

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH of BEMIDJI

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

January 7, 2018

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

“Our Great Threat”
Isaiah 59:1-15a

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)**

- Tues.** 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting – Conference Room
10:30 a.m. Bones Builders – Chapel
7:15 p.m. Choir Practice – Sanctuary
- Wed.** 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Fireside Room
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study – Birth Haven
6:20 p.m. Kids Club – Lower Level
6:20 p.m. Youth Group – Community Life Center
- Thurs.** 9:00 a.m. White Cross – Fellowship Hall
- Fri.** 10:30 a.m. Bone Builders – Chapel

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SUNDAY: Pray for the church staff and their families.

MONDAY: Pray for opportunities to reach out to family, neighbors and friends who don't know our Lord.

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

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

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

NURSERY STAFF for TODAY

- 8:30 CJ and Tammy McCray
11:00 Aaron and Sharna Johnson

NURSERY STAFF for NEXT WEEK

- 8:30 Alisa McLemore and Andrea Beckstrand
11:00 Hannah Carpenter, Justine Guderian and Joni Guntzel

MINISTRY GIVING

General Ministry Fund

December 31 giving: **\$13,875**

Budgeted/week: **\$12,496**; 52 weeks: **\$649,792**

Received through December 31: **\$630,296**

Global Partners Fund

December 31 giving: **\$1,040**

Budgeted/week: **\$1,449**; 52 weeks: **\$75,348**

Received through December 31: **\$71,621**

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.



Youth Group Starts back up this Wednesday, January 10 at 6:20 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 efcbesm@efcbemidji.org to get on the parent mailing list.

Challenge 2018!!

Student ministries will be taking High Schoolers to our national youth conference called Challenge this summer! A parent meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 12:15 p.m.



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 resumes today January 7!

- High Schoolers in the 5:11
- Middle Schoolers in the Youth Room



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Kids Club will resume this Wednesday, January 10 at 6:20 p.m.! See you there!!!

We have a new Children's Ministry Director!

We are excited that Gerri Thorsgaard has joined our staff after receiving a unanimous vote from both the Children's ministry 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.**





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 Vespers evening worship service just for you. Our next service is tonight, January 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Vespers is a traditional term for an evening Prayer and Worship Service.

Vespers will be held on the first and third Sundays of each month 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!

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

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

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,” (Hebrews 4:16). As a church we have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to pray about! Join other believers TODAY at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

BECOME A CHURCH MEMBER

Our church is organized in such a way that membership is necessary for us to function. While our ultimate authority as a church is Jesus Christ, it is the congregation—believers in Jesus who have become members of this church body—who make the important decisions about our church's ministry. Members vote on the budget, elect elders and trustees, and vote to call pastors.

If you consider this your church family, we would encourage you to consider making the commitment to also be an official member. There will be a **membership class TODAY at 12:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room with snacks provided.** Each person will receive a membership notebook that explains the purpose of the church, the essential requirements for membership and the key beliefs and practices of the church. Any and all questions about the church will be welcomed!

If you are interested in church membership or have other questions, please contact the church office or Micah Carpenter, (218) 751-8834.

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD IN THE NEW YEAR



Are you looking for a New Year's resolution? How about getting to know God's Word better? A variety of Bible reading guides are available this morning in the Fellowship Hall. There are also Bibles for sale, including the New NIV Study Bible (\$25.00) and The Daily Walk Bible (\$15.00), an NIV Bible separated into daily readings for one year. Choose one that is right for you. Take a step or two beyond where you are now in your understanding of God's Word.

CLOTH DIAPERS AND BABY CLOTHES

Some time ago there were some cloth diapers and baby clothes left at the church. If you know who these belong to or if they are yours, please contact Jonie Guntzel at (218) 556-5853.

SERMON SNEAK PEEK

January 14, "A Journey through 1 John," 1 John 1:1-4

January 21, "Walking in the Light," 1 John 1:5-7

January 28, "I Know Whom I Have Believed," 2 Timothy 1:3-12

Leo Bird from Mokahum preaching

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. All small groups meet in the Community Life Center.

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's Group Men of all ages are welcome to join Matt Myrick and Paul Porter for learning, edification, and encouragement toward God-honoring manhood. The group is currently using a video-based series called 33: A Man and His Design. The focus of the series is what Jesus teaches us about God's design for authentic manhood. There will be time for stimulating group discussion on how to grow and glorify God as men. (Room 3)

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 4)

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)

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.)*
(East Chapel)

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. (West Chapel)

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE LORD'S SUPPER

TODAY, the Lord's Supper will be served in both morning worship services. All who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior are invited to participate.

Please take some time to reflect upon your walk with the Lord and your relationships with other Christians. 1 Corinthians 11:28 says, "We ought to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup." The Lord's Supper represents the Christian's union with Jesus and his or her unity with other believers.

The Bible gives no age limits for the Lord's Supper, but children should be trusting in Christ for salvation and have some understanding of what the Lord's Supper signifies.

Following the service, a special offering will be received for our church's Benevolence Fund. Our Elders are available for any questions: Ron Bouchie, Jerome Decker, Peter Eriksson, Jerry Johnson, Randy McKain, Bill Oakes, Karl Salscheider, Terry Smith, Albin Sterneman, and John R. Williams.





WHITE CROSS

Ladies, join us for White Cross Thursday, January 11, 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.

MEN'S BASKETBALL - THURSDAYS

Hey men, plan to join us for basketball Thursday, January 25, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. and Thursday evenings through April. This is for adults and older high school guys. Questions? Call Andrew Kangas, (218) 766-4686.



MEN'S WILD GAME FEED

Men, join us Monday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. 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.

LADIES CRAFT WEEKEND

Ladies, please join us for a craft weekend, January 26 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and January 27 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Any ladies 12 and older are welcome to join us here in the Fellowship Hall, bring your unfinished projects or start something new! Don't forget to bring a friend! Questions? Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, January 14 and January 21.

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.

Our Greatest Threat

Isaiah 59¹

1/7/18, Pastor Jerry Johnson

What is our greatest threat in _____?

Our greatest threat is _____ because it _____ us from God.

God graciously overcomes this threat for those who
_____.



¹ Isaiah 58:1 through 59:15a is actually a four-part series consisting of an introduction (58:1-2), an example of false religiosity (58:3-12), an example of true religion (58:13-14), and a condemnation/confession of utter failure (59:1-15a). (See note in *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*, Gen. Ed. D. A. Carson, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015, p. 1436.)