

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH of BEMIDJI

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

December 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

“Twas the Year Before Christmas”

Luke 1:5-25

Scott Engelstad

8:30 Choir Anthem

“Who Shall Appear”

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** 12:15 p.m. Short Term Missions Mtg – Conference Rm
3:00 p.m. Chorale Christmas Concert
6:00 p.m. Vespers Christmas Party – Dan Frost's
7:00 p.m. Chorale Christmas Concert
- 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
6:00 p.m. Women's Christmas Tea – Multipurpose Rm

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 the financial needs of our church and the global partners we support. Pray that all our needs will be met.
- 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 the hungry and homeless in our community. Pray that their physical and spiritual needs will be met.
- FRIDAY:** Pray for all who attend the Women's Christmas Tea.
- SATURDAY:** Pray for our Global Partners Franklin and Lorina Limarii as they serve with Pioneers.

NURSERY STAFF for TODAY

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

NURSERY STAFF for NEXT WEEK

- 8:30 CJ and Tammy McCray
11:00 Sharna Johnson and T.B.D.

MINISTRY GIVING

General Ministry Fund

December 3 giving: **\$7,604**

Budgeted/week: **\$12,496**; 48 weeks: **\$ 599,904**

Received through December 3: **\$564,112**

Global Partners Fund

December 3 giving: **\$670**

Budgeted/week: **\$1,449**; 48 weeks: **\$69,552**

Received through December 3: **\$63,511**

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.

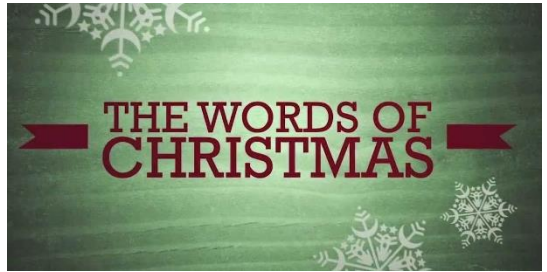
Hearing Assistance: Church hearing assistance system receivers are available in the church office.



Join us for the Words of
Christmas this
Wednesday,
December 6 at 6:20pm!!!

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.

TEXT UP DATES!!!

If you are interested in receiving periodic text updates please text exactly the following to 40404

Follow [@EFCB_SM](https://twitter.com/EFCB_SM)

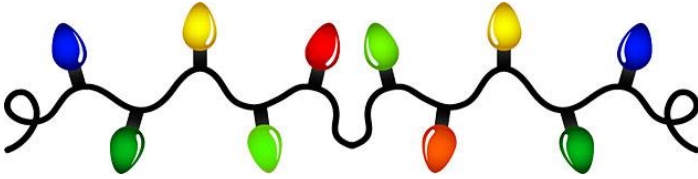
Standard Messaging Rates apply. Contact Pastor Albin with any questions!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL at 9:45

- Middle School meets in the Youth Room.
- High School meets in the 5:11 Lounge.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Children's Christmas Program

Join us Sunday, December 17, at 9:45 a.m. 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 cookies 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.

Thank you!

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HAVE STEPPED UP TO VOLUNTEER IN CHILDRENS MINISTRY!!!!

We have had several individuals step into much need roles lately and we would like to say thank you to those who already serve in this very important ministry!

There are still a few more places that need help. Specifically Beginners Church. **WE NEED HELP** in this area. Beginners church is for preschooler and kindergardeners during the 11:00 a.m. service. Please talk to Lydia Johnson or Pastor Albin if you are interested in helping. Adults and teens are needed!

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



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath's circular form represents the eternal love of God, and the evergreen cuttings symbolize eternal life. The center candle stands for the Lord of Light, the Christ Child. The four colored candles anticipate the glorious coming of God's Chosen One.

The purple candle lit on the second Sunday symbolizes humility. Advent is a time for us to humble ourselves before our God and his Christ.

SERMON SNEAK PEEK

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

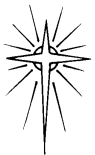
December 17, "Shepherd Incarnate"

December 24, "In Mary's Sandals," Luke 1:26-38

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 TODAY, December 3, at 12:15 p.m. in the Office Conference Room. Daniel Carpenter will share more details and answer any questions.



CHRISTMAS EVE NURSERY HELP NEEDED

We need four adult helpers in the nursery for our Christmas Eve Service. If you would like to give the gift of care for our children, it would be deeply appreciated.

Please contact Sharna Johnson at (218) 308-5066 if you are willing. Thank you!

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!

MEN'S WILD GAME FEED: SAVE THE DATE!

Men, put Monday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. on your calendar for the annual Men's Wild Game Feed. Our speaker this year will be Bob Strand, who will share about his experience working with the DNR fisheries. Please plan to bringing a dish to share (wild game is good, but side dishes are needed too), and also please think about inviting a friend.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BEMIDJI CHORALE

The public is invited to the Bemidji Chorale 39th Annual Christmas Concert TODAY, 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.

GRIEF SHARE AND DIVORCE CARE SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS SESSIONS

A Community Holiday Remembrance service will be held on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30p.m. 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.



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!

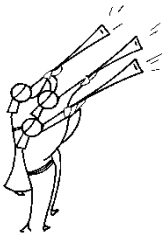
CHRISTMAS CARING TREE

It's up! We have listed the needs (no names) of families and individuals who are facing financial and material needs this Christmas on cards, and placed them on the tree in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to come to the Caring Tree TODAY! You may also stop by the church office during the week to look at the cards. Any gift, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.



There are labels inside the cards. As you take a label, be sure to detach it with the backing left on, and then attach the label to your gift or envelope. **All donations need to be returned by Sunday, December 17.** If you are writing a check, please make it out to the EFC – designate it for the Caring Tree and return it to the Caring Tree table or the church office. (Please do not put it in the offering plate.) Thank you!

It's not too late to sign up for help if you have a need. If you are facing a need, or know of someone from our church family who could benefit from the Caring Tree, please contact Micah or Ashley 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 are done.



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 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.

9:45 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



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!**

**TONIGHT, 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.



Twas the Year Before Christmas

Luke 1:5-25

12/3/17, Scott Engelstad

Three Questions

A. Why does Luke include this story?

1. Luke starts from the **b** _____
2. Luke **c** _____ Theophilus' education
3. It's a **t** _____ piece
4. It's part of his larger **b** _____ **n** _____

B. Who are these people?

1. **N** _____ are significant
2. **S** _____ credentials
3. **P** _____ credentials

C. What's going on?

1. Zechariah's **s** _____
2. Zechariah's **e** _____
3. Zechariah's **e** _____
4. Elizabeth's **r** _____

Three Concluding Points

1.

2.

3.