

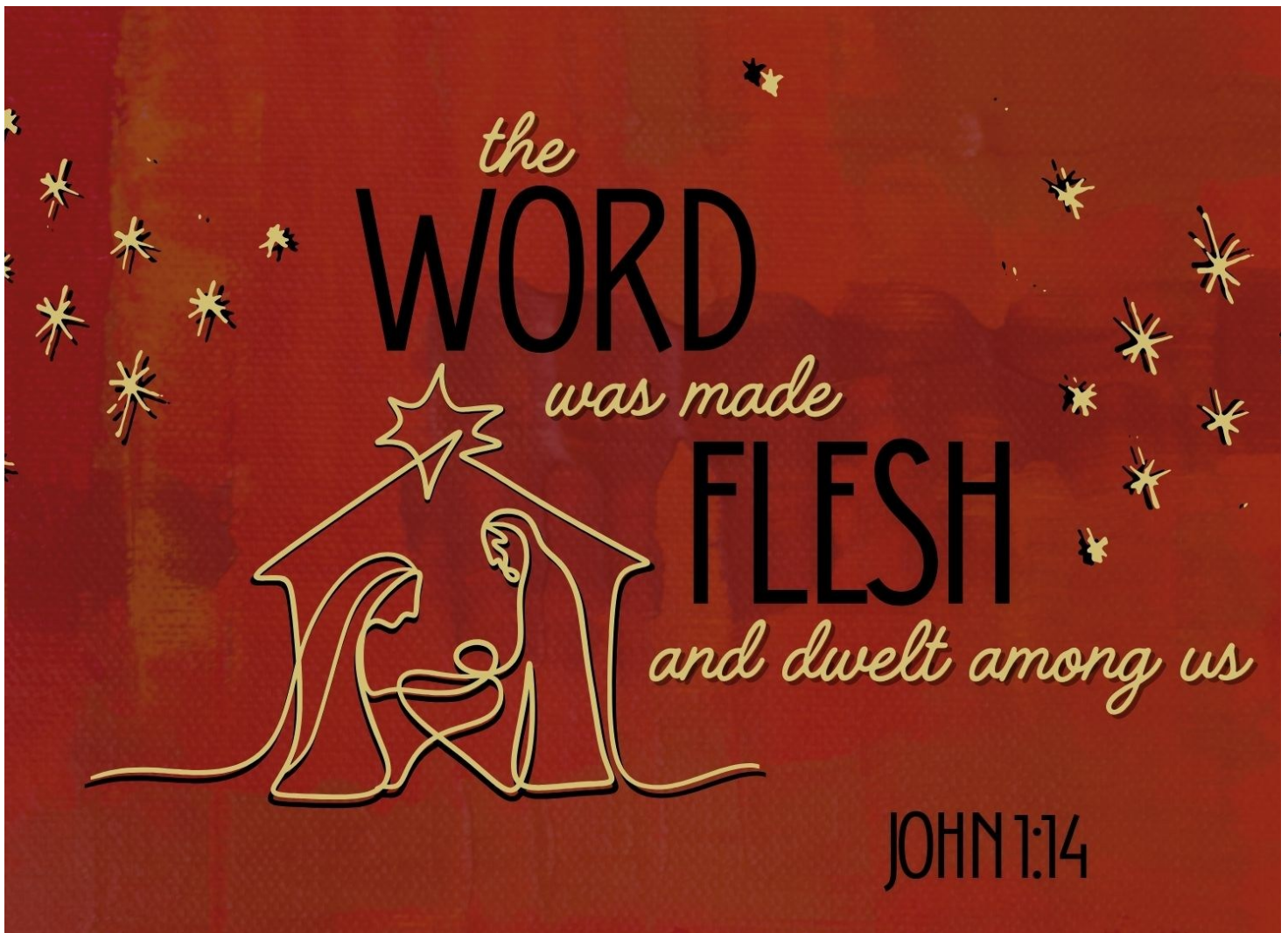
**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 2025

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00AM WORSHIP

OUR VISION: FULLY ENGAGED, BIBLICALLY PASSIONATE, DRIVEN TO SERVE



JOHN 1: 1-18

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AS WE GATHER

“If it bleeds, it leads.” That’s the mantra of modern news media. Good news doesn’t seem to get the traction that destruction and division do. But good news is what God speaks through His Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. God publishes peace, salvation, and the good news of happiness through the Word and reminds us, “Your God reigns” (Isaiah 52:7) That’s good news!

CALL TO WORSHIP “Welcome to Our World”

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

LSB 379 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels

REFRAIN

**O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest

REFRAIN

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!

REFRAIN

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

People: **Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!**

Pastor: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

People: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, the Word, to become flesh and dwell among us. We confess we struggle to see His glory when life is difficult or when we are suffering. We look elsewhere for grace and truth instead of focusing on Your eternal Word. We have heard the Good News and struggle to share it. Forgive us, for the sake of You Son, Jesus Christ. Shine the light of Your love on us and dispel the darkness of our hearts.**

Pastor: People of God, I have good news for you, “Your God reigns.” In the mercy of our almighty God, Jesus Christ was born to die for you, and for His sake, God forgives you for all of your sins.

People: **Alleluia! Amen!**

Pastor: To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God, who are born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.

People: **Alleluia! Amen!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 367 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

REFRAIN

**Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light.

REFRAIN

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star.

REFRAIN

4 Saints before the altar
bending,
Watching long in hope and
fear,
Suddenly the Lord,
descending,
In His temple shall appear.

REFRAIN

5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in
One.

