



**Bay Pines**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
AND SCHOOL

**News & Notes**

**March 21/22, 2020**

## **God is our Refuge and Strength**

### **Bay Pines Lutheran Church and School Devotion – March 19, 2020**

A member said to me yesterday, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Lord came today. We would be in heaven and all our worries about coronavirus, jobs, food, education, money, and safety would be solved.” That is the confidence of the child of God, saved by the blood of the Lamb. Do we worry? Of course we do. It is the sinful world in which we live. Do we wonder what the next days, weeks, and months will bring to us? Of course we do. But by the grace of God we know where to take our worries and fears.

Psalm 27:1 says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid.” Psalm 23:4 comforts us, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” And Psalm 46”1-2 puts our lives in the hands of the Lord, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.”

We trust in the Lord and follow the guidelines our country, state, and local officials have enacted to control the spread of the virus. Our services, Bible classes, and meetings are canceled through March 29. We will send devotional messages through email and post them on Facebook. ([www.baypineslutheranchurch.org](http://www.baypineslutheranchurch.org)) For those who are not able to use these informational avenues, we will send direct mailings. The schools of Florida are closed through April 15. Some sort of online teaching will take the place of face to face instruction.

A message will be prepared for each Sunday and posted on Facebook, emailed, and printed. We encourage everyone to stay connected to Jesus in this way. We will be available on the front steps of church Saturday night from 6:30 – 7:00 pm. and on Sunday morning from 9:00 – 9:30 am. to hand out printed information and give spiritual encouragement. If you are able to support the ministry of our church and school with an offering, we can receive that as well. There is an option on our website to give offerings electronically.

Our prayer: Dear Jesus, protect us in body and soul. Strengthen our faith in trying times. Give wisdom to our leaders on all levels. Help us if at all possible to maintain a social distance from people. Watch over those in the medical field who must come in contact with sick people and care for those with coronavirus. Help parents provide solutions for their children during this time if they have to work. We pray for jobs to continue so that people may continue to support their families. If jobs are lost, open doors for help until industry and services can recover. These are uncertain times, but You are always there with Your promise of forgiveness and life everlasting through the cross of our salvation. If there is something we can do for You or for others in need, open our eyes to see the opportunity to serve. Take away our fears and fill us with Your abiding love and calm. Amen.

Each Sunday a message will be posted on Facebook and the website.

([www.baypineslutheranchurch.org](http://www.baypineslutheranchurch.org))

Email communication will also be used and direct mailing when necessary.

All gatherings of more than 10 people are canceled through March and may continue longer.

Each Friday we pick up food from "Feeding God's People". It is the West Wing area and can be picked up to help with food costs.

The call meeting for a pastor has been postponed until Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00 pm.

If you are able to continue your financial support of Bay Pines we encourage you to do so. You can drop off offerings on Saturday night from 6:30 -7:00 pm. or Sunday morning from 9:00 – 9:30 am. There is an option on our website to give offerings electronically. You can still use direct mail as well.

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