



Bishop Suarez's Response to President Trump

May 22, 2020

This afternoon, President Donald Trump declared that all governors should open churches immediately and said that churches should be considered essential businesses. I want to offer some reflection on this and how it affects us in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

I want to remind you that churches are already listed as essential businesses in Florida. Governor DeSantis does not prevent any of us from worshipping. Because of the separation of church and state, the government cannot prevent us from worshipping, or compel us to worship, at any time. However, it is strongly recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health that in this “Phase 1” of our reopening, we limit public gatherings as much as possible.

In the Florida-Bahamas Synod, my recommendation is that congregations wait until at least “Phase 3” of statewide reopening before they return to in-person worship. When we are finally able to gather, we recommend continuing to follow safe distancing practices, including wearing masks, staying six feet apart, and cleaning and disinfecting the sanctuary after services. The ELCA and our Synod's guidelines are available on our webpage www.fbsynod.com.

We do not recommend our congregations begin to gather at this time, but legally, you can. Most of our congregations have decided not to have in-person services out of concern for the health and safety of their members. Those that have decided to try and have services are encouraged to use social distancing procedures and avoid practices which can contribute to the spread of the virus, such as singing, shaking hands, passing the peace, or distributing Holy Communion.

COVID-19 is a national emergency, but returning to in-person services is not yet a priority at this time. We urge you to continue doing services online for the time being, until we are in “Phase 3” or upon recommendation from the CDC.

I am longing for us to be able to gather together and worship in our sanctuaries. It would be a blessing for us to be together, but as we have seen across the country, congregations who gather become super spreader events where large percentages of the congregation contract the virus. This has happened in worship services, choir rehearsals, and general meetings.

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June 2020

My ultimate recommendation is that we continue to hold off on in-person worship until, at least, “Phase 3” of reopening. For those who have decided to try and have services, we strongly recommend following the safe meeting practices and continuing to uphold social distancing. In all of this we continue to encourage you to pray for each other, for our communities, for our nation and world as we struggle with this pandemic.

The President’s announcement could encourage people to want to follow his advice and open the congregations this weekend. I would strongly recommend against that. I think there is too much risk for a congregation to safely gather this weekend unless they have had a proper amount of time to put policies and procedures in place to protect their members. It would be dangerous to rush in when we have time to plan and make the best decisions for our congregations.

Sisters and Brothers, I continue to thank God for you. Thank you for the way you care for each other and for your congregations in this time.

May God be with you.
Peace and health,

+ Bp. Pedro
Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop
Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA



God's work. Our hands.

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the 2019 Church-wide Assembly, approved changes to wording in the Model Constitution for Congregations. Your Congregational Council has approved the changes unanimously and recommends ratification. **Nothing** has changed in the portions of the constitution relating only to POP. Section C16.04 allows these amendments to be approved by a majority vote of members present and voting at any legally called meeting of this congregation.

Section 10.03 which pertains to Prince of Peace only provides that notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays (June 14 and 21) at least ten days prior to the meeting (June 28). The very timely addition of, "Section C10.08 This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically."

Our worship services, Bible studies, council meetings, etc., using the Go-to-Meeting platform has been a true God-send. We are able to keep in touch during the COVID-19 Safer-at-Home restrictions. Members will be polled after our worship service June 28 so stick around after service to cast your vote. If anyone has any questions please don't hesitate to give me a call (772) 692-2792.

Roberta Virta,
Congregation Secretary

To connect with us for the Worship Service or Bible Study

By phone: 1 (312) 757-3121, when asked enter this access code 180-259-325#

Our phone Worship and Bible Study Schedule:

9:00 am Sunday Worship by phone

9:30 am Tuesday Bible Study by phone

6:00 pm Wednesday Bible Study by phone

10:00 am Thursday Bible Study by phone

FROM THE DEACON'S DESK

On our church sign it says *Turn Anxiety to Prayer* and I hope everyone is following that advice. Our isolation will come to an end and we know that God is in charge. Our faith will lead us forward and when we look back we can learn and gain a stronger inner faith and relationship with our Father. Many of our family live alone and it can be very frustrating not to mention depressing but know He is with you and you are never alone when Christ is in your heart and home. We will survive this, just as many of you have survived WWII, the depression, and the many changes of the 20th and the new technology of the 21st century. We have said goodbye to many friends and loved ones in our lives, but we are blessed with the knowledge that Jesus is holding us close and taking each step with us. Stay focused on the cross, keep looking up, continue to use our *gotomeeting* for Church and Bible Study, if you need a sounding board or need to hear a voice you can always call Carol or Pastor. This will end and it may never be the same but life never stays the same. We will have learned things that will better help us in the future to deal with these unknown viruses. In the mean time let's practice loving one another a little bit more, caring for each other a little bit more, and take better care of the world around us.

