

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 - 10:45 am; 12:00 pm - 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

Justin Nicholson, Interim Facility Supervisor.... facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving through October 19, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$8,051

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$600,482

Needed YTD: \$671,412

Roof Funds Received: \$73,199



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, October 19, 2025

353 onsite | 41 screens / 7 states

Sunday School Hour 168

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

52 adults, 65 children, 63 youth

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 **efcbsm** to **94000**

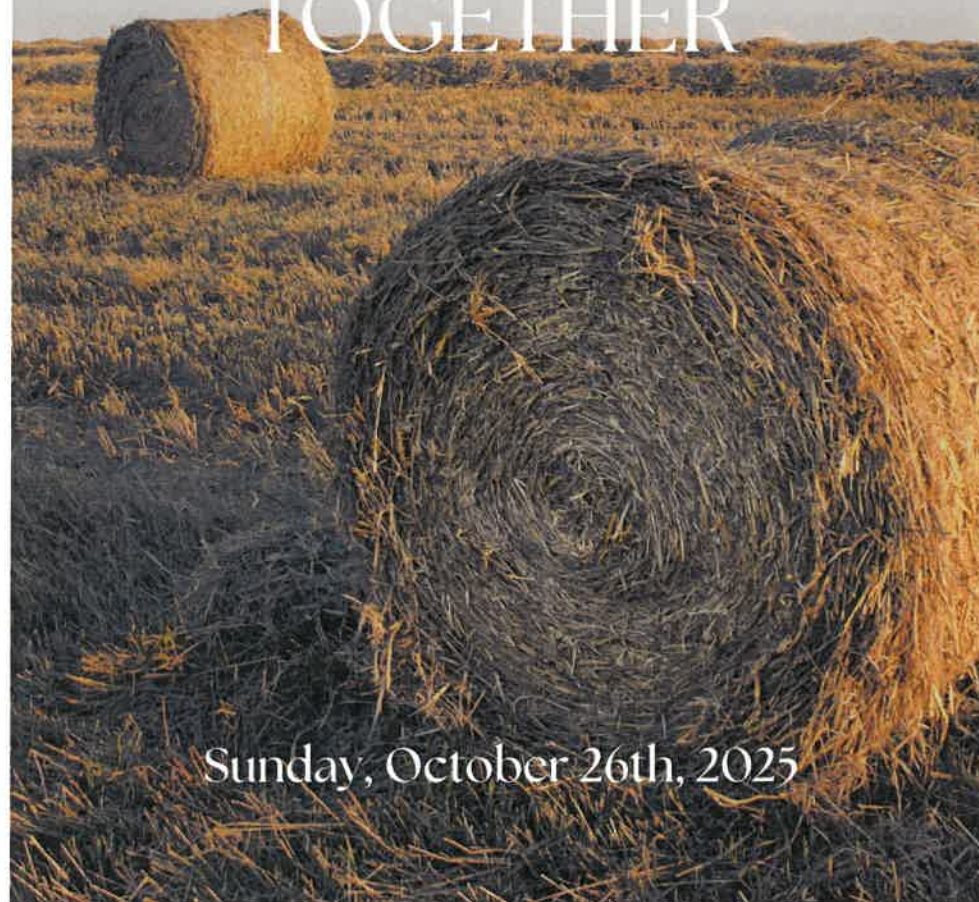
Prayer chain: text **efreeprayer** to **94000**

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

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER



Sunday, October 26th, 2025

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Traditional Worship Service - 8:30 AM

Prelude: Laura Engelstad, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

How Firm A Foundation (#612)

The Solid Rock (#517)

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Choir Anthem, "My Hope is in the Lord"

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Ministry Moment

Scripture Reading: Nate Wilson, Luke 8:4-15

Message: Hearing to Harvest, Pastor Shane Fleming

Goodness of God

Benediction

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.

The Deeply Devoted Podcast: Episode 051

This week on the podcast, Pastor Eric sits down to chat with Tyler Sapit and Clayton Birdsall, two members of the Bemidji State University football team about how their faith impacts their lives as student athletes.

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Contemporary Worship Service - 10:45 AM

Prelude: What A Beautiful Name

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer of Adoration

Who You Say I Am

My Savior My God

Holy Forever

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Set A Fire

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Ministry Moment

Scripture Reading: Patti Lofgren, Luke 8:4-15

Message: Hearing to Harvest, Pastor Shane Fleming

One Pure And Holy Passion

Benediction

Fraud Alert

Please be careful NOT to respond to any email supposedly coming from one of the church staff that asks you to purchase gift cards or give personal information. This is a scam. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

Giving to our Roof Fund

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

Next Sunday, November 2, 2025

Responding to Light

Luke 8:16-21, Pastor Eric Nygren

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, October 26

- 8:30 am - Kids/Beginners Church (Lower Level, dismissed during service)
- 9:45 am - Kids Sunday School (Lower Level)
- 9:45 am - Youth Sunday School (5:11 Room)
- 10:45 am - Kids/Beginners Church (Lower Level, dismissed during service)

Wednesday, October 29

- 5:00-5:45 pm - Family Meal: Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- 6:00-7:30 pm - Kids Club, PreK - 5th Grade (Lower Level)
- 6:00-7:45 pm - Youth Group, grades 6-12 (Youth Room)

E-Free Kids

Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers for Beginners Church and Kids Church. Please consider serving once per quarter.

Kids Sunday School

Our Kids Sunday School is going on at 9:45 am - 10:35 am in the lower level. PreK - 1st is held in the PreK classroom. 2nd - 5th is held in the 2/3rd grade classroom. Come join us to learn more about Jesus!



Kids Club

E-Free Kids Club welcomes all children ages 4 through 5th grade! Join us for dinner at 5pm. Use our Secure Child Check-In and drop your children off in their classroom by 6:00pm. Pickup your children in their classrooms by 7:30 pm. We meet each week in small group, large group Bible teaching, worship, snacks and games. Contact Amy with questions: agraf@efcbemidji.org

Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School is in the 5:11 room at 9:45 am. Don't miss out as we go through the series, "Faker or Follower."



Fall Fling

Camp Shamaineau is this week! All Slots are filled. October 31st - November 2nd.

Young Adults

Sunday, October 26

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

Tuesday, October 28

- 6:00 pm - Anchor (5:11 Room)

Thursday, October 30

- 7:30 pm - CRU (BSU, Hobson Memorial 240)

ANCHOR

Join us for Anchor on Tuesday nights in the 5:11 Room from 6:30-8:00pm as we go through the Gospel of Mark.

CRU

Cru is back on BSU campus for the Fall Semester! Open to all BSU, Oak Hills, NW Tech, Leech Lake, and Red Lake Nation students. We meet Thursday nights from 7:30-8:30 pm in Memorial 240. As well as having a Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study and Monday Night Women's Bible Studies. See Mark C. or Terry H. with questions:
mhockeymd@gmail.com
Terryleehewitt@gmail.com

📷 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, October 26

- 8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service
- 9:45 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John (Room 10)
- 9:45 am - Survey of Church History (West Chapel)
- 9:45 am - Old Testament Survey (East Chapel)
- 10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service
- 12:00 pm - All Church Potluck (Gym)
- 1:00 pm - Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

Tuesday, October 28

- 10:00 am - Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)
- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

Wednesday, October 29

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

Thursday, October 30

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)
- 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study Fellowship (Youth Room, East Chapel, West Chapel, and Classroom 4)

Friday, October 31

- 7:00 am - Heart of a Man: Men's Discipleship (Fireside Room)

Sunday, November 2

- 8:30 am - Traditional Worship Service
- 9:45 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John (Room 10)
- 9:45 am - Survey of Church History (West Chapel)
- 9:45 am - Old Testament Survey (East Chapel)
- 10:45 am - Contemporary Worship Service
- 2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

October is Pastor

Appreciation Month

If you would like to send Pastor Jerry, Eric, or Shane an encouraging note or card, you may mail it directly to them or drop it off in the church office, and we will forward it to them.

Bemidji Community Food Shelf

- The 3rd Friday of every month our church provides volunteers to serve at the Food Shelf, from 9 am - 12:15 pm. If you're interested in serving, please call Linda Shutter at (218) 766-7171. Thank you!
- The food shelf is in need of personal hygiene products like shampoo, bar soap, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, and more. If you would like to help out leave your donations in the donation baskets by the office.

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.

Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Evelyn Boyer, a memorial gift of funds for a refrigerator, was presented by her family on April 26th, 1990.

Potluck & Congregational Meeting

Join us today, October 26th, for an all-church potluck at 12:00 pm, followed by our Quarterly Congregational Meeting at 1:00 pm. If you brought a main dish or side, bring it down to the gym where they will be setting up for the potluck. At our meeting, we will be voting on the 2026 Annual Budget and will be electing Church Officers for 2026 (see nominees in the main foyer).

Officer Nominees

We will be voting on nominees for Elder, Trustee, and Church Clerk at our October 26th Congregational Meeting.

Elder: Jerry Drebelbis, Jim Hodgson, Paul Thomas, and Terry Hewitt.

Trustee: Richard Anderson, John Baer, Dan Frost, and Nicki Carlson.

