

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Pentecost 15

Sep 9, 10, 12, 2023

"Welcome Visitors & Members!"

To those who are visiting us for the first time, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.

For further assistance in worship and information on our church, please see the back cover.

Pentecost Season: After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

Today is Pentecost 15. Our focus today: The Church is militant: first the cross, then the crown; first death, then life.

The church year begins here 2022

We are Here

Advent							Christmas							Epiphany													
December 2022							January 2023							February 2023													
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28											
Lent							Easter							Pentecost													
March 2023							April 2023							May 2023													
			1	2	3	4	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	7	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27							
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31										
							30																				
Season After Pentecost																											
June 2023							July 2023							August 2023													
			1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5								
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31									
							30	31																			
September 2023							October 2023							November 2023													
					1	2	S	M	T	W	T	F	S								S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
							29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30									

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

919:1 Blessed Jesus at your Word

CW 21

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered
all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,
sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered'. The second staff continues: 'all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred'. The third staff continues: 'now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,'. The fourth staff concludes: 'sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

M: Oh, how I love your law!

C: **I meditate on it all day long.**

M: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C: **for they are ever with me.**

M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

C: **for I meditate on your statutes.**

M: How sweet are your words to my taste,

C: **sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

(Psalm 119:97-99,103)

919:2

CW 21

2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks our night
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
God can win us; you must work all good with - in us.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

M: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

C: **so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

M: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

919:3

CW 21



3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
 God pro - ceed - ing, o - pen now our heart and mind;
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
 Church now rais - es; hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

M: God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (*John 20:31*). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

919:4

CW 21

4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,
con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, while we here be -
low must wan - der, till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: tr. unknown, alt.; Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, Berlin, 1707

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ***(spoken)* Amen.**

THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you understand.

Remember me and care for me.

Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.

You are slow to anger.

Do not take me away.

Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.

¹⁶Your words came to me, and I devoured them.

Your words became my joy,

the delight of my heart,

because I bear your name,

O LORD God of Armies.

¹⁷I did not sit with the band of partygoers,

nor did I celebrate with them.

I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.

You filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending?

Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?

Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,

like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says.

If you repent, I will take you back,

so that you may stand before me.

If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,

you will be my spokesman.

They must turn to you,

but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.

They will fight against you,

but they will not overcome you,

because I am with you to save you

and to rescue you, declares the LORD.

²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,

and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD,

the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip,

he who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD watches over you,

the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The LORD will keep you from all harm,

he will watch over your life;

the LORD will watch over your coming and going

both now and forevermore.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

Verse of the Day: Jeremiah 15:16

Alleluia! Your words became a joy for me, and a delight for my heart. Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:21-26

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you."

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men."

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?"

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 21



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
 scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
 winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
 God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
 you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
 swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
 friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
 clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
 heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt.
 Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 16:21-26

CHRISTIANITY OF THE CROSS x2 IS THE ONLY CHRISTIANITY

- I. The cross that Christ carried is a must.
- II. The cross the Christian carries is a must.

OFFERING *The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record of your attendance.*



Visitors can also sign our guest register in the entryway by the drinking fountain.

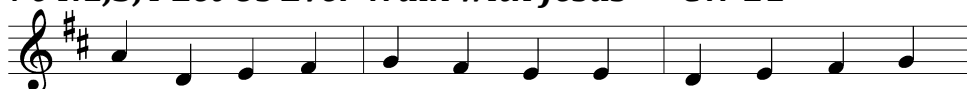
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

- M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.
- C:** *(spoken)* **Amen.**

704:1,3,4 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus CW 21



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex -
 3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the
 4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; since he's ris - en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to
 sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us, quick - ens
 from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus,



sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his foot - steps tread - ing,
 us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti - fy, while liv - ing,
 thou art now our head. We are tru - ly thine own mem - bers,



bod - y here, yet soul a - bove, full of faith and
 flesh and blood and die to sin, and the grave that
 where thou liv - est, there live we; take and own us



hope and love, let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, faith - ful Friend, as thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus,



Lord, a - bide with me; Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.
 here I die to thee, there to live e - ter - nal - ly.
 here I live to thee, al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871-1941, alt.; Sigmund von Birken, 1626-1681

