



March 17, 2020

## Coronavirus and Bay Pines Lutheran Church and School

Dear members and friends of Bay Pines,

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. . . The Lord Almighty is with us; The God of Jacob is our fortress.” (Ps. 46:1,2,10,11). In this time of uncertainty, we turn to our God, our Lord and Savior, for the help that only He can give.

We are following the directives of our country and suspending the gathering for services, Bible classes, and meetings through March 29<sup>th</sup>. At the present time, our school is out for two weeks according to the guidelines of the Florida Department of Education. We have been encouraged to practice social distancing (gatherings of less than 10 people) to limit the spread of the virus in an attempt to contain it. We will continue to monitor the situation. The health of our people and comfort for our souls is our prayer.

We will provide devotional and spiritual messages through our Bay Pines Facebook account, our web site, email, and direct mailings when necessary. Please pray for your church and school and the people we serve. It is a difficult time for all, and we ask the Lord to sustain us in our faith and trust in His promises.

Many people will be impacted in their jobs by being asked not to show up for work or working from home. Financial difficulties will come. The same is true of our church and school. We are asking God’s people to continue to support His ministry in these ways: There is an option [on our website](#) to give offerings electronically. We will also be available on Saturday nights outside of the front of church on the steps from 6:30 -7:00 p.m. to give you information, spiritual encouragement, and receive contributions. We will do the same on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. You can use direct mail as well.

We join together in prayer: Dear Lord, keep our church and school families and all of our loved ones safe. Heal those who have been afflicted with this virus. Give wisdom and courage to our leaders to make tough decisions for our nation. Calm all fears and direct us to call on You to guide and direct us with Your Word. We know that You love us and will bring us through these difficult and uncertain times. During this season of Lent, You demonstrated Your love by sending Your Son to the cross for us and all people. Help us keep our eyes fixed on You, our Refuge and Strength. The times of our lives are in Your hands. Amen.

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