

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH of BEMIDJI

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

November 26, 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

“Giving to God”

Pastor Jerry Johnson

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 Small Group hour at 9:45. 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL & SMALL GROUPS FOR ALL AGES – 9:45 A.M.

Children age 3 through 5th grade: meet in the lower level of the Worship Center.

Adults and youth: meet in the Community Life Center. Small Group and Sunday School options and locations are listed on the bulletin boards in the foyers.

KIDS OPTIONS: BEGINNER'S CHURCH & BAY POINT – 11:30 A.M.

Children age 3-5: Beginner's Church meets in lower level room 6/7.

Children K-5th grade: Bay Point meets in lower lever room 3/4.

Both ministries will dismiss from the second service around 11:30.

For all children's ministries, if your child is first grade or younger, we ask that you accompany them to and from their destination.

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)**

- TODAY** 6:00 p.m. Youth Game Night – Community Life Center
- Mon.** 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study – Youth Room
- Tues.** 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting – Conference Room
10:30 a.m. Bone Builders – Chapel
5:45 p.m. Handbell Practice – Fellowship Hall
7:15 p.m. Choir Practice – Sanctuary
- Wed.** 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Fireside Room
8:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study – Tea & Gift Shoppe
6:20 p.m. Kids Club – Lower Level
6:20 p.m. Youth Group – Community Life Center
- Fri.** 10:30 a.m. Bone Builders – Chapel
11:30 a.m. 55+ Holiday Luncheon – Fellowship Hall

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SUNDAY: Pray for friends and family traveling this holiday weekend.

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

TUESDAY: Pray for all who participate in our adult and handbells choirs. Pray for their ministry at our services and that many will be blessed.

WEDNESDAY: Pray for our Wednesday evening ministries and all who attend.

THURSDAY: Pray for our Global Partners David and Cindy Nelson as they serve with Frontiers.

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

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 Dawn Carpenter and Tracy Parthun
11:00 Sharna Johnson and Hannah Carpenter

NURSERY STAFF for NEXT WEEK

- 8:30 Heather Oakes and Jan Conway
11:00 Sharna Johnson and Jake and Beth Kangas

MINISTRY GIVING

General Ministry Fund

November 19 giving: **\$22,106**

Budgeted/week: **\$12,496**; 47 weeks: **\$587,312**

Received through November 19: **\$556,508**

Global Partners Fund

November 19 giving: **\$2,357**

Budgeted/week: **\$1,449**; 47 weeks: **\$68,103**

Received through November 19: **\$62,841**

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 and also by texting (218) 216-8560 with the amount you would like to contribute, including the dollar sign (ex. \$25).

KEEP IN TOUCH

Pastoral Emergency Care Phone: (218) 760-7424

Wi-Fi Information: Username: EFCB-Public

Password: efreebemidji

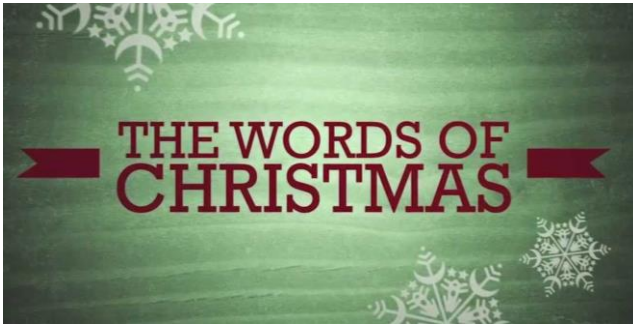
www.efcbemidji.org: Visit our website to keep up to date with what is going on in the church as well as getting the bulletin, sermons, calendar, and staff emails.

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

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



**Join us for the Words of Christmas this
Wednesday, November 29 at 6:20 p.m.!!!**



Game Night Tonight November 26 6:00 p.m.

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 to get on the parent mailing list.

SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:45

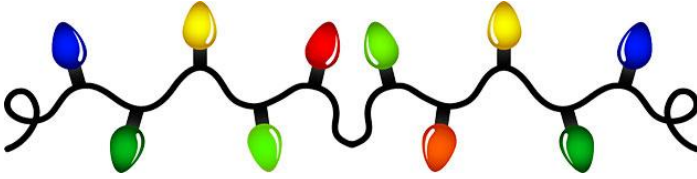
- Middle School will be meeting in the Youth Room.
- High School will be meeting in the 5:11 Lounge.

