

# EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH of BEMIDJI

*“To promote the supremacy of Christ  
by celebrating His love, obeying His truth,  
and enlarging His kingdom.”*

**September 3, 2017**

**WELCOME!** It's great to worship the Lord with you today. Please take a minute to fill out a **Welcome Card** located in the chair back pocket. We hope you feel right at home here.

Please stop by our Welcome Table in the main foyer with your completed Welcome Card and exchange it for a free church mug filled with chocolates and information about the ministries here.

**Worship Services: 8:30 Traditional & 11:00 Contemporary**

**Message** “An Outstretched Hand” Pastor Albin Sterneman  
Matthew 14:22-33

## **NURSERY: For children age 3 and under**

We thank God for families and children! In order to help serve your needs we provide a staffed nursery at the 8:30 and 11:00 services, and during the Sunday School hour at 9:45 when noted on schedule. The nursery is located at the far end of the Fellowship Hall and to the right. The ushers will be glad to direct you. Please be sure to sign in your child and pick up a pager each week.



## **KIDS OPTIONS: QUIET PACKS AND ACTIVITY CART**

**Children third grade and under:** Quiet Packs are available at a table in the Fellowship Hall. These packs are for use during the worship services. Please sign out your packs and return them after the service so they are available for future use. Thank you.

**Children fifth grade and under:** An activities cart is in the Fellowship Hall. Please use these items in the Fellowship Hall and put them back on the cart when done.

Beginner's Church and Bay Point will not be offered during the 11:00 service this summer. We will begin again soon.

## **NEED PRAYER?**

A member of our Prayer Team will be happy to pray with you this morning. Please come to the Prayer Corner on the right side of the platform after the worship service. All prayers will be kept confidential.



## **OUR CHURCH'S WEEK**

**Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
(closed Mondays)**

<b>Tues.</b>	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting – Conference Room
	10:30 a.m.	Bone Builders – Chapel
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Practice - Sanctuary
<b>Wed.</b>	6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study – Fireside Room
	6:00 p.m.	Kid Club Leadership Mtg. – Bay Point Room
	6:20 p.m.	Youth Group Leadership Mtg. – Youth Room
<b>Thurs.</b>	6:30 p.m.	Elder Meeting – Conference Room
<b>Fri.</b>	10:30 a.m.	Bone Builders – Chapel
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Advance – Sanctuary
<b>Sat.</b>	1:00 p.m.	Operation Christmas Child Training - Chapel

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**SUNDAY:** Pray for those in our church who are looking for work or better jobs. Pray that God will provide for all their needs.

**MONDAY:** Pray for opportunities to witness to our community.

**TUESDAY:** Pray for the hungry and homeless in our community. Pray that their physical and spiritual needs will be met.

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray as we prepare and recruit for our fall ministries.

**THURSDAY:** Pray for the Elder Board as they meet tonight.

**FRIDAY:** Pray for our Global Partners Jim and Karen Frick as they serve with Truth Evangelistic Association of Ministries.

**SATURDAY:** Pray for the financial needs of our church and the global partners we support. Pray that all our needs will be met.

## **NURSERY STAFF for TODAY**

8:30	Jan Mauer and Bill Hubbell
11:00	Aaron and Sharna Johnson

## **NURSERY STAFF for NEXT WEEK**

8:30	t.b.d. and t.b.d.
11:00	t.b.d. and t.b.d.

## **MINISTRY GIVING**

### **General Ministry Fund**

August 27 giving: **\$8,603**

Budgeted/week: **\$12,035**; 35 weeks: **\$421,225**

Received through August 27: **\$413,626**

### **Global Partners Fund**

August 27 giving: **\$225**

Budgeted/week: **\$1,449**; 35 weeks: **\$50,715**

Received through August 27: **\$43,854**

## **CAN I DESIGNATE MY GIVING TO THE CHURCH?**

Yes! For example, our church's Global Partner's Fund is kept separate from our General Ministry Fund. That means that all gifts contributed for missions go only for missions, but it also means that gifts need to be designated on your envelope or check for the Global Partners Fund. Any contributions that are not designated go to the General Ministry Fund.