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

This Week at St. John's: Sep 10, 2023

SERVING US TODAY

Greeters: Bob & Bernice Cords

Ushers: Team 4-Rex Roehl's team

Organist: Donna Sternitzky

Altar Guild: Linda Biebert & Megan Allard

Donating Bulletins: Kenny & Jean Goetz for their 65th wedding anniversary

September Website: Ray & Sharon Wetzel in thankfulness for our Savior

SERVING US NEXT SUNDAY

Greeters: Jean Goetz & Virginia Marg

Ushers: Team 1-Joel Zschernitz' team

Altar Guild: Charlene Siebert

~OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW & SERVE~

TODAY	9:00 AM Worship Service
MONDAY	1:00 PM Pastors Circuit Meeting 5:15 PM School Board
TUESDAY	6:00 PM Worship Service
WEDNESDAY	8:20 AM Chapel 3:45 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM FSJ
THURSDAY	2:30 PM Adult Instruction Class 4:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Adult Instruction Class
FRIDAY	3:15 PM Faculty Meeting
SATURDAY	10:00 AM Playground Open House
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM Communion Service 10:15 AM Sunday School & Bible Class

CHURCH NEWS

September Communion: *Because of the campout worship service being held last night, we will NOT be having the Lord's Supper this morning.*

We will have communion next Sunday, September 17th, using the continuous method of distribution.

Thursday Bible Study: *Because of scheduling conflicts, we have decided to move our afternoon Bible study on the book of Romans to Thursdays (4:00-5:00 p.m.) here in the main part of the church. Please join us this Thursday at 4:00 as we continue our study of the book of Romans.*

Sunday Bible Class: Sunday Bible Class will be starting up again next Sunday, September 17th from 10:15 to 11:15. We will be continuing our study on "10 Lies About God." Our specific focus will be "I Don't Need the Bible or Worship to Have a Relationship With God." All of you are invited to attend. Please join us for another year of Sunday Bible Class!

Sunday School: Another year of Sunday School classes will start next Sunday, September 17th. Classes will be held from 10:15 to 11:30 for children age 3 through 8th grade.

Adult Instruction Class: A new adult instruction class will be starting up this Thursday, September 14th, at 5:30. We have several prospects who will be attending. If any current members would like to come and take a refresher course, you are welcome! Please let Pastor know or contact the office so we can get the materials to you. Class will be held in the school conference room.

No Adult Handbells: Because we do not have enough members, we have decided to take the year off from adult handbells. We will try again next fall to get our handbell choir going again.



Meet Our Student Teacher, Mr. Bryce Marohn:

My name is Bryce Marohn. I was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. My dad was the principal at St. Mark, Eau Claire, and I can recall visiting St. John's, Neillsville a few times over the years. In 2010, our family moved to Lannon, WI where I finished grade school and attended Kettle Moraine Lutheran HS for three years. In 2017 we moved to Howards Grove, WI, and I finished high school at Manitowoc Lutheran.

I went on to attend MLC, from where I will be graduating this December. Funnily enough, my family moved back to Eau Claire this summer. My dad will be the principal at Cornerstone Lutheran.

I have five younger siblings. My oldest sister and her husband just graduated MLC and are both starting their first year of teaching over in Michigan. I have two brothers who will be

attending MLC this year and two sisters who will be at Cornerstone Lutheran.

One of the things I like to do in my spare time is play basketball. I also like watching basketball once the NBA season comes around. Another thing I'm interested in is computer programming. I started teaching myself some years ago, and I enjoy trying to make apps/games.



New Playground Open House: We will be having a party on our playground this Saturday, Sept. 16th from 10am-12pm. We're inviting the school families and our congregation as well as the community to come and check out the new area for infants to age 5. There will be outdoor games and activities for children and adults of all ages. We want to thank everyone who has given support for this project in the last few years. Please come check it out and stay for some fun! If you're interested in helping out, we could use homemade cookies – please sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you plan to bring cookies. Thank you!

Hospitalized: Ginny Meier remains hospitalized in Neillsville hospital, room 107. Jeanne Stiemke is hospitalized in Marshfield hospital, room 510. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Special Gifts: \$700 was given toward the new church computer in memory of Lamoine & Carol Anason. \$260 was given toward new hymnals in memory of Wendel Ott. Thank you!

Paper Box: Since we aren't collecting newspapers any more, we have no need of the paper box in the parking lot. Would anyone be able to make use of that? Talk to Mel Nemitz or contact the office if you are interested.

Pioneers: Our first Pioneer meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20, from 6:00-7:00. Any children in grades K-8 are welcome to come! We will be doing knot tying. There is an \$80 annual fee to register our Pioneer group. There are no dues for the children, but if any parents would like to make a donation to help cover the registration cost, it would be welcome.

