

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021 ❖ 9:30 am
Outdoor Lawn Chair Service
ZOOM 706 565 767, Passcode 767

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

4887 Valleydale Road, Birmingham, AL 35242 (205) 995-9673 www.sothl.org



Welcome to
Shepherd of the
Hills
Lutheran Church
"A Place to Call Home"

Our Mission Statement

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church seeks to demonstrate God's grace, to learn and grow in the Christian faith, and to serve with humility.

Our Welcoming Statement

As an inclusive congregation, we welcome all into God's love and grace without regard to:

Ability * Age * Beliefs * Culture * Ethnicity * Gender Identity * Income * Language * Life Circumstances * Marital Status * Race * Sexual Orientation

As God's grace welcomes all, we are united in Christ

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you need assistance following the order of worship, feel free to ask your neighbor for help. May this time of worship encourage and strengthen you for the week ahead. We hope you'll worship with us again.

 Pastor: Carolyn Hayford (803) 606-6683
 Secretary: Kenya Harris (205) 995-9673

 Musician: Ann Jones (205) 902-2444
 Council President: Jared Brunswick (205) 531-5428

Soloist: Eric Campbell

Serving us today in Worship:

Worship Assistant: Carla Crowder Zoomster: Peggy Huckabaa Reader: Bob Peters Audio: Joel Bjornstad Children's Message: Kim Boettner Music: Ann Jones Ushers: John Boettner, Will Breland, Gene Myers and Bart Jones

Please check out our new and improved website: www.sothl.org.

Note that pictures taken at various church events and services are posted on both our website and our Facebook page. If you do not want your picture to appear on our page or on the web site for any reason, please alert the church office at office@sothl.org or 205-995-9673 so that your request can be honored.

We pray that our time together will be an inspiration to all. Our order of worship is Setting Three from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW red). Our order of worship is printed in its entirety below.

Congregation responses are indicated in **bold** print, P: Pastor, C: Congregation

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration of Outgoing Leaders

P: Today we mark the turning of a season with celebration of outgoing leaders: Outgoing council members are: Ray Allen, Karen Bishop, Carol Dotson, Mike Huckabaa, and Roger Sinkey. Outgoing committee chairs are: John Boettner, Bob Oster, and Steve Pritchett. They are invited to stand at this time as we recognize them.

A: There is a cycle to life. Everything has a beginning, a middle, and an end. This is true of life, it is true of communities, and yes, it is true even of leadership positions!

And so let us honor this cycle of leadership transition with a shared litany.

P: You, dear leaders: you have served us well.

C: For this we thank you.

A: As council members and committee chairs, you are at the end of your terms. You have been thoughtful leaders and stewards of this congregation.

C: For this we thank you.

P: You have attended endless meetings, written countless emails, recruited volunteers, and helped build up this community of faith. You have brought a spirit of dedication, your love, and a deep abiding faith in the growing, evolving, spiritual community of Shepherd of the Hills.

C: For this we thank you.

A: By your service, you have helped nurture and meet our needs for personal spiritual growth, inspirational worship and a mutually caring community. You have helped us devote ourselves to religious learning for all ages, embrace human diversity by welcoming individuals and families of all kinds, and reaching out to the larger community to love our neighbors as ourselves.

C: For this we thank you.

P: And at the end of this month, you are ending these commitments that you have held with such care. Each ending is also a beginning. The beginning of a new role, perhaps the beginning of a time when you can simply BE here – in worship and community, beginning of a time of renewal. We trust that you will find the right way to nurture your spirit and serve this community.

C: For this we thank you.

Outgoing leaders: We know that our lives have been and always will be richer for having served in this role. We are grateful to have served, and grateful that others will now fill some of our shoes. For the opportunity to serve, WE thank YOU! And for the opportunity to take off these leadership hats, we thank you.

A: To all those of you that are not in a leadership position or serving in some way: YOU too have opportunities for endings and beginnings. May this litany serve as a reminder that we all have the ability and obligation to say Yes to service in this community, and also to say Yes to stepping down after a time—even if it seems there is no one else to take your place! May each of you here accept an invitation to say Yes to a new opportunity for service, YES to an opportunity to nurture your spirit, and, perhaps, YES to an ending of your own. We trust that you will find the right way to nurture your spirit and serve this community.

C: For this we thank you.

P: And -

C: For this we thank you.

Meditation

The Strife if O're arr: Sondra Tucker

Handbell quartet

Carrie Peters, Susan Pritchett, Bob Oster, Bob Peters

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

A: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Sit/Kneel

A: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \oplus Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

We Know that Christ is Raised

Eric Campbell, Soloist

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

A: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE FIRST READING Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Please read responsively Psalm 22:25-31 printed below.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 15:1-8 C: Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you. O Christ

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Eric Campbell, Soloist

THE NICENE CREED (ELW page 104)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering Boxes are at entrance / exits. Please place when entering or exiting only.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray together,

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up vour hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Note: During the Eucharistic Prayer, you will hear the Pastor say

P: Great is the mystery of faith

The people respond by saying

C: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Please speak whichever version, in whatever language, you prefer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

A: God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY COMMUNION Those in cars will receive communion first. Ushers will direct you. We believe that in this sacrament Christ comes to us in, with and under the elements of bread and wine. These are Christ's body and blood given and shed for us and for all people. All who wish to receive are welcome. Grape juice is available instead of wine.

Communion Music

Dismissal will occur to individual pods after communion.

COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress.

Next Week's Lessons

THE FIRST READING:

PSALM:

Psalm 98

THE SECOND READING:

1 John 5:1-6

THE GOSPEL:

John 15:9-1

Intercessory Prayer

We are a praying community; believing in the value of prayer. We ask that you keep the congregation, our community, and all those on the prayer list insert in your prayers during the week. Prayer request cards can be found in the Narthex or in the back of the hymnal. Please utilize the Intercessory Prayer insert during your prayers this week.

Worship Servants for May 9

Worship Assistant:Kim & John BoettnerZoomster:Susan PritchettReader:Sonja ReynoldsAudio:Joel BjornstadChildren's Message:Tom TrammelMusic:Ann Jones

Ushers: John Boettner, Mike Huckabaa, Bernard Troncale, & Tracy Teague

THIS WEEK A	T SOTH					
Sunday 5/2	9:30 am	Lawn Chair & E-Worship	Meeting ID 706 565 767 , Pass code 767			
	1:00 pm	Spanish Prayer Service	Meeting ID 646-558-8656 Pass code 882-9598-6939			
Monday	7:00pm	AA – New Hope				
•	7:00 pm	SOTH Covid Task Force	Meeting ID 706 565 767 , Pass code 767			
Tuesday	5:30pm	Shepherd's Bells Rehearsal				
·	7:00pm	Covid-19 Q&A	Meeting ID 997 505 114			
Wednesday	9:30am	Wednesday Bible Study	Meeting ID 175 995 438			
,	6:30pm	Prayer, Meditation and Conversation	Meeting ID 706 565 767 , Pass code 767			
Thursday Friday Saturday	7:00pm	T.M 2.0	Meeting ID 982 3058 1708			

TODAY! YOUNG FRIENDS! This week's Children's Bible story is "Philip and the Ethiopian" and can be found on page 510 in the SPARK Story Bible.

COVID-19 Notifiers: The COVID Task Force has established the following process to ensure we do not need to modify our current procedures and to help identify a potential cluster early: Anyone who attends a church even (even parking lot ones) or has been in the church building for any reason, and tests positive for COVID within 2 weeks of being here, is asked to contact one of the volunteers on this list below. Your name will be kept completely confidential. Thank you! Jared Brunswick, 205-531-5428, irdbrunswick@yahoo.com; Erica Bjornstad, 443-717-0065, ericaecuador@yahoo.com; Susan Pritchett, 205-602-1282, sspritch@bellsouth.net.