Please do not overlook our General Ministry Fund. It covers all of our weekly ministries such as our youth ministries, Sunday School, worship services, and pastoral ministries.

Envelopes for your offerings are available on the counter in the church office. Listed on the envelope are the main areas for giving and a place to designate special donations. Forget your checkbook? You can give online at [www.efcbemidji.org](http://www.efcbemidji.org) and also by texting (218) 216-8560 with the amount you would like to contribute, including the dollar sign (ex. \$25).

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Technology Committee has several projects under way such as installing a larger monitor in the Fellowship Hall, having a live feed from the sanctuary to the monitor, and upgrading our wireless Internet access (when complete there will be a public access available to all).

If you would like to designate a special onetime gift to help fund these projects and more, please mark your offering as "Technology". Your financial help would be so appreciated.

# **EFCB STUDENT MINISTRIES**

## **KICKOFF WEDNESDAY!!!**

Our kickoff Wednesday is September 13 at  
6:20 p.m.!!

We will be getting together, having fun  
spending some time in worship and meeting our  
small groups!! Can't wait to see you there!

**KICK  
OFF**

## **STUDENT MINISTRY HAS A LOT GOING ON THIS YEAR!!!**



Find us on Facebook at *EFCB Student Ministry!*

Like our page and watch for updates, events, times and  
prayer requests. This will be a primary way of communication.

## **PARENTS**

If you would like to keep up to date on things going on in Youth  
Ministries, please send me an email at

[pastoralbin@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pastoralbin@efcbemidji.org) to get on the parent mailing list.

Otherwise I will be asking for students to give me their parent's  
emails so I can get info out to you!

## **SUNDAY MORNING SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We are in need of High school and Middle  
school Sunday School Teachers! Please let  
Pastor Albin know if you are interested at  
(218) 751-8834!



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## **FALL IS COMING!**

Mark your calendars! Kids Club kicks off September 13 and Children's Sunday School resumes September 17! Yippee for Fall!

## **SUNDAY SEMINAR WITH DARLENE ANDERSON**

How do we reach children for Jesus? What years are the most instrumental years in a child's life? How do we make the Bible real and relatable for kids?

Come spend an afternoon with Darlene Anderson, who has worked tirelessly for decades in the children's ministry arena. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 10 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. No childcare is being provided for this event.



Please RSVP by September 6 with Stacy Ferrin at (218) 751-8834, ext. 104 or [sferrin@efcbemidji.org](mailto:sferrin@efcbemidji.org).

## **SAY YES BOARD**

**YES!** Check out the Say Yes bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall! There are several nursery and children's ministry volunteer opportunities available for ages 13 and up. These ministries are a great way to help serve the families in our church. It is so fun to watch the little ones grow! Contact Stacy Ferrin at (218) 751-8834 or Sharna Johnson at (218) 308-5066 for more information.

## **FALL LEADER & PREP OPPORTUNITIES**

Large and small group leaders are needed for our midweek Kids Club ministry, as well as Sunday morning classroom teachers. Kick-offs are coming soon!

Sunday leader materials will be available next Sunday and there will be a midweek leaders meeting Wednesday, September 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the Bay Point room in the Lower Level.



# EFCB YOUNG ADULTS

*“Our Mission is to engage Young Adults where they are, with Christ centered, biblically driven, meaningful conversations and encouragement.”*

Young adults, you are invited to a special evening worship service just for you starting September 17.

The 17th will be our Kick Off Sunday. We will go through a series called “Good Questions”. This will be focusing on what the Bible has to say about the questions that we are asking as Young Adults.

These services will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month starting at 6:00 p.m. here at the church.

This is not taking the place of Sunday morning church, but will give us a time that we can grow together.



