



## **OUR CHURCH'S WEEK**

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

**TODAY** 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Evening Service

**Mon. and Tues.** Office **CLOSED**

**Wed.** 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Fireside Room

**Fri.** 11:00 p.m. Youth Group Lock-in

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**SUNDAY:** Pray for friends and family who need to know the saving message of Christmas. Pray that this will be the time they make this eternal decision.

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

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for the church staff and their families.

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

**FRIDAY:** Pray for the financial needs of our church and the Global Partners we support. Pray that all our needs will be met.

**SATURDAY:** Pray for our Global Partners Steve and Bonnie Hanson as they serve with Timber Bay/Youth Investment.

## **NURSERY STAFF for TODAY**

11:00 Aaron and Sharna Johnson

## **NURSERY STAFF for NEXT WEEK**

11:00 Sharna Johnson and Tracy Parthun

## **MINISTRY GIVING**

### **General Ministry Fund**

December 17 giving: **\$9,225**

Budgeted/week: **\$12,496**; 51 weeks: **\$637,296**

Received through December 17: **\$603,004**

### **Global Partners Fund**

December 17 giving: **\$1,870**

Budgeted/week: **\$1,449**; 51 weeks: **\$73,899**

Received through December 17: **\$69,796**

## **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).

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

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

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

Password: efreebemidji

**[www.efcbemidji.org](http://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](mailto: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.



# No Youth Group until January 10, have a Merry Christmas!!

## LOCK IN

We will have a lock in from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. this Friday, December 29. Cost is \$5 to help pay for food. Bring a Nerf gun and a friend and have fun!

## 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.

## TEXT UP DATES!!!

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

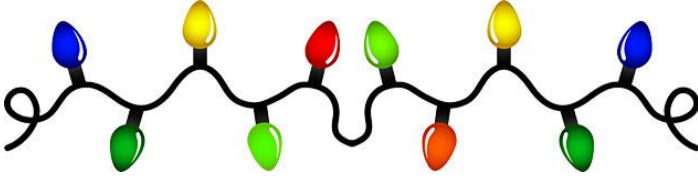
Follow [@EFCB\\_SM](https://twitter.com/EFCB_SM)

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

**No SUNDAY SCHOOL today,  
we will resume on January 7!**



# **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**



## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Thank you all who helped serve in the program and helped put it on! Please thank Dawn Carpenter and Faye Riegert as well as all the other people who helped!

- Pastor Albin

## **We have a new Children's Ministries Director!**

Gerri Thorsgard will be joining our staff in January after receiving a unanimous vote from both the Children's Ministries Task Force and the entire Elder Board. Please join us in welcoming her and her family to our church!

\*\* Any comments or questions, please contact Pastor Albin at (218) 751-8834 ext. 111 or email [PastorAlbin@efcbemidji.org](mailto: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.”*



**We will start back up after**  
**Christmas on January 7.**

**If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Pastor Albin at (218) 751-8834.**

# 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 Christ candle is white symbolizing Jesus' holiness and purity. It will be lit at the Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol Service TONIGHT.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Our annual Candlelight and Carol Service TONIGHT, at 5:00 p.m. will feature "The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" modeled after the worship service which takes place annually on Christmas Eve in the chapel at King's College, Cambridge, England. The Old and New Testament readings begin with the fall into sin and illustrate the story of redemption.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS!!!

We have hired a new Children's Ministries Director!! Gerri Thorsgard has accepted the position after a unanimous vote from both the Children's Ministries Task Force and the entire Elder Board. She will be starting in January. Please welcome her and her family to our church!!

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE**

The Associate Pastor Search Committee would like to give church members the opportunity to provide input on the wording and content of the associate pastor job description. Although we do not anticipate major changes, we may be able to address the requirements, preferences, and some content more clearly. We anticipate that we will finalize the job description at our January 7 meeting.

Copies are available at the office as well as next to the sermon notes in the rack in the foyer. Please email [ksalscheider@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:ksalscheider@bemidjistate.edu) or phone (218) 760-3281 with your comments to our committee chair, Karl Salscheider, by noon Thursday, January 4. Your comments will be both prayerfully considered and confidential.

## **SERMON SNEAK PEEK**

December 31, "Finishing Well," John 21:1-23

Pastor Rick Weinert preaching

January 7, "Our Greatest Threat," Isaiah 59:1-15a

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **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.



## **SOS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The Servants of Shelter ministry for the homeless will be held at our church the week of February 18 – February 25. Volunteers will be needed for shifts, serving meals, and other tasks. If you would like to help with this ministry, please mark it down on your calendar now. More information and opportunities to sign up will be available starting in late January.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **COMMUNITY HOLIDAY MEAL**

Our Church will host the 39th Annual Community Holiday Meal at noon Monday, December 25. A ham dinner with all the trimmings will be served. There is no cost for the meal and everyone is invited to attend.

## **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 24 and 31.*

### **December 24, Sunday**

11:00 a.m. - 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

## Season of Giving



Each holiday season, the church anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a welcome way to make contributions. To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at [www.efcbemidji.org](http://www.efcbemidji.org) and locate the link to our online giving page. Or if it's easier, complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office.

**You can also make a contribution to E-Free Bemidji with a quick text message!**

Simply send a text to (218) 216-8560 with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount (example: \$25). Within a few minutes, you will be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

Thank you for your generosity and support!

# ***In Mary's Sandals***

Luke 1:26-56

12/24/17, Pastor Jerry Johnson

