

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: Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:45 am - 9:30am; 10:30 am - 12:00 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, Office Manager officemanager@efcbemidji.org

Luke Hockenson, Church Custodian..... facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

Giving through November 23, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$9,896

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$685,054

Needed YTD: \$751,342



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, November 23, 2025

278 onsite | 37 screens / 8 states

Sunday School Hour: 91

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**

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Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



BECOMING DEEPLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS TOGETHER



Sunday, November 30, 2025

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Combined Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue & Laura, piano

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (#135)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (#133)

Midnight Clear

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Kay Sue, piano

Scripture Reading: Nate Wilson, James 5:7-11

Message: What Are We Waiting For?, Pastor Eric Nygren

O Little Town of Bethlehem (#155)

Special Music: Parthun Family, "The Blessing"

Benediction

December Overflow

Ladies! Join us Monday, December 8th @ 6:30 PM in the Connection Cafe for our Kick Off Christmas with Cookies, Cocoa & Carols. Take a break from the chaotic holiday prep and relax with us. If led to, please bring a toy or kid's clothing to go towards Foster the Family. Stop by the Women's Ministry table for more info and to sign up!

The Deeply Devoted Podcast

Catch up on past episodes of The Deeply Devoted Podcast. Get to know our Office Manager, Lex Zylka in Episode 008. Brush up on your Christmas Christology with Episode 015. Go all the way back to Episodes 001 and 002 to find out why we have a podcast in the first place.

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

Christmas Sr. Potluck Dec. 12

Seniors, please join us for our special Christmas Sr. Connection Potluck on Dec. 12 at 11:30 in the Connection Cafe. Bring a dish to share, and wear your favorite Christmas sweater. Let's celebrate our Savior's birth together, and bring a friend or two! Call or text Laura at 218-209-8190 with questions.

Let's Pray!

On Friday, December 5th, from 9:00 to 11:00 am, the Sanctuary will be open for anyone who would like to stop by and pray. Come and go as you like. Come pray silently, or join others in praying for one another and for our church.

Connection Cafe

Do you have a favorite Christmas cookie or treat that you would like to share with the church? December 14th, we will be hosting a special Connection Cafe for the Christmas Cantata displaying favorite Christmas cookies and treats from your fellow church members. If you would like to bring something to share, please reach out to Rylie Helweg for details to get your name on the list of participants.

218-407-4692

Rylie.Helweg@gmail.com

Office Hours

Office hours are changed! Office hours are now set Monday - Thursday 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm. Sunday office hours will remain the same. If you need to get a hold of pastoral staff on Fridays, they're still available by appointment.

Next Sunday, December 7, 2025

The Thrilling Hope of the World!

Luke 2:21-38, Paul Schlador

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 30

NO Beginners or Kids Church this Morning, Nursery available for 0-3yrs.

NO Sunday School this morning for all ages.

Wednesday, December 3

5:00-5:45 pm - Family Meal: MN Hotdish

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

Kids Club

Kids Club returns this Wednesday, Dec. 3rd!

Our December Theme is: Extra! Extra! Go tell the world that Jesus Christ is born!

Christmas Movie

All Church Family Invited

Sunday, December 21st

@ 11am - In the Gym

Showing: "Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Concessions provided - all donations will be used to purchase supplies for our blessing bags, that we'll give to homeless shelters in February.

Volunteers Needed!

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



Attention!

There is **NO** Sunday School or Kids/ Beginners Church this morning.

Advent with Kids and Families

At all of our check-in stations, there is an Advent activity for families. This year, it is a "Countdown to Christmas" chain. There are prompts on each chain to read scripture, to pray, or to serve. May this be a time that you can connect with each other every day and celebrate birth of Jesus!

Appreciation Station!

In the Kids Min Area on the lower level, we have changed our Prayer Wall to: Appreciation Station! This is an opportunity to praise the Lord by noticing how kids and adults live like Jesus. Take some time to pray, and notice how others are living out their faith and leave a note of encouragement.

Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday School

There is **NO** Sunday School this morning.

Young Adults

Sunday, November 30

9:30 am - Combined Service

Tuesday, December 2

6:30 pm - Anchor (5:11 Room)

Thursday, December 4

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



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

ANCHOR

Join us at 6:30 - 8:00 PM on Tuesday evenings in the Youth Room. We enjoy bible study, fellowship, and occasional Pie Nights at Perkins - and more! Come join us as we are currently going through the Gospel of Mark. (Ages 18-30)



📷 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 **efcbm** to **94000** join our Student Ministries notification system.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 30

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 am - Treats in the Gym - No Sunday School for all ages
Christmas Carol Singing in the Sanctuary
- 2:00 pm - GriefShare

Tuesday, December 2

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

Wednesday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 4

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

Friday, December 5

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

Saturday, December 6

- 7:00 am - Men's Breakfast (Connection Cafe)

Sunday, December 7

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 am - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John (Room 10)
 - Survey of Church History (West Chapel)
 - Old Testament Survey (East Chapel)
- 2:00 pm - Grief Share (Chapel)

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

11:00 Carol Sing on Nov. 30

Come request your favorite carols at our Carol Sing at 11:00 on Nov. 30 in the sanctuary. We'll also enjoy the story behind several carols. Let's begin the advent season with music!

Benevolence Fund

If you or someone you know from our church family is experiencing a financial hardship, please contact one of the Pastors or Elders. Our Benevolence Fund is managed by our elders and is there to help our church family with unexpected financial burdens (utility bill, repair bill, medical bill, etc.).

Announcements

As December is almost upon us, here are a few things to take note of. Today through December 28th we will have a 9:30 combined service. Make sure you're paying attention to changes in the schedule as things get hectic around the holidays. If you would like another copy of the Advent schedule, they're available at the welcome table and in the church office.

Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark Edwin Parthun, a memorial gift of a Flowering Crab Tree was presented by his grandparents, Norris and Shirley Halver, in June of 1991.

Join Our Christmas Choir

We'd love more singers for our Christmas Mini-Cantata on Dec. 14. Singing together is a great way to celebrate our Lord's birth! Join us for rehearsal on Tuesdays at 7:15PM on Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9. We are finished by 8:30 PM. Talk to Ian Trosen (952-607-9095) or Laura Engelstad (218-209-8190) for more info.

Men's Breakfast - Dec. 6

Gentlemen! Our next men's breakfast is coming up on Saturday, December 6th, from 8:30-10:00 am. Come hungry because we'll have pancakes and lots of bacon. We'll feed you spiritually, too, with a testimony of faith from Dave Knudson and a brief devotional from Brandon Mustful. Bring a friend!

The First Sunday of Advent

READER: Today we begin the season of Advent, a time in which we celebrate the arrival of the incarnate Son of God at the birth of Jesus, and we anticipate the Lord's glorious return at the end of history, when he comes again as judge and savior. On this first Sunday of Advent, the church has traditionally focused on Christ as our HOPE. Join me in professing together from Scripture the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

READER: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

ALL: And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

READER: Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

ALL: And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Rom. 5:1-5, NIV)

READER: As we light our first purple candle today, we begin this season of Advent remembering the Son of God, the hope of the world. He entered into time and space and took on flesh, to save us from our sins and restore us to a right relationship with God our Maker. We also look forward in faith to the glorious return of Christ at the end of the age. Therefore, together we pray in hope:

ALL: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20b, NIV)