Council met on May 16th and will meet again on June 6th to discuss when we will reopen the church for Sunday Services. I know a few of you like myself are missing the in person worship and council will with God's guidance will help us. As of the last communication with the Synod and the Greater ELCA they laid out several recommended guidelines and Pastor has been communicating with our Lutheran ministers in our area so we can be as safe as possible. I know this virus takes up a good part of our everyday life but council has had a few other issues concerning POP. The most important was the unexpected expenses we have incurred in the month of March. In the last Gazette an appeal was made I hope all who can, will donate. Our insurance is due in June and as of yet I am not aware of the cost but any money collected from our appeal will also help offset our insurance cost.

There is not much else to report. Esther Circle is sponsoring a Bible Study using the Gather on Thursdays at 10 a.m. We still have a 9:30 a.m. Bible Study on Tuesdays and a 6 p.m. Bible Study on Wednesday. Church worship is at 9 a.m. on Sunday. To attend you must go to GoToMeeting and dial **312-757-3121**, it will ask for a code which is **180-259-325#**. It will ask for a password, **just hit the # key**. One of the issues we need to discuss is how to reach our family members who are joining us from out of state. There have been several ideas and council will consider this at our next meeting.

Atria is still isolating and I haven't received any news to suggest it has changed. Carmen is recovering after her surgery. It will be some time before she feels herself so keep her in your prayers.

Blessings, Joy, and Peace from your Deacons,
Carmen and Carol



June 2020

TREASURER'S NUMBERS & NOTES

Checkbook Balance on March 31, 2020 was \$ 13,555.61

April Financial Facts:

General Fund Income:	\$ 8,915.00
Dedicated Accounts Income:	\$ 1,478.00
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 12,687.36
Dedicated Account Expenses:	\$ 0.00
Payroll Liability	\$ 262.57

Checkbook Balance on April 30, 2020 was \$ 11,523.82

Jodi Dudeney, Treasurer

ESTHER CIRCLE

Esther Circle is holding Bible Study and conversations every Thursday at 10 a.m. We will be using the June issue of the **Gather**. Anything we planned for the upcoming months will be on hold until we are able to meet at Fellowship Hall. As much as I would like to move pass this period of our lives we must take care of ourselves and our fellow man. Remember God is in control and He is walking with us during this time of trial. When cabin fever gets you down sit outside and thank God for giving you this day. Esther Circle will begin again so take this time to reflect and appreciate what we have.

Peace and love,
Carol



Comments on behalf of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

I would like to express a special thank you to each member and supporter that has stepped up recently to assist the church in overcoming the financial stress that our facility repairs caused us this year. Please remember that our facilities are now over 40 years old and the septic lift station was definitely original construction. Many building components have a much shorter life span than people do.

I have enjoyed reading the notes that have come in with several of the donations. I also want to let you know that the Alzheimer's Community Care Association has assisted us with a share of the septic system repairs.

Please realize that the treasurer's reports are more than a month behind because this newsletter goal is to be published and mailed before the current month ends. Please keep all our church leaders, members and supporters in your prayers.

Rich Weigel, Financial Secretary

June 2020

THE SHEPHERD'S GROUP

You can call these people from our church family if you need guidance in any of these areas.

Counseling	Pastor Bob	772-245-8556 Home / 772-214-8092 Cell
Social Security	Roberta Virta	772-692-2792 Home
Legal/Notary	Carmen Riedel	772-245-8556 Home

2020 PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN COUNCIL

David Willey <i>President</i>	(561) 352-4200	
Mary Lazo <i>Vice President</i>	(772) 232-6079	marycareylazo@gmail.com
Jodi Dudeney <i>Treasurer</i>	(772) 349-0692	
Roberta Virta <i>Secretary</i>	(772) 692-2792	robertavirta@cs.com
Claire (Penny) Penniman	(772) 692-3927	

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Deacon Carol Heiss — *Worship and Music, Education*

Roberta Virta and Maxie Rutherford — *Nurture and Service*

Claire Penniman — *Fellowship*

Jodi Dudeney and David Willey — *Stewardship and Finance*

Richard Weigel and David Willey — *Property*

Mary Lazo — *Evangelism*

Pat Weigel — *Nominations Committee*

Richard Weigel — *Audit Committee*

PASTOR

Pastor Bob Riedel (772) 444-3048 / (561) 348-0138 Cell RevdBob@gmail.com

In Our Prayers



Our Church Family

Barbara Davis, Charlotte Garrett, Dorothea Loos, Claire (Penny) Penniman,
Marianne Paulson, Carmen Riedel, Judi Thogersen, Deb Williamson

