

Pastoral Prayer
10/30/11

Dear God, as October draws to a close we thank you for the extended season of Indian Summer this year, for autumn colors of gold, red and orange, for crisp clear days and cool clear nights, for all your blessings in the world of nature and that you've placed us here in Minnesota to enjoy them once again this year. May we also be good stewards of these natural treasures, not taking them for granted, but giving thanks to you always for such an abundance of beauty and grace.

As we have been so greatly blessed, may we in turn share what we've received with those most in need, in our own community and around the world. We pray for all those who are homeless in our city, particularly the children and youth, some of whom have been staying with us here in Project Home. We ask that you might open doors of opportunity for them. Give them not only a roof over their heads, but the chance to experience your love, from parents, teachers, volunteers and friends. May they grow into healthy adults and find their own callings to be part of a healthier, happier American society, where one day all people are wanted and needed, and everyone will have a home.

We pray for the people of eastern Turkey this week, as they sift through the rubble of their lives brought about by the earthquake there. May survivors be restored to health, and may the rest of the world assist in donating emergency supplies for their recovery. We pray also for the people of Libya, as they bring to a close their violent revolution in that North African land. May they be guided by your Spirit and assisted by the other countries of the world in taking the next steps toward building democracy, when law and justice, tempered by love and mercy, will establish the necessary foundation for true freedom and security for all their people.

We pray also today for members of our own congregation, particularly those who are frail, ill or recovering from recent surgery. Watch over them and help them to heal, we pray, as we ask your Spirit's comfort for those other people we know who are grieving the loss of loved ones recently deceased. May they know the assurance of your loving touch as they feel so acutely the absence of the one they have lost.

As we celebrate the Reformation today, may we always look to you to renew and reform us, as individuals and as a church, as guided by Scripture we walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray together his prayer, saying:

“Our Father, who art in heaven...”