

## 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: 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](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, Office Manager ..... [officemanager@efcbemidji.org](mailto:officemanager@efcbemidji.org)

Luke Hockenson, Church Custodian..... [facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org](mailto:facilitysupervisor@efcbemidji.org)

Laura Engelstad, 8:30 Music Director

Jason Robeck, 10:45 Music Director

### Giving through December 14, 2025

Weekly Giving: \$9,750

Weekly Need: \$15,986

Giving YTD: \$715,454

Needed YTD: \$799,300



### Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, December 14, 2025

290 onsite | 35 screens / 9 states

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

42 adults, 69 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 **efcbesm** to **94000**

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

[efcbemidji.org](http://efcbemidji.org) | (218) 751-8834 | [efree@paulbunyan.net](mailto:efree@paulbunyan.net)  
Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

# Welcome to E-Free Bemidji

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

## **Combined Worship Service - 9:30 AM**

Prelude: Mary Larson, Piano

Welcome & Announcements

Advent Reading

**O Come, All Ye Faithful (#173)**

**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (#171)**

**Joy To The World**

Dismiss for Beginners/Kids Church

Offering & Prayer

Offertory: Handbells, "Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Scripture Reading: Mandi Buchan, Lev. 26:11-12 & Rev. 21:3

Message: God Wants to Dwell with You, Elder Mark Carlson

**Silent Night (#164)**

Benediction

## **Christmas Eve Service**

Please join us at our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 5:30 pm on Wednesday Dec. 24. This year's program features scripture readings and carols, choir, youth band, handbells, a special children's story time and a chalk drawing. Nursery is provided.

## **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](mailto:podcast@efcbemidji.org).

wi-fi: EFCB\_Guest | password: efreebemidji

## **Child Dedication**

We have a Child Dedication scheduled for January 4, 2026. At a Child Dedication service, parents or guardians publicly commit to raising their children in the Lord, and the church commits to supporting the family in discipling these children. If you are interested in dedicating your child at either the 8:30 or 10:45 am Service, please contact Pastor Eric by December 31st.

## **Baptism**

If you missed the baptisms earlier this month, 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.

**Next Sunday, December 28, 2025**

TBD

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)

## Kids & Youth Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 21

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

11:00 am - **No** Kids Sunday School

All Church Christmas Movie in the Gym - "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

### E-Free Kids Kids Club

We look forward to you joining us for Kids Club when it resumes again on Wednesday January 7<sup>th</sup>! Have a very merry Christmas!

### Christmas Movie

All Church Family Invited  
Sunday, December 21st  
@ 11am - In the Gym (Lunch Provided)  
Free will donation

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.



### 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. We are also looking for substitute leaders for Sunday School and Kids Club.

## Youth Ministry

### Youth Sunday School

**No** Youth Sunday School this week. Come join us for Sunday school when it starts back up in January!

### Christmas Break

Youth group will resume again on January 7<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there! Have a merry Christmas!

## Young Adults

### Sunday, December 21

9:30 am - Combined Service

### Christmas Break

**No** Cru or Anchor this week or next week due to Christmas and New Years. Have a very merry Christmas!



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

### ANCH<sup>⚓</sup>R

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](http://www.efcbemidji.org/kids)

3 Text **efreekids** to **94000** join our E-Free Kids notification system.

📱 follow @efcb\_sm | [www.efcbemidji.org/youth](http://www.efcbemidji.org/youth)

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



## Upcoming Events

### 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)

### Tuesday, December 23

- 10:30 am - Bone Builders (Gym)

### Wednesday, December 24

- 5:30 pm - Christmas Eve - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Service

### Thursday, December 25

- Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
- No Women's BSF, Bone Builders, or on-site Life Groups

### Sunday, December 28

- 9:30 am - Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 am - Treats in the Gym
- No Sunday School All Ages

## 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.).

### 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.

### Memorial Book Entry

To the glory of God, and in loving memory of Jacob Tyler Kesler and Joshua Martin Kestler. A memorial gift of a rocking chair, was presented by their parents Marty and Kelly Kesler, in August of 1991.

### Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed on the following days:

December 25  
December 26  
December 31  
January 1

### Life Groups

Thinking about joining a Life Group in the New Year? Head over to [efcbemidji.org/lifegroups](http://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.

## God Wants to Dwell with You

December 21, 2025

Elder, Mark Carlson

God's plan in creation was to be \_\_\_\_\_ with us

Genesis 3:8

God's presence and dwelling with His people was disrupted by \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 3:23

God dwells with His people in the \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 25:8, Exodus 29:45-46

God \_\_\_\_\_ to dwell with His people

Leviticus 26:11-12

God dwells with His people in the \_\_\_\_\_

2 Chronicles 6:1-2

God \_\_\_\_\_ to dwell with His people in the

prophecies

Ezekiel 37:26-28

God dwells with His people through the \_\_\_\_\_

of Christ

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:22-23, John 1:14

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us so that we may dwell with God

again

Colossians 1:21-22

Jesus wants to dwell with you

John 17:24

God dwells with His people by indwelling in our \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:16-17, 1 John 3:24, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19,

Romans 8:9-11

God will dwell with His people \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 21:3, Revelation 7:15, John 14:2-3

Visit [www.efcbemidji.org/sermons](http://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.



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

READER: On this final Sunday of Advent, we light one more purple candle. We reflect on God's LOVE incarnate lying in a manger, who, in the fullness of time would be LOVE incarnate nailed to a cross. "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV). Join me in reading together the words of Scripture recalling God's great LOVE for us.

READER: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

ALL: Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

READER: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

ALL: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

READER: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God;

ALL: but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (1 John 4:7-12, NIV).

READER: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we declare, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1, NIV).

# YEAR-END GIVING

We remain grateful for the faithful and generous giving of our congregation. This enables a variety of ministries to nurture our church family and to point others toward Christ.

## AS YOU PLAN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

Please prayerfully consider including the Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji in your year-end giving. Donations to the church are tax-deductible. Even if you don't itemize your federal taxes, look into the options available for claiming charitable giving on your state taxes.

## STOCK TRANSFER

Did you know that you can transfer stock? If you desire to transfer stock to E-Free Bemidji, the form and information are available in the church office. Pick up a form from the office and ask your agent about the benefits.

## BE AWARE OF THE CUT-OFF DATES

Be aware of the cut-off dates for 2025 tax-deductible donations. Hand-delivered gifts must be received in the wooden offering boxes no later than Wednesday, December 31. Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31. Electronic transactions must also be initiated by the final day of the year.

## CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements for 2025 will be mailed in January. If your address needs to be added to or updated in our database, please notify our church office with your current contact information.

Again thank you to each individual and family in our congregation for your prayerful consideration. May God be honored in the stewardship of our personal and church finances.

