

PASTORAL PRAYER: November 26, 1989

O THOU who art with us in our restlessness as well as in our rest, help us in this call to prayer to find a gracious invitation to renewal.

WE FIND it in our hearts this day to thank Thee for mercies that have followed, yea preceded us, all our earthly days:

For seedtime and harvest and food enough;  
For energies of mind and hand, and work to do;  
For dead-end streets and U Turns made, and open roads that followed;  
For critical interventions of the right friend, the right book, the right thought - at precisely the right time;  
For the sheer wonder of our creation, preservation and redemption.  
For stout promises and bright hopes that keep us thinking kindly of the future.

WITH mind and heart and strength - Yes, with all that is within us - we would praise Your holy name.

WE PRAY TODAY in support of the quiet people of our time who go on day by day rendering a needed service in a world that is loud and often unappreciative:

Visiting nurses, hospital orderlies, change-booth clerks.  
Those who bus our dishes and clean our offices;  
Those who care for the mentally disturbed,  
Those who counsel the unemployed and the distressed.  
Those who show up faithfully in our schools to teach and to show what love and concern can do - and take.

GRANT that a nation that lavishes its adulation on athletes and movie stars may yet recover sufficient sanity to know who its real heroes and heroines are.

HERE we sit, O God, hardly knowing who we are - yet sensing that we live in relation to a power higher and greater than ourselves.

Help us to love Thee - without loving ourselves the less.  
Help us to serve Thee - without serving our world the less.

Console the frayed affections of all who cannot cope with change.  
Steady the resolve of those who would lead us into new and untried ways.  
Amplify the voices of those who speak the cause of peace, the cause of the poor and disadvantaged of our society.  
And keep us all close to the side of Christ - mindful of His values and always dependent on His Spirit.

For we would live, even as we pray - through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, November 26, 1989

I. GREETING / VISITORS

- A. We take this opportunity to greet the visitors...hope that we shall have opportunity to greet you...more personal way... either at the door or...
- B. Be free in the sharing of your name...sign a visitor card or a Guest Book. Join us on other Sundays...work with us in our programs of outreach to others...
- C. You worship in a Church whose roots are deep....date back to 1837. We like to say that we minister here in the name of Christ and it is in His loving spirit...

II. PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Our parish concerns are there for you in the bulletin. Review them on your own noting the various meetings and study opportunities and fellowship activities "in the works" for the coming days.
- B. In particular, remember the Adult Fellowship Annual Progressive Dinner of this coming Saturday. For further information, be in touch with Sandra Van Cleve or Janet Shroads.
- C. The Administrative Council will be meeting on Tuesday, the 5th of December...an informal meeting at 7:30 pm at the parsonage.

III. FINANCIAL CANVASS

- A. Note the word on the Financial Canvass. We'd like to "wrap it up" as soon as possible. We still have quite a few pledges to come in and if you haven't responded yet, do so today. We'd like to be "up" to 150 pledges by the end of this month. Goals: \$ 110,000. 240 pledges from members and friends.

IV. TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR

- A. Today's coffee hour is in honor of new friends of recent weeks...Come on down and let's get better acquainted. Informal. Warm. Good refreshments.
- B. New members will be received in to the church two weeks from today....December 10th. Those interested in strengthening a

tie with us are invited to share this word with me. We have a number of new friends moving in this direction and there may be others. Wesley once said:

"If your hearts is as my heart is, then come....give me your hand."

- C. Hearts and hands are needed here as we do the Lord's work at this busy corner of His Kingdom.

#### V. OFFERING

- A. Our Thanksgiving appeal is "down" from last year...but hopefully gifts coming in today will help us do what we normally do for Thanksgiving.
- B. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

#### VI. FLOWERS ON THE COFFEE TABLE DOWNSTAIRS

- A. We have a special gift of flowers downstairs on the coffee table...given by our friends in the Finnish Lutheran congregation...commemorating the beginning of Finland's Winter War...50 years ago today...remember it well...many of you are too young....grateful for this gift from our Finnish friends.