Family and Friends

Cheryl (Claire Penniman's request)
Peggy & Lynn (POP friend)
Edythe Broschiet (Dorothea Loos' daughter)
Lyn Connor (POP friend)
Lena Dellapietra (Karen's friend)



Jean Mahoney (POP friend)
Popovich Family (Carol Heiss' request)
Dan Sharkey (POP friend)

*Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends
of Ann Kern as she entered Life Triumphant*



June 12 — Pat Wisniewski
June 27 — Pat Weigel

*We at POP wish you a blessed day. For those we have overlooked, please forgive us.
If you would like to be included next year, please notify Karen in the church office.*

Visit Us at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Stuart, Florida



If you are looking for a church family or know someone who is, please visit us at Prince of Peace. **To learn more about Prince of Peace and what to expect when you join us for worship, visit our website at www.princeofpeacechurchstuart.org.** We look forward to welcoming you for worship and fellowship. To be added to our monthly Gazette mailing list, please email us at PrinceofPeaceStuart@yahoo.com or call our office at (772) 692-1171.

FUNDRAISER BULLETIN BOARD

Support Prince of Peace Through SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Please consider buying **SCRIP cards** for your weekly shopping, dining and gasoline needs. A percentage of each card sold goes back to **Prince of Peace** and there is no additional cost to you.



Check out all of the participating vendors listed on our website at www.princeofpeaceclutheranstuart.org (located under the Giving tab).

SCRIP cards are available for purchase from Pat Weigel phone # 530-721-2991. The order forms & payment are to be returned on the **FIRST** Sunday of every month.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Simply Giving

Through *Simply Giving*, your gifts are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift — weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. Your gift payment is deposited into Prince of Peace's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.



Simply Giving is a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your gifts through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't feel the need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings. **Prince of Peace benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping, and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments.**

How do I participate? Call the church office at 772-692-1171 to sign up today.

2020 PRINCE OF PEACE WISH LIST



- ♦ Pay off our mortgage \$55,000
- ♦ Raise the church sign \$30,000 and make it digital \$10,000
- ♦ Fix the sprinkler system \$TBD
- ♦ Remove rust and paint the wrought iron \$5,000

June 2020

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org

for information about our national church

FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD WEB SITE

www.fbsynod.org

for information about our regional church

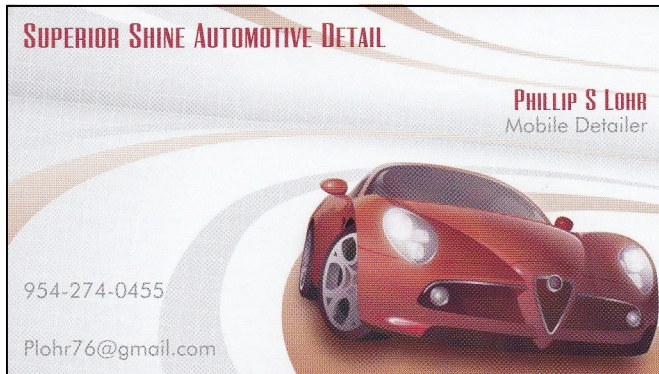
Do you have a business or know someone who does?

Let POP help you advertise!

This newsletter reaches over 200 households each month.

For Members: \$5 per month or \$60 per year

Non-members: \$10 per month or \$120 per year



**We are in need of advertisers to support
our monthly Gazette!**

If you or someone you know are interested
in placing an ad for 2019, please contact...

The church office 772-692-1171 or
princeofpeacestuart@yahoo.com



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
2200 NW Federal Highway
Stuart, Florida 34994-9396
(772) 692-1171
www.princeofpeacechurchstuart.org

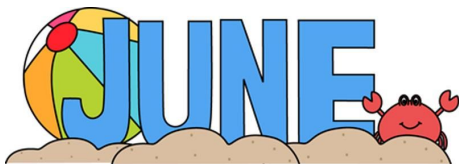
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Permit # 806

*Time-Sensitive Material!
Please Deliver Promptly!*

**** or Current Resident*

Our Mission Statement:

*We are called and chosen members of the Body of Christ,
with a variety of gifts to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*



Sunday Schedule

**9:00 am Traditional Worship
by phone**

Bible Study

**9:30 am Tuesdays by phone
6:00 pm Wednesdays by phone
10:00 am Thursdays by phone**