Baby Shower: We will be holding a baby shower for Mr. & Mrs. Leiterman on Sunday, September 24th, at 3:00 p.m. in the school gym. All are invited. Cake and punch will be served. The Leiternans have already received quite a few baby items, so we are asking that if you would like to bring a gift, please bring diapers size 1 and up.

College Students: Parents, if your son or daughter is entering college or in college already, please encourage them to sign up with WELS Campus Ministry so the local campus pastor can stay in touch with them and so that they can be sent free copies of "Meditations" devotions and "Forward In Christ" magazine. The link to sign up is below:

<https://data.wels.net/CampusMinistry/CampusMinistry>

WELS Weekly Prayer: Commission on Inter-Church Relations – Lord, how good and pleasant it is when your people live together in unity! We rejoice in our synod's declaring fellowship with the Obadiah Lutheran Synod of Uganda and affirming fellowship with Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional in Latin America. May our joint ministry be strengthened as a result. Bless the Obadiah Lutheran Synod especially as they serve Sudanese refugees in their country. Be with Iglesia Cristo WELS Internacional as they strive to gather 1,000 groups across Latin America around the Bible in the next five years. May your Word and your Spirit guide your Church! Amen.

Church Council Highlights:

Pastor's Report: We are happy to announce that we have six people signed up for adult instruction class, which will be starting this Thursday, all from the ELC!

Worship: Stephen Bautista, a WELS member from Sturgeon Bay and a Christian singer/songwriter/guitarist who tours full-time around the country will be here with us on Sunday, October 29th, and we are communicating with him on also doing an evening concert here. Watch for further details.

Mission Fest: Fall Mission Fest will be held on October 15th. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Western Wisconsin District Mission Board Chairman, who will be presenting on Home Missions. Watch for further details. The FSJ Fall Dinner will also be held that day.

Adult Discipleship: Membership Changes--Don Walker and Suzanne Lindenman were removed from membership at their request. Brandon Larrabee was released from membership at his request.

Monique Coleman, our school cook, has been received as a communicant member (along with her children Camdyn, Elliott, Finn, and Briar), pending her baptism. Monique completed adult instruction class this past spring. We welcome her and her children!

Ministry Support: Sunday Bible Class—At our first Sunday Bible Class next week, which will be held in the church basement, we will have a further discussion about where we want to meet in the future (school gym, church basement-install a ramp, etc.) We will be looking for input from those who attend class or would like to.

Parking Lot: We are in the process of getting bids to reseal our parking lot and repaint the lines. Donations toward this project are appreciated. We will let you know the exact cost as soon as possible.

Worship the Lord with Gladness:

Sunday: 86; Tuesday: 19

Worship with Our Care of God's Wealth:

Thankoffering Given Last Sunday:
\$5,436.25 (Home); \$671.00 (Missions)

To assist you in worship:

- ✚ Personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers for assistance.
- ✚ Large-print bulletins available upon request.
- ✚ Personal Prayers: Red Hymnal (pp. 10-11); Blue Hymnal (inside front cover)
- ✚ Preparation for Lord's Supper: Red Hymnal (p. 156); Blue Hymnal (pp. 295-296)
- ✚ Luther's Small Catechism: Blue Hymnal (pp. 286-293)

We love seeing young children in church as we want families to worship together. We also love to hear children making a "joyful noise to the Lord." If you need some privacy for feeding an infant or changing a diaper, please make use of our parents' room off the north side of the entryway where you can still listen to the service.

Visitors, if you would like to know more about our church or school, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.

St. John's Lutheran Church & School 711 & 805 W 5th St., Neillsville, WI 54456

Contact Info

Church & School Office: stjohns1886@gmail.com
715-743-2501

Tim Biebert, Pastor: 1fisheromen@gmail.com
715-819-0456 (cell)
715-743-3015 (home)

Mike Allard, Principal: allardmj1@gmail.com
715-937-7534 (cell)

John Hagedorn, Chairman: hagedornjohnw2@gmail.com
715-743-4653 (home)

Website: www.stjohnsneillsville.com

Facebook (church): www.facebook.com/stjohnsneillsville/

Facebook (school): www.facebook.com/stjohnshornets/

Worship Schedule

Sunday-9:00 a.m. (Year-Round)

Tuesday-6:00 p.m. (After Easter through November)