

November 27, 2022 at E-FREE CHURCH OF BEMIDJI

*Becoming deeply devoted followers
of Jesus together*

E-Free Church Online

www.efcbemidji.org | Instagram & Facebook: @efcbemidji

Other Info

Looking to connect at E-Free Bemidji?
Scan the QR code below or fill out the
Welcome Connection Card located in the
sanctuary seats, or complete our online
Connection Card by following this link:
<https://efcbemidji.org/connectioncard>



Livestream link:

www.efcbemidji.org/live

Email efree@paulbunyan.net to share a
prayer request or to join our church
email prayer chain.

Text: [efreeprayer](tel:efreeprayer) to 94000

Wi-Fi password: efreebemidji

Leadership

To see a full list of our ministry staff
and leaders, visit our website at
www.efcbemidji.org/about-us/our-leadership
or stop by the foyer bulletin board.

115 Carr Lake Rd. SW, Bemidji, MN 56601 - www.efcbemidji.org

GIVING

For November 20, 2022

WEEKLY GIVING:
\$ 12,629

WEEKLY NEEDED:
\$ 14,778

GIVEN YTD:
\$ 637,783

NEEDED YTD: \$ 691,091

Scan the QR code above or go to
our website to find out more ways
to give at: www.efcbemidji.org/give



Church Office

(218) 751-8834
efree@paulbunyan.net
Text EFree to 94000

Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 8am-12pm;
1pm-5pm
Sunday: 7:30am-8:30AM;
9:30am-12:30PM

Happy THANKSGIVING

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD;
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.
1 CHRONICLES 16:34

WORSHIP SERVICE

A New Heaven and Earth
Revelation 21-22

WELCOME

To E-FREE Bemidji - November 27, 2022

NEW HERE?

New here? Regular attender? Stay connected via text message by texting the word **EFREE** to **94000**. Or, check out our website at www.efcbemidji.org

LIVESTREAM

Both of our regular Sunday services are livestreamed at our normal times. Join us online at 8:30 am for a more traditional service or at 10:45 am for a more contemporary service.

For Your Information

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child ministry. Our church collected over **300 shoeboxes**. We collected **3,831 shoeboxes** from the community and as a Central Collection Drop Off (for the first time) we collected a total of **6,262 shoeboxes**. Thank you to all who helped pack shoeboxes into cartons for shipment. And a very special thank you to Trail Life members who helped to get the cartons packed into the semi trailers. You can still be involved in packing a shoebox. Just go online to www.samaritanspurse.org & click on "pack a box." Follow the Instructions to pack a shoebox online for \$25 (includes shipping). It is easy and fun! Please pray for the children who will receive these Gospel Opportunities. Know that on average 10 people are reached with each shoebox distributed. What a wonderful way to spread the Good News!

Senior Connection Potluck

Adults, please join us for a special Christmas Sr. Connection potluck on Friday, December 9th. The potluck starts at 11:30am, and the program at 12:00pm. Allen Benson will read us a Christmas story, and Sonja Connell will play a mini-concert on her cello with Laura on piano. Even if you're not a "senior", feel free to come for the program! Call 218-209-8190 with questions.

Christmas Carol Sing

To help prepare for the Christmas season, we take an hour to sing Christmas Carols. The carolsing will be held on December 11 at 9:45am in the foyer of the Community Life Center.

Prayer

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fireside room at 8:00am for Sunday morning prayer.

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITIES

We're glad to have you in person or online!

CONNECTION CAFÉ

Take some time to connect with others at our connection time between Sunday services, and consider reaching out to our church family who are watching online.

GIVING

Try out our secure giving kiosk here at the church or visit our website for a list of your giving options including: giving over the phone with Vanco, mobile-app, text-to-give, mailing in checks, giving online, and setting up automatic giving withdrawals at www.efcbemidji.org/give.

SERMON

You can request to have sermon transcripts mailed or emailed to you weekly by contacting the office. Our sermons are also available to read or watch online at: www.efcbemidji.org/sermons.

Tune in on Sunday mornings during our regular service times to watch our livestream services! Find out more at www.efcbemidji.org/live.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

No Kids Church today

Nov 30– Family Worship Night

Dec 2 – 6:00pm Christmas Tea

Ticketed event

Dec 4 – Bangladesh Team Report

Dec 7 – 8pm YG After Dark

Dec 9 – Senior Connection Potluck

Cello/Piano mini concert

Dec 11 – 2nd Sunday Prayer 6pm

Dec 12 – Foster Care Support 7:30pm

Dec 14 – Kids Min Christmas PJ party

Youth Group Christmas Party

Dec 17 – Women's Overflow

11/20/2022 Sunday Attendance

371 onsite attendees plus

39 screens in 5 states

11/23/2022 Wednesday Attendance

Thanksgiving Break

SERMON SNEAK PEEK

Dec 4: Based on Actual Events

Luke 1:26-56

Matt Graf preaching

Dec 11: When Peace is Uneasy

Luke 1:76-79

Wednesday Night Ministries

5:15pm Meal

6:00-7:45pm Kids Min

Family Worship Night

6:00-7:45pm Youth Group

For updates on Kids Ministries or Youth Ministries:

Text: efreekids to 94000

Text: EFCBSM to 94000

Wednesday Night Meal

November 30: Hotdogs, chips, salad
Please text or email any questions to
Mandi Buchan, 218-766-9106 or
mjwshutterbug@gmail.com

Let's pray for our church - Vision 2024

Our vision 2024 prayer letter is available now. Copies are available in the foyer between the bulletin boards, or join the mailing list (email or physical) by request by emailing PastorJerry@efcbemidji.org.

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. This is a scam. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

Colossians 4:2 exhorts us, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” So please join me in giving thanks to God through prayer this month. Let’s thank God as He faithfully sustains our church, enabling us to draw one month closer to our 100-year anniversary in 2024.

Let’s thank the Lord for our BD team. Even as I type this prayer letter, they are flying back to the U.S. Thank God for raising them up to go overseas and serve in His name. Thank the Lord for our ministry partnerships overseas that allow us to be involved in God’s global plan for the redemption of all peoples. Thank the Lord for the willingness of our team members to courageously leave their comfort zone and serve the needs of others. Praise God for Evy Buchan, Justin Burpo, Leah Helweg, Jordan Schlador, and Pastor Douglas. Thank the Lord for the opportunity God has given them to get a glimpse of His gospel work on the other side of the world. Thank God for the spiritual maturing that will come out of this trip and the impact it will have on their global perspective in the years ahead. Also thank God for His faithful provision of finances so that donors were able to give generously toward this trip. Praise God for the opportunity we’ll have as a church family to hear all about their trip on December 4 during the Sunday School hour.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us to, “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Let’s join together in thanking God for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are trusting Him despite their difficult circumstances. During our Sunday services on November 20, we passed the microphone around and shared our words of thankfulness to God. What a blessing to hear each one of these testimonies and see the goodness and wisdom of God being displayed in the perseverance and trust of His saints. Praise God that He is good, all the time, even when our circumstances stretch our faith. Praise God for the strength and endurance He provides. Praise God for “this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Ephesians 1:16 says, “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” I hope this describes your personal experience at E-Free Bemidji. Thank God for the precious fellowship that we have with one another each and every week at our Sunday morning worship gatherings, Sunday School classes, Connection Café time, and passing each other in the hallways. Let’s give God thanks for how this loving fellowship and Christian connection continues throughout the week in our Trail Life ministry, Life Groups, worship rehearsals, board and committee meetings, Wednesday night ministries, Senior Connections group, and on and on. Thank God for all of the planning and preparing that goes on behind the scenes to make our church effective in its various ministries. How blessed we truly are to be working alongside one another and enjoying the goodness of God through the spiritual gifts that He has administered by His Spirit just as He determines (1 Corinthians 12:11).

This week our church staff has been greatly blessed by a number of different people dropping off treats! Praise the Lord for people’s generosity and thoughtfulness; that’s the real treat. Let’s thank the

Brother or Sister in Christ, pray that we will not fail to give God thanks and glorify Him for His love and faithfulness (Romans 1:21). Psalm 9:1 says, "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." So let's do that, not only among our fellow believers, but out in our community as well. Thank God for opportunities to witness for Him by displaying thankful attitudes all year long. Praise God for the difference He's made in our lives and how that difference can be a testimony to the watching world. Thank the Lord for opportunities to be salt and light, to demonstrate what it means to have our entire outlook and perspective transformed by the presence of God in our lives. Let's thank God for how He protects us from being conformed to the patterns of this world, and instead transforms us by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). Thank God for the truth and goodness of His written Word! Praise God for the many great English Bible translations that we have to choose from. And thank the Lord that we can support global partners month after month as they faithfully continue to translate God's Word into more languages.

Let's give thanks to the Lord for providing us with steady progress toward making up our church's financial shortfall. Praise God that tithes and offerings have been steady and generous. Thank the Lord that we're getting closer to covering our expenses by the end of December. Thank the Lord that He's providing us with what we need to take care of our staff, our global partners, our ministry supplies, and our building expenses. Praise the Lord that we've also been able to be generous with special needs like our Benevolence Fund, youth scholarships, Wednesday night meals, BD trip, extra payments on our church mortgage, and special ministries like Operation Christmas Child. 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 says this about giving thanks to God: "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

Thank the Lord for all of the wonderful music in our church. Praise Him for Ron and others who are keeping our church clean and nicely decorated. Praise God for those who are leading in our church in so many different ways, up front as well as behind the scenes. Thank the Lord for this advent season and the special plans being made to celebrate Jesus! Thank God for our upcoming Christmas Tea, Women's Overflow event, Senior Connection Christmas reading and cello/piano mini-concert, Christmas Carol sing, Choir Cantata, combined Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, combined Christmas Day worship, and combined New Years Day worship. Wow! SO much for which we can and should give God thanks and praise and glory!

