

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 December 7, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$11,415

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$705,704

Needed YTD: \$783,314



Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, December 7, 2025

284 onsite | 31 screens / 8 states

Wednesday night activities were cancelled due to weather.

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.



FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,
TO US A SON IS GIVEN,
AND THE GOVERNMENT
WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS.
AND HE WILL BE CALLED
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING FATHER,
PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Combined Worship Service - 9:30 AM

Prelude: Kay Sue Eriksson & Laura Engelstad, Piano

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading

Angels from the Realms of Glory (#174)

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Choir Mini-Cantata, from "Joy Has Dawned"

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Scripture Reading: Kate Trosen, Matthew 6:5-13

Message: Who Is #1 on Your Contact List?, Elder Terry Hewitt

Communion

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#157)

Benediction

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed on the following days:

December 25

December 26

December 31

January 1

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.

wi-fi: EFCB_Guest | password: efreebemidji

Baptism

If you missed the baptisms at the end of last Sunday's service, you can watch them on our website. Go to the Worship Service Archive page under the Sermons & Resources menu. If you're interested in learning more about baptism, please contact Pastor Eric.

Life Groups

Thinking about joining a Life Group in the New Year? Head over to efcbemidji.org/lifegroups and click the JOIN A LIFE GROUP button to let us know you're interested. We'll find you an open group that fits your schedule.

Second Sunday Prayer

Join us today at 11 am in the Chapel for Second Sunday Prayer. Every month on the second Sunday, we come together to pray for one another, for our church and its ministries, for our community, and for our Global Partners.

Next Sunday, December 21, 2025

God Wants to Dwell with You
Elder, Mark Carlson

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

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

Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 14

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

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

Wednesday, December 17

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

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:

"The 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.



E-FREE KIDS

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- 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. Come join us for the last week!(6th-12th Grade)

Young Adults

Sunday, December 14

9:30 am - Combined Service

Tuesday, December 16

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

Thursday, December 18

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

Terryleeheewitt@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 14

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service / Cantata / Communion
- 11:00 am - Treats in the Gym
Second Sunday Prayer (Chapel)
- 2:00 pm - GriefShare (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 16

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

Wednesday, December 17

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

Thursday, December 18

- 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 19

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

Saturday, December 20

- 10:00 am - Not-Forgotten Adult Grief Group (Room 10)

Sunday, December 21

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service / Handbells
- 11:00 am - All Church Christmas Movie in the Gym - "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
- 11:00 am - **No Sunday School** All Ages
- 2:00 pm - GriefShare (Chapel)

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.).

Communion

Today 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.

Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God, A special gift toward the Porte-Cochere was presented by, Edna McVeety, in July of 1991.

Christmas Movie

All Church Family Invited!!

Sunday, December 21st
@ 11am - In the Gym

Showing:

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Lunch provided and concessions available - All donations from concessions will be used to purchase supplies for our blessing bags, that we'll give to homeless shelters in February.

Photo Booth

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



Life Group Questions for the week of December 14th

1. Who is the famous person for whom you would most like to have as your number one contact on your phone? What kinds of questions would you ask them?
2. Who is the actual person that is your "go to" person when you are struggling, or when you have accomplished something significant, or when you just need advice?
3. Read Matthew 6:6-8. What concepts about prayer is Jesus trying to communicate to his disciples and to us? If he knows what we need before we ask him, why do we need to pray?
4. To Jesus, prayer was certainly fundamental to his ministry. If you too often consider prayer as supplemental, what types of strategies would help you make it more fundamental?
5. Read John 17: 20-23. Jesus verbalizes this prayer immediately after praying for his disciples. What is the main theme he expresses as he prays for all believers? Why is this theme so important?
6. Share some techniques that help you remember to pray. And take time to pray as a group.

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



Who Is #1 on Your Contact List?

December 14, 2025

Elder, Terry Hewitt

Sermon Notes:

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.



~2025 Mini Cantata~

The Christmas story is a story of joy!
Celebrate with us the birth
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Selections from "Joy Has Dawned" by Lloyd Larson

1. How Great Our Joy
2. Mary Had a Baby (Linda Garrett, soloist)
3. Joy Has Dawned
4. Jesus Christ Is Born!

Ian Trosen, Director
Laura Engelstad, Pianist

Soprano

Melodie Allen
Kari Bergsven
Rachel Bolles
Katrin Crow
Chavvah Frick
Nichole Hassebroek
Evelyn Hassebroek
Sharna Johnson
Patti Lofgren
Ruth Lofgren

Tenor

Dennis Crow
LaDon Howes
Mary Larson
John Lofgren
Taumi Wilson

Alto

Whitney Balmer
Becky Eastling
Linda Garrett
Holly Howes
Mishele McKain
Karen Oftelie
Tracy Parthun
Kate Trosen

Bass

Brian Eastling
Aaron Johnson
Miles Larson
Randy McKain
Chris Parthun
Nate Wilson



The Third Sunday of Advent

READER: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the pink candle as a symbol of the JOY that is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord. We rejoice that our rescuer has come to seek and save lost sinners like you and me. Join me in reading together the words of Scripture that speak of heaven's JOY.

READER: "Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

ALL: And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

READER: I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

ALL: And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:3-10, NIV).

READER: On this third Sunday of Advent, we join with the angels in heaven who sing of our Good Shepherd, "JOY to the world! The Lord is come!"