These words came in a letter from our new CBNW general director, thought they were worth sharing.

*“Therefore, I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely, as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”*

Dear Pine Baptist Family,

The words above were written by the great reformer, Martin Luther, in 1527 when his world was struggling to survive the Black Death plague. Today we face a similar challenge: How will we personally respond during the COVID-19 pandemic? It seems that each day brings challenging news about how to live during this virus.

In response to the Governor’s announcement on March 16th limiting gatherings to 25 and the CDC’s guideline of 10 or less, Pine Baptist will not be meeting together until the ban is lifted, which at this time is April 14, 2020. That is subject to change as these historic events continue to unfold.

Folks in the Church are preparing to put our service online and have it available this Sunday. We will keep you informed as we get things in place. At this time the Monday women’s bible study, the Ephesians study at Shawn and Jodel’s and Joe’s study in the book of John will no longer meet. The Wednesday study group with Dave will continue to meet at the Church at their usual time.

The connection formed as we meet for worship on Sunday’s is not available for now but a new opportunity to intentionally form connections with one another is before us. Please take the opportunity to intentionally connect with others in the Church family by phone and yes… even a text or social media message. This opportunity extends not only to our church family but to our neighbors who are being affected as well.

As we continue to respond to unfolding events surrounding the corona virus we have the opportunity to shine as believers. God spoke to the church in Philippi and instructed them to, “*not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.”* What a great time to be alive.

The leadership team is committed to praying for each family/household in our church family each week. If you have any needs or would like someone to pray with you, please let me know. My cell is 541-540-6590 and you may call or text me. You can email me at s\_jthatcher@pinetel.com or pinebaptist@gmail.com.

Look upward with thankfulness, look outward with compassion and look inward with grace.

Blessings,

Shawn