Thank the Lord for Second Sunday Prayer. Thank him for various small groups who pray together consistently and fervently. I thank God for those of you who are reading this letter and praying through it and praising God. Thank the Lord that we are becoming more and more a praying church. May we be the church that God would have us be, sincerely thankful, faithful in prayerful, and becoming more deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

Together for Christ,

Celebrating the *Advent* season at E-Free Bemidji

Thanksgiving Week

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. (Psa. 136:1, NIV)

- Nov 20-26** Life Groups not meeting this week
W | Nov 23 No Wednesday Night Kids Min or Youth Group
Th | Nov 24 No Women's Bible Study Fellowship
Th-F | Nov 25-26 Church Office Closed

First Week of Advent

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. (Isa. 9:6, NIV)

- Su | Nov 27** **First Sunday of Advent**
8:30 AM | Traditional Worship Service
9:45 AM | Final Love & Respect Marriage Class
Adult Bible Study: Colossians
10:45 AM | Contemporary Worship Service - No Kids Church
W | Nov 30 6:00 PM | Kids Min Advent Family Worship Night
Youth Group
F | Dec 2 6:00 PM | Women's Christmas Tea (tickets required)

Second Week of Advent

[Christ Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (Phil. 2:5-6, NIV)

- Su | Dec 4** **Second Sunday of Advent**
9:45 AM | Bangladesh Team Report (Youth Room)
W | Dec 7 6:00 PM | Wednesday Night Kids Min & Youth Group
8:00 PM | Youth Group After Dark
F | Dec 9 11:30 AM | Senior Connection Potluck
12:00 PM | Christmas Reading & Cello/Piano Concert

Third Week of Advent

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. (Gal. 4:4-5, NIV)

Fourth Week of Advent

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matt 1:20-21, NIV)

Dec 18-24 Life Groups not meeting this week

Su | Dec 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM | Christmas Cantata

9:45 AM | Adult Bible Study: Colossians

10:45 AM | Contemporary Worship Service

T | Dec 20 6:00 PM | Choir & Handbells Potluck Christmas Party

W | Dec 21 No Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

No Wednesday Night Kids Min or Youth Group

Th | Dec 22 No Women's Bible Study Fellowship

Sa | Dec 24 5:00 PM | Combined Christmas Eve Service (Nursery available)
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Week

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11, NIV)

Dec 25-31 Life Groups not meeting this week

Su | Dec 25 Christmas Day

No 8:30 Service or 9:45 Activities

10:45 AM | Combined Worship Service (Nursery available)

W | Dec 28 No Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

No Wednesday Night Kids Min or Youth Group

Th | Dec 29 No Women's Bible Study Fellowship

New Year's Week

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor. 5:17, NIV)

Jan 1-7 Life Groups resume meeting this week

Su | Jan 1 New Year's Day

No 8:30 Service or 9:45 Activities

10:45 AM | Combined Worship Service (Nursery available)

Welcome Ministry

We're looking for a few more people to help with our Sunday morning Welcome Ministry. If you find a good fit to serve, please fill out the form on the back of this sheet. Questions? Contact Pastor Eric at (218) 751-8834.

Welcome Center Host

Almost every Sunday guests from our community visit E-Free Bemidji for the first time in person. We're looking for warm-hearted volunteers who will:

- Welcome first-time guests and help them to find their way around.
- Help answer questions about our facility and ministries.
- Invite guests to fill out a Welcome Card.
- Thank guests for visiting by offering them a free gift bag.
- Help direct people to available discipleship resources in the foyer.

Child Check-in Host

Our secure child check-in system helps to keep our kids safe. We're in need of a servant-hearted person who can:

- Assist with registering first-time users of our check-in system.
- Demonstrate the check-in process for new users.
- Start up and monitor check-in stations during the morning.

Greeter

Our Greeters are some of the first friendly faces our guests and church family see on a Sunday morning. We're in need of kind-hearted volunteers who will:

- Greet guests and church family as they arrive at the main entrance.
- Assist with doors at the main entrance or the drive-up entrance.
- Direct first-time guests to our Welcome Center.

Usher

Ushers extend our Welcome Ministry into the Sanctuary as our guests and church family prepare to worship. We're looking for helping hands that can:

- Help worshipers find seating before and after the service has started.
- Direct people to find bulletins, giving options, and other resources.
- Coordinate with the Awareness Team as needs arise.

Please Contact me about serving at the

☐ 8:30 Service ☐ 10:45 Service

I would like to serve as a

☐ Welcome Center Host

☐ Child Check-in Host

☐ Greeter

☐ Usher

Name:

Phone: ☐ Cell ☐ Home

Email: