



# Ascension Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor

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Grace and peace to you, siblings in Christ.

Earlier this week, public health officials announced that North Carolina will remain in Phase 2 for at least three weeks more, through at least August 7.

When I was called to ministry, one of the reasons I heeded that call was because Word and Sacrament ministry gives me the opportunity to regularly share the Good News that God loves you and that God's mercy and forgiveness is for you. It is particular. God loves you so much that God sent his son Jesus into the world that you would know this abundant love.

I am grateful technology has allowed us to continue in the Word, but like you, I have grieved the loss of the sacrament of Holy Communion where our community gathers at the Lord's Table.

Following Tuesday's announcement, our congregation council adopted a policy for outdoor communion services. While we will not gather again indoors at least until North Carolina moves into Phase 3, **I will be leading two short, outdoor Holy Communion services at 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Sunday, August 2.**

This will be a shorter service, without music or a homily. Masks are required and the buildings remain closed. More details are included in the enclosed policy. Each service is limited to 25 or fewer including me, and you will receive sign up information during the week of July 27.

I will still lead our regular online worship at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live and Zoom and on the Sundays when we meet for outdoor Holy Communion, I will offer a prayer for the "sending of home communion" so that you who are at home can still partake with bread and wine or juice that you provide.

Peace be with you all.

In Christ,

*Pastor Christina*

The Rev. Christina L. Auch, Pastor

**An Expression and Extension of God's Grace in the Shelby Area**