**Join us for sobering music, challenging lessons and peer-fellowship. Hope to see you there!**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR VOTE UPDATE**

Last Sunday the vote to call Jim Hodgson as our Associate Pastor did not pass. Therefore, our elders are meeting soon to discuss the best way forward for our church. Please pray with us for God's direction for our church.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRANSITION PLANS**

Our Children's Ministry Director, Stacy Ferrin, needs to step down from her staff role as her family adjusts to Ryan's new job in Braham, MN. We praise God for His provision of work for Ryan and for Stacy's faithful, hard work these past 3 years – she will be missed!

Our Christian Education Committee will be launching a CE Task Force soon to begin plans for this transition. The plan is 2-fold. First of all, we will make sure that each ministry is temporarily covered as we move into the fall: Wednesday night Kid's Club, Children's Sunday School, Beginner's Church, Bay Point, Nursery, and so on. Secondly, we will update the Children's Ministry Director job description and begin plans for finding our next staff person.

***Please pray for our Children's Ministry during this transition time.***

## **PRAY FOR TEXAS**

Initial assessments show almost every EFCA church in the Houston region (15 total) has families flooded out of homes, and extensive damage in the communities they serve.

The Crisis Response is dedicated to meeting the relational, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and physical needs of those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Through partnerships and relationships, the EFCA can provide a tangible expression of the gospel to those in need.

Given the extent of the damage in Houston, and the surrounding area, our goal is to raise \$1 million for initial response efforts. For updates on our response to Hurricane Harvey, to give online and to volunteer, visit [efca.org/hurricaneharvey](http://efca.org/hurricaneharvey).

## **SERMON SNEAK PEEK**

Sept. 10, "Trusting Our Sovereign God," Genesis 40-50

Sept. 17, "Disciple Making," Matthew 28:16-20

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **CHOIR SEASON!**

The EFC Choir will begin practices for the coming season on Tuesday, September 5. New members are welcome. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. The choir sings for the 8:30 a.m. service twice a month. The schedule is available in the church office. Questions? See Kenneth Wold or call at (218) 751-2554. Please sign up soon so we can prepare folders for everyone.

## **ABUNDANCE CONFERENCE**

Ladies, the **FINAL deadline to register is September 7** for the Abundance Conference on September 29-30. Please contact Robin Hewitt at (218) 556-4847 to do so. We have very limited seating left on the bus, but would love to see you come! Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall TODAY!



## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you Greg Mayer for 16 years of faithful service as our church's janitor! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, September 10 for refreshments and a chance to thank Greg for a job well done and to wish him well in retirement.

## **SUNDAY SEMINAR WITH DARLENE ANDERSON**

How do we reach children for Jesus? What years are the most instrumental years in a child's life? How do we make the Bible real and relatable for kids?

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## **BAPTISM – YOU'RE INVITED!**

On Sunday, September 10, at 4:15 p.m., Dan Norvold and Stephanie Lauderbaugh are getting baptized at Oak Hills. Please join us for this wonderful celebration of new life in Christ!





## **LET'S PRAY**

“Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need,” (Heb. 4:16). As a church we have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to pray about! Join other believers next Sunday, September 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Our focus will be on the start of our fall ministries and we will also pray for our church and one another.

## **WHITE CROSS**

Ladies, join us for White Cross Thursday, September 14, 9:00-11:00 a.m. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and work on projects for various missions. This month we will be making blankets and totes to give to various missions in the Bemidji area.



If you have questions please contact Ellen Ward, (970) 373-6548 or Bonnie Munz, (218) 333-3749.

## **BABY SHOWER**

Baby Shower for Katelyn Miller. Join us for a time to celebrate the upcoming birth of Katelyn and Steven Miller's baby boy. Saturday, September 16, here at the church in the Fellowship Hall from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. Katelyn is registered at Target. Please RSVP to Belle Goscha at [belle.goscha@gmail.com](mailto:belle.goscha@gmail.com) or to Jenny Hodgson at (218)556-4250.



## **SAVE THE DATE: GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR GLOBAL PARTNERS**

Partnerships are often made on the Golf course.....and YOU can support our Global Partners (church supported missionaries) by coming out to golf with us in this year's Global Partner Golf Tournament. It will be held at Greenwood Golf Course on Sunday, September 24 with a Shotgun Start at 2:00 p.m.



