

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 30, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$9,235

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$694,289

Needed YTD: \$767,328



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, November 30, 2025

196 onsite | 20 screens / 9 states /
and 2 Countries

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

57 adults, 61 children, 60 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**

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Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



Luke 2:13-14
Suddenly a great
company of the
heavenly host appeared
with the angel, praising
God and saying,
“Glory to God in the
highest heaven,
and on earth peace to
those on whom his favor
rests.”

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Combined Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading

Go Tell It on the Mountain (#151)

O Come, All Ye Faithful (#173)

Away in a Manger (#147)

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Lydia Nygren & Bekah Helweg

Scripture Reading: Brian Eastling, Luke 2:21-38

Message: The Thrilling Hope of the World!, Pastor Paul Schlador

O Holy Night

Baptism

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

Our church podcast will be taking a break for the remainder of the year. We are working on new episode ideas and are contacting future guests for 2026. Send your episode and guest ideas to podcast@efcbemidji.org.

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

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

Today's Baptisms

The following young people are being baptized today. Please pray for each of them as they take this next step in their walk with Christ.

Charlotte Carpenter

Levi Carpenter

Ben Robeck

Ethan Robeck

Seth Robeck

Levi Nicholson

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.

Communion

Next Sunday, December 14th, the Lord's Supper will be served during our 9:30 am Combined worship service. We will be using our non-alcoholic communion juice and gluten free bread. All who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior are invited to celebrate with us. Please take time to reflect upon your walk with the Lord and relationships with other Christians. 1 Corinthians 11:28 urges, "We ought to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup." The Lord's Supper represents Christians' union with Jesus and unity with other believers.

Next Sunday, December 14, 2025

Who Is #1 on Your Contact List?

Terry Hewitt

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 7

9:30 am - Kids/Beginners Church (Lower Level, dismissed during service)

11:00 am - Kids Sunday School (Lower Level)

Wednesday, December 10

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

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

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

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.



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.

Volunteers Needed!

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

Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday School

Sunday School- New series: Bad Advice. We are going through a series on listening to Jesus and how His voice cuts through the noise (Bad Advice from others) and gets to the heart. Join us for this 3 week series! (6th-12th Grade)

Young Adults

Sunday, December 7

9:30 am - Combined Service

Tuesday, December 9

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

Thursday, December 11

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 **efcbasm** to **94000** join our Student Ministries notification system.

Upcoming Events

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)

Monday, December 8

- 6:30 pm - Women's Overflow (Connection Cafe)

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

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

Thursday, December 11

- 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 12

- 11:30 am - Senior Connection Potluck (Connection Cafe)
- 7:00 pm - Grace Marriage (Chapel)

Saturday, December 13

- 2:00 pm - GriefShare: Surviving The Holidays

Sunday, December 14

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service / Cantata / Communion
- 11:00 am - Treats in the Gym
 - Adult Bible Study: Gospel of John (Room 10)
 - Second Sunday Prayer
- 2:00 pm - GriefShare

What's Happening at E-Free Bemidji

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.).

Photo Booth

If you'd like a fun Christmas photo background, please stop by the Connection Cafe.

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.

Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mark Edwin Parthun, a memorial gift of a rocking chair was presented by his parents, Chris and Tracy Parthun, in June of 1991.

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.

Memorial Service for Arlan Roline

A memorial service for Arlan will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13th. Family and friends are invited to gather for a visitation at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at the Germania-Moran Cemetery in Bertha, MN.

Monthly Prayer Letter - December, 2025

Dear Church Family,

Has this ever happened to you? Have you ever spent time in prayer and found your mind wandering? It happens to me more often than I would like to admit. Sometimes it's because I'm too tired and brain fog has settled in. If it's too early in the morning, or too late at night, my prayers can come out wonky. Other times it's because I'm distracted or focused on something else. Occasionally, when I'm praying and my mind starts wandering, something strange or unexpected will come out and will find myself apologizing in prayer.

"Sorry, Lord. Lost my train of thought there. Scratch that last thing I said. What I meant to pray was..."

I confess that sometimes I worry about my wording when I pray. I certainly don't want to treat prayer flippantly or irreverently. It's not that I worry about saying the wrong thing when I pray, but sometimes I wonder if I'm communicating clearly what's on my heart and mind. I've even caught myself saying in prayer,

"Lord, I hope that makes sense."

It's in these moments that I remember Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount.

“ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him (Matthew 6:7-8, NIV). ”

What a relief to know that God's ability to hear my prayer doesn't depend on the words I string together! What a comfort to know that the Lord doesn't need to decode our message before he can properly receive it! How incredible it is to think that even before a prayer is prayed, our Heavenly Father knows our need!

This applies whether we are praying in private or in public. Sometimes we get anxious about our wording when we're praying out loud with others. There always seems to be another Christian whose prayers are far more eloquent and articulate. That may be true, but those prayers aren't any more powerful than anyone else's. The power of prayer rests not in our wording, but in the one to whom we offer our prayers.

So let's just pray and not worry too much about our wording. Here are five things we can pray about together as a church this month. No special wording required!

- Pray for one another. Pray for the needs of our church family that you are aware of.
- Pray for the Christmas season and the opportunities we have for telling others about Christ.
- Pray for our church staff, boards, and ministry leaders.
- Pray for our church as we seek to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.
- Pray for our Global Partners and their work locally and globally.

Thanks for taking time to pray!

In Him, Pastor Eric Nygren

The Second Sunday of Advent

READER: On this second Sunday of Advent, we focus on Christ our PEACE. We remember the angelic announcement at Jesus' birth: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14, NIV). Our need for PEACE and reconciliation was due to our sinful rebellion against God. Join with me in reading together the words of Scripture that declare how Jesus--fully human and yet, fully God--has made a way of reconciliation and brought us PEACE.

READER: "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

ALL: He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

READER: And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

ALL: For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross" (Col. 1:15-20, NIV).

READER: As we light the second purple candle this morning, we declare the good news: "Peace on earth, and mercy mild;

ALL: God and sinners reconciled!"