WORSHIP MUSIC - Wondering about the beautiful music you hear in our worship service? It's Eric Campbell's voice. The piano is played by Ann Jones. We appreciate them sharing their gifts to the glory of God.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

<u>HELP:</u> We need people willing to assist with worship. Please consider stepping into a new role such as audio. We also need folks to assist as zoomsters, readers, children's messages & ushers. How is the Holy Spirit nudging you? Not sure you are up to it? Give it a try- Grace Abounds!

SUNDAY - E - WORSHIP:

Sundays at 9:30 am. Consider signing on early to catch up with friends and family. The room is open at 9:00 am. Click on the link below:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/706565767?pwd=MjJMbEIyM2pNMkkvaHJWNW1YSHU0UT09

SUNDAY – SPANISH PRAYER MINISTRY:

Led by Pastor Ed Cortes – 1st Sunday in the Month at 1:00pm

Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/88295986939

MONDAY - SOTH COVID TASK FORCE:

Mondays at 7:00PM

Click this link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/997505114

TUESDAY - COVID-19 Q&A:

A question and answer session with Erica Bjornstad, pediatrician epidemiologist, regarding current status of COVID-19 which has morphed into a Friendly support group. If you do have any questions about COVID-19 or just want to check in with some friendly folks. Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Click this link: https://us04web.zoom.us/i/997505114

WEDNESDAY - BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesday at 9:30am

Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/175995438

WEDNESDAY – LYDIA CIRCLE:

All women are welcome to join. First Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am

Click this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/524874986

WEDNESDAY PRAYER, MEDITATION & CONVERSATION

Currently we are talking about race and related topics. Join Pastor Carolyn and your church friends to talk openly in a safe space. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 pm Click this link: https://zoom.us/i/706565767

Or Call this number: 1-312-626-6799 Enter Meeting ID 706 565 767, Passcode 767

THURSDAY - TM2.0

Every Thursday at 7:00pm

Click this link: https://zoom.us/j/98230581708

	COVID-	19 Indicato	rs to Guide Ph	ased Re-o	pening		
4/	26/2021						
					See Note.		
		Goal		Source	Current	Trend	Last Weel
Decre	ase in new daily	cases (14 da	ay ave.)	Α	Flat	-	Flat
Disease burden < 3-5 per 100,000			В	10.9	1	7.0	
Sufficient Testing > 7400 tests / day			Α	8,957		8,648	
Test positivity < 3-5%			В	7.8%		6.2%	
^A Source:	Alabama Departme	nt of Public Healt	h Covid 19 Dashboard				
^B Source:	Covidactnow.org						
NOTE:	Numbers are un	this week fro	m what appears t	o he a data	dumn in the	Alahama	Health
	•	-	will continue to m			Alaballia	Health
σερι, ι	utubuse. The co	viu tusk joice	wiii continue to m	Ullitul Clusel	ıy.		

SOTH is currently in Phase 2B per Church Council. Phase 2B includes limited (10 or less) small groups upstairs, limited small group of up to 20 people downstairs and outdoor activities.

*There was a backlog of cases recorded at ADPH in the past week. We on the Taskforce reviewed the data and believe that this is likely falsely raising some of the above indicators (including test positivity and disease burden.

Dear Lydia Circle Members and Friends of Roene at Shepherd of the Hills ELCA,

What a difference Roene made in all our lives every time we saw her. I know that I shall miss her presence at our SOTH Adult Forum Sunday School as well as at Church each week. We were not ready to say goodbye, but God had other plans for her.

At the April Lydia Circle Meeting, we discussed our relationships with Roene and wondered if there was anything we could do to honor her name and her strong pursuit of education and caring for others.

After the meeting that day, I was thinking about Roene again when I remembered that she had spent many hours of donated time reading at Inverness Elementary School leading me to wonder if we could get a few books for their library in remembrance of her. I touched base with Brenda that this could be an idea if we elected to do something in Roene's memory.

Brenda then touched base with Jeanne Trammell who asked the Inverness principal if it would be possible to honor Roene's memory by gifting their library with a few more books. The Principal responded that yes, that would be wonderful and that they do need more books for grades Kindergarten through 2nd Grade!

Sometimes when you speak up, it means there are some added duties that need to be done in order to make it happen. Thus, the letter from me to all of you. Thank you for taking the time to read this request to remember Roene by bringing a new book to the next Lydia Circle on May 5th as we hopefully

meet for the first time face to face after so many months of zooming. If possible please remember to select books for the K-2nd grade level children as they thoroughly enjoy and need more books. We are not suggesting any special titles or authors, as you already know, you do not like the same kind of book as your neighbor or friend and neither do younger readers. I know that Barnes and Noble and Books a Million have special age group sections, which I am sure most all book stores including Amazon do have.

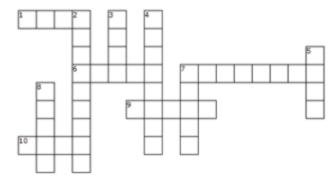
If you are unable to come to the meeting, you may call me to let me know you want to donate a book and will drop it at the church or send with another member. My number to call or text is (303) 596 5752 or if that does not work, you can also contact Brenda Allen at (205) 807-5626. Please identify yourself on the text.

Thank you to everyone for your tireless work of giving. God shows us the way to thank and praise him in so many ways. It is always so special to feel the radiance of love that spreads from one to another.

Thanks be to God!

Gretchen Boling

Grossword Puzzle



ACROSS

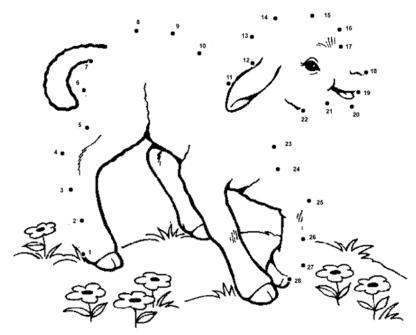
- 1. Something that is spoken
- Not dirty
- A person who works with plants and flowers
- 9. To toss something through the air
- A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

DOWN

- 2. Those who follow Jesus
- 3. Burning flame
- Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- 5. The opposite of false
- 7. Praise or honor
- The part of a vine or tree which is eaten

FIRE	GLORY	BRANCHES	CLEAN	
DISCIPLES	GARDENER	THROW	VINE	
FRUIT	TRUE	WORD		

The Shepherd Dot to Dot



Connect the dots to complete the picture.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice John 10:4

Outdoor Lawn Chair Service 4/18 at 9:30 am.

We are excited about trying our new experiment: Outdoor lawn chair service.

The service will also be on Zoom using **Meeting ID 706 565 767** and **PASSCODE 767.** There will not be a waiting room, so you need the passcode to join.

We will be using paper bulletins for the service.

We will be parking in the lower lot and gathering in the upper lot to worship together.

Masks and physical distancing apply. We love each other and our neighbors by following CDC guidelines.

Please use the bathroom facilities prior to coming to service.

- Ushers will be directing you. Please park in lower lot. If you need to park in the upper lot due to mobility issues, please just let the usher know.
- Masks are required and we ask you to maintain physical distance.
- Carry your lawn chair to the upper lot using either driveway (entrance or exit) thus both sides are open.
- Bulletins and offering boxes will be at the entrance/exit to the upper lot.
- Ushers will seat you according to "pod" size. We will be sitting in the parking spaces as well as on the hillside in front of the church. If you have a preference, please let the usher know.
- Service will end with communion. Those with cars will be served first so that vehicles exit the lot before bringing "pods" to communion and dismissal.
- After receiving communion, a "pod" will be dismissed from the service and will need to return to their car in the lower lot.
- Remember that this is something new for all of us. Please be kind to one another
 and to all those who are volunteering to make this happen. This is an exciting
 next step and it will be great to hear some live music again with worship! We will
 learn as we go and potentially change things as well.

It will be great to see people again in person!

We need 9 volunteers for each service to make this happen. Please consider volunteering to help.

Remember, Grace Abounds!