SCHOLARSHIP

If you would like to give to our scholarship fund please mark Youth Fund Scholarship on your offering.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Children's Christmas Program

Join us Sunday, December 17, during the Sunday School hour for our Children's Christmas Program.

This year's program features a mini-drama based on the short story "A Certain Small Shepherd" by Rebecca Caudill.

PARENTS: Most practices will be during the Sunday School hour, and updates will be given out there as well. We are asking parents of children to bring a dozen donuts or danish if you have a child in the program. Please let your child's teacher know so we can account for plenty of provision.

Questions? Please contact Dawn Carpenter at (218) 444-5266 or Mishel Carlson at (218) 209-7390.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Please prayerfully consider putting your name on one of the lines below.



KIDS CLUB Wednesday nights

1 leader for 2nd/3rd grade: _____

1 helper for 2nd/3rd grade: _____

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

1 helper for pre-schoolers: _____

BEGINNER'S CHURCH Sunday mornings (ages 3-5)

2 adults: _____

2 teens: _____

NURSERY

8:30 a.m. on Sundays needs 2 adults:

11:00 a.m. on Sundays needs 6 adults:

**** If you'd be willing to help, please contact Pastor Albin at (218) 751-8834 ext. 111 or email PastorAlbin@efcbemidji.org**

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 the
Vespers Christmas Party!**

December 3 at Dan Frost's Home

Address: 914 Woodward Dr. SW
Bemidji MN, 56601
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Bring: Treat to share, white elephant gift,
ugly sweater!

There is no Vespers December 17.



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR – SEARCH UPDATE

Please continue to PRAY for our Christian Education Task Force as they keep children's ministries moving forward and as they look for our church's next Children's Ministries Director. They are making some reference calls this week and will continue to consider applications until the end of November. Members include Pastor Albin, Mishel Carlson, Becky Eastling, Lydia Johnson, Dawn Maggert, Scott Buchan, Sharna Johnson, and Pastor Jerry.

ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath has been a part of the Christmas tradition since the 15th century. Its circle represents the eternal love of God, and the evergreen cuttings symbolize eternal life. The four colored candles, each lit in succession, anticipate the glorious coming of God's Chosen One. The center candle stands for the Lord of Light, the Christ Child.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. Purple is a royal color reminding us of the coming of our King. On the second Sunday, the second purple candle is lit. Purple also symbolizes humility. Advent is a time for us to humble ourselves before God and his Christ. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday symbolizing the joy we find in Christ. On the fourth Sunday, the third purple candle is lit. The circle of light is complete because the day of great joy is near! The Christ candle is white symbolizing Jesus' holiness and purity. It is lit at the Christmas Eve service.

ATTENTION PARENTS

During Sunday School hour TODAY, November 26, children ages 3 – 5th grade will be rehearsing for the Children's Christmas program in the BayPoint Room.



SERMON SNEAK PEEK

December 3, "Twas the Year Before Christmas," Luke 1:5-25
Scott Engelstad preaching

December 10, "In Joseph's Sandals," Matthew 1:18-25

December 17, "Shepherd Incarnate"

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG

Prepare your heart to celebrate our Lord's birth by joining in a special Christmas sing-a-long TODAY at 9:45 a.m. Ken Wold will lead us in a special Sunday School hour. We will meet in the Youth Room at the west end of the Community Life Center.

55+ CLUB HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The 55+ Club will meet on Friday, December 1, at 11:30 a.m. for our Holiday potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. We will be singing Christmas Hymns and be accompanied by Jan Collette playing the piano. Please come, bring a friend and enjoy the fellowship.



SHORT TERM MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULTS

Come and learn more about a short-term missions trip to South Asia in November of 2018. Please join us for a preliminary meeting on Sunday, December 3, at 12:15 p.m. in the Office Conference Room. Daniel Carpenter will share more details and answer any questions.



WHITE CROSS

Ladies, join us for White Cross Thursday, December 14, 9:00-11:00 a.m. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and work on projects for various missions. If you have questions please contact Ellen Ward (970) 373-6548 or Bonnie Munz (218) 333-3749.