Church Clerk: Kate Trosen

Monthly Prayer Letter – October, 2025

Dear Church Family,

How does one pray for a church business meeting?

Most likely, at our October 26th Quarterly Congregational Meeting, we will open our time with a word of prayer, and we'll adjourn the meeting in prayer. Perhaps we will ask the Lord to bless our meeting (and secretly, we may pray that the meeting might not run too long into the afternoon). We may pray that we would conduct our business together in a manner worthy of our calling as deeply devoted followers of Jesus, and that God would be glorified as the agenda unfolds. Even at our all-church potluck that will precede our meeting, I imagine we will give thanks for the food and for the hands that prepared each dish shared.

In addition to these prayers, I invite you to join me in praying along these lines as we anticipate gathering together for our business meeting this Sunday.

Praise God for the past twelve months of ministry together.

I know. We typically don't reflect on the past year until our January meeting. In three months, we will. But I can't help but think back to last October and our church's 100th Anniversary Celebration. Not only did we celebrate 100 years of the Lord's faithfulness, but together we looked forward in anticipation to what He would do in the months and years to come. One year later, here we are.

Take a minute and think through all that the Lord has done in our midst these past twelve months. As you put together your mental list, praise Him for His abundant goodness to us as a church. We are to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Th. 5:18), so let's give thanks to God for the things we are rejoicing about together, and for His faithfulness through the unexpected challenges and trials we faced together as a church. To God be the glory for 101 years (and counting) of ministry!

Pray for a ministry budget that promotes discipleship.

If you're not a numbers person, your eyes might glaze over looking at the proposed 2026 Ministry Budget. I thank God for the men and women who have invested hours into shaping a budget proposal for us to consider and vote on at our meeting.

trusts the Sovereign Lord to “meet all-[our] needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Php. 4:19).

Pray for our church's ministry leaders.

We held a class recently for folks interested in becoming members at our church. One of the topics we cover in the class is how our church governs itself. We talk about things like what it means to belong to the EFCA, but still function as an autonomous local church. We discuss what it means to be congregationally led, and the role our church officers (elders, trustees, etc.) play as leaders.

Traditionally, we elect new officers for leadership roles at our October business meeting. Whether or not you cast a vote at Sunday's business meeting, would you commit to praying regularly for our church's ministry leaders?

Thank you for praying for our pastors and staff (we truly appreciate it). You have no idea what an encouragement it is when someone takes the time to say, “I am praying for you.” Pray as well for our elders, that they would shepherd the flock well. Pray for our Trustees as they navigate things like budgets, roof repairs, insurance claims, and other facility and finance concerns.

But don't stop there. Thank God for our Nominating Committee members. Give thanks for those who serve in roles like our Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Church Clerk, and Global Connections Chair. Pray for our women's and men's ministry leaders, our worship leaders, for Life Group leaders, for kids and youth ministry leaders, those leading search committees, leaders who serve on Wednesdays and Sundays (as well as Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays), for leaders serving up front and those serving behind the scenes, for leaders who have a ministry title and those who step in a lead as needed. You get the idea. Please pray for our ministry leaders, however you define the term “ministry leader.”

More than a meeting.

Business meetings are necessary. But business meetings can also be an opportunity for discipleship. They can prompt us to pray. We can pray through the meeting agenda. We can pray for those who have a role in the meeting. We can pray for the names on a ballot. We can look around the room at who is in attendance and pray for one another. Join me in not only praying for our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, but also for all the ministry a meeting like this represents. See you Sunday!

Hearing to Harvest

Luke 8:4-15 on October 26th, 2025

Pastor Shane Fleming

The Elements of the Parable are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The noble and good heart, one who _____ the word, _____ it, and
_____ to an abundant harvest.

Our Response:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Visit **www.efcbemidji.org/sermons** to listen, watch, or read today's sermon. You'll find an archive of past messages on our website as well.



Life Group Questions for the week of October 26th

- Read Luke 8:4-15. Which of the soils best represents your heart right now? Why? Can you recall a time when this was not the case?
- In Verse 7 Luke spoke about thorns or weeds growing up with the plant. What "thorns" - anxieties, worries, life - would you say are the most prevalent in our world today? What about the local church?
- In verses 8 and 15, Jesus tells us about how the "Good Soil" produces an abundance. How can we cultivate this good soil in our hearts and homes this week?
- What steps can we take to truly be hearers of God's word and avoid passive listening? What are some practical ways that you take to avoid distractions?
- Spiritual fruitfulness begins with a receptive heart. Spend time in prayer with your group and ask God to prepare not only your hearts but those in your communities, work places, and homes this week.

Our Life Groups are all about learning together and loving one another. Visit www.efcbemidji.org/lifegroups for more info.