We will have a Golf Scramble (some clubs available if you don't have a set) and then share a meal at the clubhouse. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks, hot dogs and brats provided. Sign up on September 10 or September 17 at the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Call Terry Hewitt (218) 760-9164 with questions! All proceeds go to the Global Partner's Fund.

# KEEP IN TOUCH

**Pastoral Emergency Care Phone:** (218) 760-7424

**Wi-Fi Information:** Username: EFCB-Public

Password: efreebemidji

**www.efcbemidji.org:** Visit our website to keep up to date with what is going on in the church as well as getting the bulletin, sermons, calendar, and staff emails.

**pray@efcbemidji.org:** Email or call the Church Office, (218) 751-8834 with your requests. Join our prayer team by emailing [pray@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pray@efcbemidji.org) and typing "Subscribe" in the subject line.

**Hearing Assistance:** Church hearing assistance system receivers are available in the church office.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

If you are already involved in Operation Christmas Child, or if you would like to know more about what resources OCC has to help you be a part of this ministry, come spend a few hours with the Local OCC Area Team as we walk you through what Samaritan's Purse has to offer. Join us Saturday, September 9 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Community Life Center here at EFC. There will be a short presentation, games, examples, and lots of fun and fellowship.

*For additional information contact **Sarah Schmidt** (Area Coordinator) at [sarahschmidtocc@gmail.com](mailto:sarahschmidtocc@gmail.com), or Anna Johnson at (218) 444-7256 or [doug.anna.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:doug.anna.johnson@gmail.com).*

NOW is a great time to purchase school supplies for OCC Shoeboxes! Did you know that in many areas of the world children are not allowed to attend school if they don't provide their own school supplies? You can help children receive an education (something we often take for granted). With school just around the corner, deals on school supplies are easy to find. Some of the items I like to include in my shoeboxes are: spiral notebook or notebook paper, pencils and pencil sharpeners, erasers, pens, compass, protractor, colors, color pencils, etc.

I also like to include an item of clothing, bar of soap, washcloth, toothbrush, and a WOW item – stuffed animal, toy, sports item, homemade item, flip flops/shoes, musical instrument. If you want to find out more, go to [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org).



# ***An Outstretched Hand***

Matthew 14:22-33, 9/3/17

Pastor Albin Sterneman

# Sunday Morning Small Groups



As a church, we are intentionally developing a community of discipleship and fellowship. Please consider joining one of the groups listed below which will meet from 9:45-10:45 a.m. throughout the school year, starting September 17. All small groups meet in the Community Life Center.

## ***Digging Deeper Group: Romans***

This group is for all who enjoys digging into some of the weighty and challenging aspects of Christian belief. Micah Carpenter will be leading a class on the book of Romans. Come to learn more about and discussion this book of the Bible, which Christians have always found to be a challenging, yet rewarding and inspiring message about the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. *(Can be taken as a Free Church Bible Connection credit.)* (Room 3)

## ***Growing in Grace Group***

This small group is for people of all ages who want to meet together for mutual encouragement and growth in their walk with the Lord. Various topics will be covered including Bible study, book reviews, and DVD based teaching. Mike Fritz and Sheryl Porter will lead. (Room 2)

## ***Men's Group***

Men of all ages are welcome to join Matt Myrick and Paul Porter for learning, edification, and encouragement toward God-honoring manhood. (Room 4)

## ***Women's Group***

Meet together with other women for fellowship, encouragement, and personal growth in the areas of discipleship and relationships. Kandi Paddock and Robin Helgager will lead in this opportunity for married or single women of all ages. (Room 5)

### ***Growing Together Marriage Group***

Daniel and Hannah Carpenter will lead this group for married, engaged, and dating couples of all ages. They will use the *Love and Respect* series which explores how men and women develop a greater appreciation for their spouse's relational needs. (Room 6)

### **Prime Time Bible Study Group**

Meet together for prayer, encouragement, and to study God's word with friends. Scott Engelstad will continue to lead in his teaching on the book of Luke. (Primetime Room)