SAVE THE DATE

Plan now to "Radically Begin" the New Year and join us Friday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel for a ladies night with Emilie Gibbons (one of our Global Partners serving in France and Mom to our own Naomi Shindelar).

Emilie will speak on the topic "Radical Beginnings" and you won't want to miss this challenging and encouraging message! Don't forget to bring a friend!

COMMUNITY NEWS

GRIEF SHARE AND DIVORCECARE SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS SESSIONS

A Community Holiday Remembrance service will be held on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 at the United Methodist Church.

A two hour DivorceCare support group will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Calvary Lutheran Church.

A two hour GriefShare support group will be held Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church.

BEMIDJI CHORALE

The public is invited to the Bemidji Chorale 39th Annual Christmas Concert Sunday, December 3, 3:00 p.m. *and repeated* at 7:00 p.m. at EFree Bemidji. Our own Ken Wold is a part of the Chorale. There is no admission fee for the concert; a freewill offering will be received.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child ministry. Our church collected **143 shoeboxes**. We sent 141 last year. Our Relay Station sent 2,580 **shoeboxes** (down from 2,719 last year) to the Baxter Collection Center on Monday.

A special thanks to those who helped pack the cartons during collection week, and to those who loaded them on the trailer.

Did you miss an opportunity to pack a shoebox? You can still get involved. Just go online to www.samaritanspurse.org and click on pack a box. Follow the instructions and you can impact a child's life by giving them the gift of hope.

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!

CHRISTMAS CARING TREE

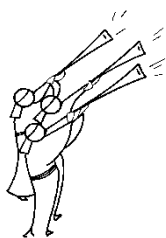
For the past several years we have assisted many families and individuals from our church family who have had financial needs during the holiday season through the Christmas Caring Tree. This program is designed to assist people in our own church. However, you do not have to be a member to be eligible.



If you are facing financial difficulties this year, we need to hear from you! Maybe there just isn't enough money to buy the kids presents this year; maybe there's not enough food in the house or heating fuel in the tank; maybe you lack winter clothing or boots; maybe you have a car repair problem; or maybe you have a medical bill you just can't pay. Whatever problem you are facing, we would like to help. Please be assured that your privacy will be protected and your identity will be kept in strict confidence.

If you are facing a need, please contact Micah Carpenter or Ashley Joren at (218) 751-8834. Or, if you prefer, you can make your request in writing by using the request cards on the counter in the church office. Just follow the directions on the decorated box and drop the card in the box when you finish.

The Christmas Caring Tree is set up in the Fellowship Hall and will be decorated with cards next Sunday that describe the needs of each family/individual. (No names will be on the cards.) Others will have an opportunity to look at the cards and choose how they would like to help. **But . . . we can't help if we don't know the needs. So let us hear from you as soon as possible!**



Celebrate the Birth of Our Lord!

Evangelical Free Church of Bemidji
Christmas 2017

*Please note the changes to our regular Sunday morning schedule on
December 17, 24 and 31.*

December 1, Friday - 11:30 a.m. - 55+ Club Holiday Meal

December 3, Sunday

9:45 a.m. - Children's Sunday School Christmas Program Practice

6:00 p.m. - Vespers Christmas Party at Dan Frost's home.

December 10, Sunday

9:45 a.m. - Children's Sunday School Christmas Program Practice

December 17, Sunday

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship featuring the cantata "Journey of Promises" by our Church Choir and instrument ensemble.

Pastor Jerry will preach.

10:00 a.m. - Children's Sunday School Christmas Program

December 19, Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. Choir / Handbell Christmas Party

December 20, Wednesday - Final 2017 Kids Club and Youth Group

December 24, Sunday

11:00 a.m. only - Worship Service, NO Sunday School or Small Groups

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols featuring "The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols"

December 31, Sunday

11:00 a.m. only - Worship Service, NO Sunday School or Small Groups

January 7, Sunday - Regular Sunday and weekly schedules resume.

January 10, Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. - Kids Club and Youth Group resume

January 22, Monday - 6:00 p.m. - Men's Wild Game

Feed



Giving to God¹

11/26/17, Pastor Jerry Johnson

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

Psalm 24:1

_____ should we give to God?

_____ _____ should we give to God?

¹ For helpful and encouraging information on giving, visit www.generousgiving.org. Note the MEDIA tab options including videos, podcasts, and literature recommendations. Also, consider reading *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn.