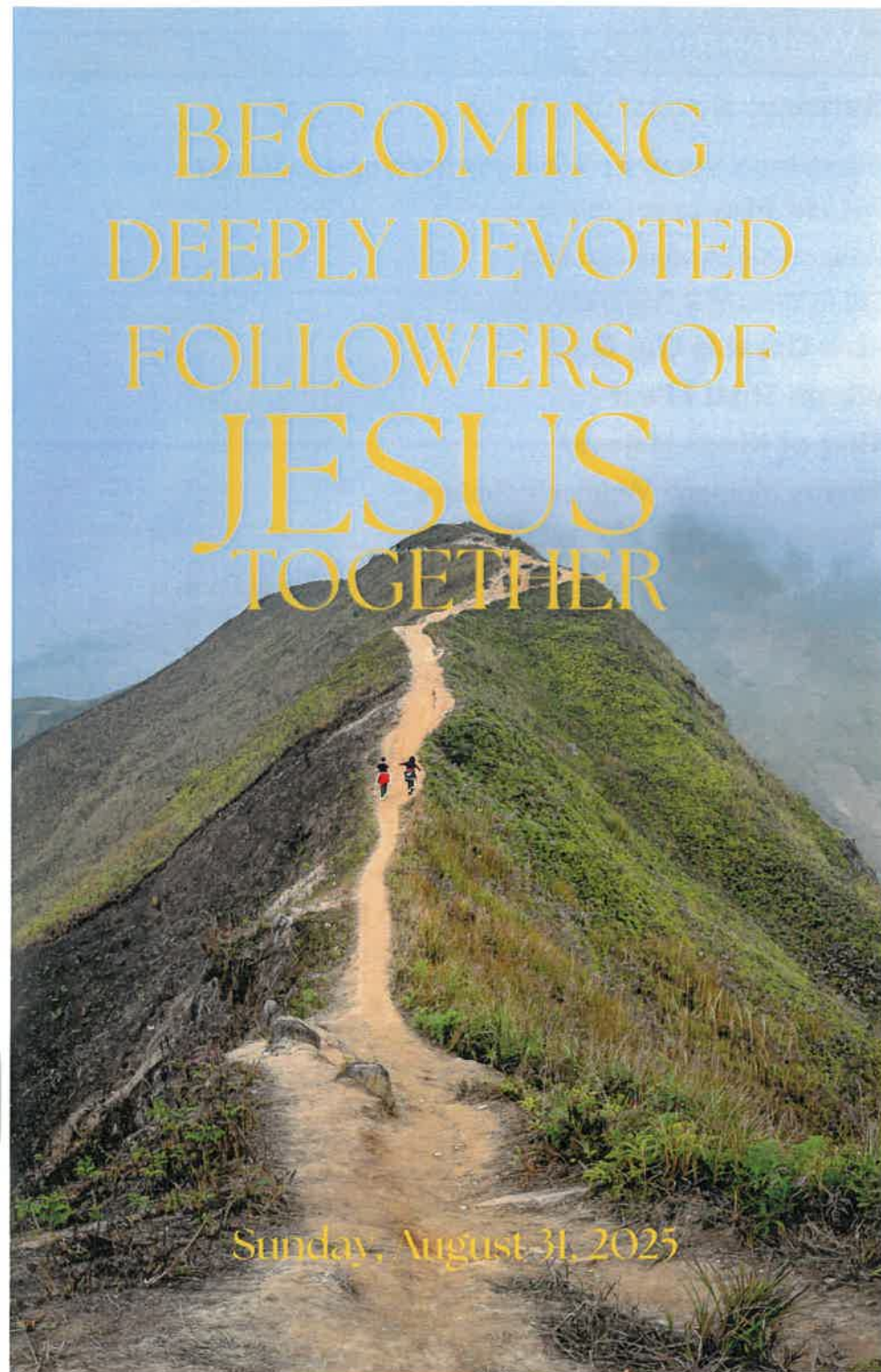
**Prayer chain:** text **efreeprayer** to **94000**

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Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



# BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER



Sunday, August 31, 2025

# Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

**Sunday, August 31, 2025**

## Combined Summer Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Mary Larson, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

**How Great is Our God**

**Whom Shall I Fear**

**King of Kings Majesty**

Ministry Moment: Women's Ministry

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: "In the Garden" on Handbells by Tracy Parthun

Scripture Reading: Scott Engelstad, Matthew 6:25-34

Message: Seeking the Kingdom, Jerry Drebelbis, Elder

**Turn Your Eyes**

**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

Did you hear Pastor Shane on The Deeply Devoted Podcast this week? Get to know our new Youth & Young Adults Pastor on our latest episode. Visit [efcbemidji.org/podcast](http://efcbemidji.org/podcast) to listen or to subscribe on your favorite podcast platform.

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

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

 wi-fi: EFCB\_Guest | password: efreebemidji

### 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](mailto:efree@paulbunyan.net).

### 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](http://www.efcbemidji.org/jobs)). Applicants can email [efree@paulbunyan.net](mailto:efree@paulbunyan.net) with a letter of inquiry and resume.

**Next Sunday, September 7, 2025 - 9:30 Combined Service**

Embracing our Gospel G's  
Pastor Jerry R.A. Johnson



## Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

### Sunday, August 31

9:30 am - No Beginners or Kids Church due to Labor Day; Nursery is still available.