REFRAIN

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, in ages past, You spoke through the prophets. Today You have spoken to us through Your Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. Tune our ears to Your Word and nourish us with the flesh and blood of Your Son, who is always with us; through the same Jesus Christ, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 52:7–10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1–12

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 1:1–18

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 380 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

REFRAIN

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

REFRAIN

3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of
Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

REFRAIN

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SERMON

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Holy Lord, almighty God and Father, You laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. You nourish us and all creatures through Your created world. Guide us in being good stewards of Your world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the world we live in was created through You. In these last days, our Father has spoken to us through You. Give us ears to hear Your voice and willing hearts and minds to not only receive grace and truth but also live them out in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, we thank and praise You for the feet of those who brought us the Good News. We ask for Your blessing on all pastors, parents, grandparents, and servants in Christ's church that they may continue to share the good news of peace and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Great physician and healer, comfort all who are struggling physically, emotionally, or spiritually, [especially . . .]. Give them healing and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of family. Knit families together with Your love, mercy, and grace. Give parents and children calm minds and quiet hearts focused on Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Silence for personal prayer.

Pastor: O God, we boldly and confidently lift these prayers to You, trusting in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and in these last days have spoken grace and truth to us through Your Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us.

Through Your Son, You created the world and everything in it and uphold the universe by the power of His Word. Let Your Son dwell within us that faithfully eating and drinking His body and blood we may receive peace and salvation.

Hear us as we confidently pray in His name the prayer He taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 365 "Away in a Manger"

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Public domain

LSB 359 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

1 Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow’ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

3 This flow’r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev’rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev’ry load.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

In former days, O Lord, You required sacrifices for sin and spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. But in these last days, You have atoned for our sins through the blood of Your Son, through whom You have spoken to us. Lead us to bring good news of happiness and to publish peace and salvation as we lift up our voices and sing for joy; for You reign, one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SENTENCES

Pastor: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

People: **“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).**

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: **The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

LSB 387 “Joy to the World”

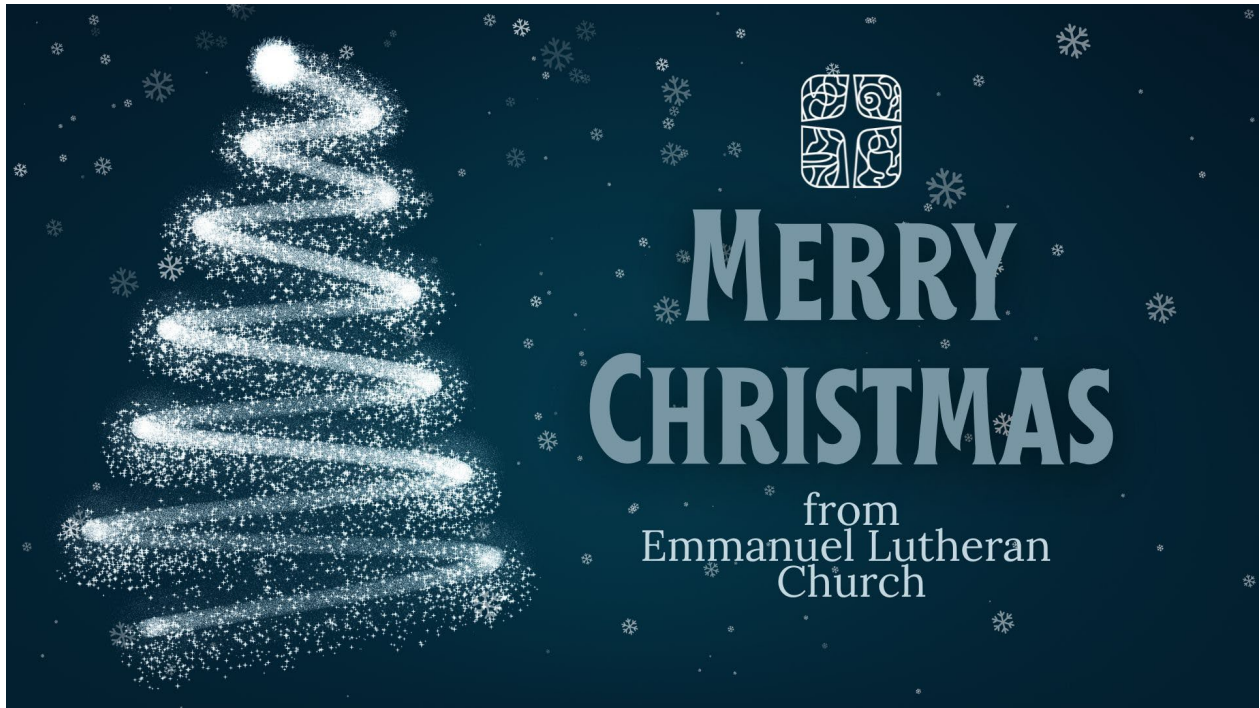
- 1** Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2** Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3** No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4** He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

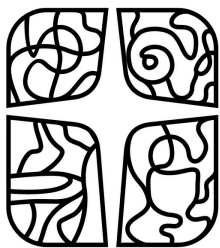
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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God**





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CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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Admin. Assistant: Shari Reaves
Asst. Principal/MS English: Denise Ball
Director of Admissions: Emily Leatherwood
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First Grade: Kerry Stead /Mackenzie Knapp
Second Grade: Leigh Weaver
Third Grade/Curriculum Coordinator: Kiara Studer
Fourth Grade: Chelsey Towery
Fifth Grade: Emily Lundquist
MS Science: Leigh Conner
MS Math: Jenelle Lanham
MS Social Studies: Mindy Stackhouse
PE/Athletic Director: Jennifer Jenkins "Coach J"
Art: Tammy Reilly
Music & Spanish: A.L. Brown
Early Childhood Education:
Director: Nicole Loria
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Older Infants: Becky Swatzell & Hydeia Beck
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PS2: Veronica Milner
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PS3/4: Robin Rutherford & DeAsia Little
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