### Sunday, September 7

11:00 am - Kickoff Sunday - Join us at the Ministry Fair

### Wednesday, September 3

6:30 pm - Youth/Kids Club Leaders Meeting

### Wednesday, September 10

5:00-5:45 pm - Family Meal: Pizza

6:00-7:45 pm - Kids Club, PreK - 5th Grade (Lower Level)  
Youth Group, grades 6-12 (Youth Room)



## E-Free Kids

### Summer Worship for Beginners/Kids Church

There is no Beginner's/Kids Church today Sunday August 31st due to Labor Day weekend. Nursery is still available.

### Kickoff Sunday

Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



### Wednesday, September 3

6:30 pm - Youth/Kids Club Leaders Meeting

### Wednesday, September 10

6:00 pm - Youth Group Begins!

### Youth Leaders Meeting

A Youth Leaders Meeting is being held at 5:30-7:30 pm on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>. Our topic is, "Faker or Follower."

## Young Adults

### Sunday, August 31

9:30 am - Summer Combined Service

### Tuesday, September 2

6:30 pm - Anchor Kickoff

### ANCHOR

Anchor is kicking back up on at 6:30 pm on September 2<sup>nd</sup>! 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 31

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service

### Tuesday, September 2

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

### Wednesday, September 3

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

### Thursday, September 4

10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

### Friday, September 5

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

### Sunday, September 7

9:30 am - Combined Worship Service & Communion

11:00 am - Ministry Fair & Cookout (Gym)

## What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

### Kickoff Sunday -

#### September 7th

Get ready for our annual Kickoff

Sunday celebration in one week!

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 previous sermon series

on Biblical Human Sexuality.

### September Senior

#### Connections Potluck

Senior adults, please join us on

Friday, Sept. 12 at 11:30 in the

Connection Cafe for our monthly

potluck and program. Bring a simple

dish (or fancy, if you like) to share,

and a friend. Tom Halverson will

share his artistic talents and a spiritual

lesson with a Chalk Talk. Call or text

Laura at 218-209-8190 for questions.

### Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God and in Loving

memory of Tilda Christiansen, a

memorial gift of hymnals was

presented by her family in May of

1985.

### 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).

### Welcome a New Member of the Neill Family

Serenity Grace Neill was born on

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 7:40 pm.

Congratulations Seth and Zirah!

Prayer Letter - August 2025  
By Amy Graf - Kids Min Director

As I have prayed and reflected on this summer, the Lord has reminded me of His great mercy.

2 Corinthians 4:1- "Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us a new way, we never give up." NLT

I don't know about you, but the Summer of 2025 has been hard. There have been moments that I have wanted to give up, but I haven't. I have remained hopeful, because of Jesus.

The storm was just the beginning. So much despair from the loss of so many trees, and damage done to properties, yet beautiful to see a community coming together to help one another. Beyond the storm, I have heard many testimonies of people/students/children who are in a season of suffering. Hearts and lives that are broken because of loss, addiction, abuse, mental illness, and separation. Couples struggling in their marriages, and kids/adults grieving the loss of a parent, a pet, or a friend. Elderly parents that are diagnosed with dementia, cancer, or heart disease, and families that are broken because of past hurt, current pain, and resentment. The list could go on and on. Many people who are hurting. Life is hard. Our world is broken. So, what do we do? We pray. Pray for one another, and be reminded of the hope of Jesus. He came to save, to rescue, to restore, to redeem, and to make all things new.

If this summer has been full of despair, I urge you to read through 2 Corinthians 4, and pray. Pray and believe that the Lord is near. He IS our only hope! He IS our grace! His mercy has given us a way to heal, and to be reminded to NEVER GIVE UP!

**Treasure in Fragile Clay Jars - 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (NLT)**

7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. <sup>8a</sup> This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. 12 So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

13 But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." <sup>14a</sup> 14 We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, <sup>14b</sup> will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. 15 All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are <sup>16a</sup> being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet

they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! **18** So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

So, my question for you is: "Where is your gaze?"

Please pray and reflect. Do I fix my gaze on things that can be seen, or things that cannot be seen?

We all grieved the loss of many trees. The things that could be seen. However, there was hope and healing through neighbor helping neighbor. The seeds that were planted by living out the love of Jesus, and the result of this love and obedience could possibly be eternal. The things that could not be seen.

Several people have experienced hard moments throughout this summer. Their gaze might be fixed on their circumstances, hurt, and pain. The gaze of the unseen is to be hopeful that Jesus will restore. To restore bodies, to redeem relationships, to bring freedom from addiction, to bring healing from abuse, to bring this incredible hope in our hearts that will give us the strength to NEVER GIVE UP! Fix your gaze on Jesus. He brings comfort, indescribable peace, and joy that can only come from Him!

Preparing and praying for Kids Club to begin in the Fall, I have been praying about our theme for this year. "WE". What if the story we were telling wasn't just about me, but about "WE?" Through life's joys and struggles, we walk by faith, together.

Please pray this year as we begin a new curriculum with our students at Kids Club. Here's the focus. We are praying that the kids will fix their gaze on Jesus and others. "The Bible doesn't start with us. It doesn't begin with our dreams, our struggles, or even our faith. It starts with Jesus. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. It's His story first. The story of what God has done through His Son. Through His life, His death, His resurrection. The story of how love moved toward the world.

But here's the beautiful thing: the story doesn't end with Jesus alone. It keeps going, through His people. Through a family formed by grace, not by genetics. A people called the Church. A "WE." The Bible tells the story of Jesus, and then the story of the people who follow Him. It's a story full of broken people and unexpected heroes. Of failure and forgiveness. Of God sticking with His people, even when they wander. It's not just a story we read. It's a story we're in. Because following Jesus was never meant to be something we do by ourselves. It's a life we live together. Faith is meant to be shared. The story of me always finds its place inside the bigger story of "WE." 252 Kids Vision for 2025/2026