

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 7, 2025

Before the Service — Speak quietly to God During the Service — Let God speak to you After the Service — Speak to one another

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The Season after Pentecost is not actually a liturgical season with a common focus, rather, it is just the weeks between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This period is often referred to as "Ordinary Time" and the liturgical color is **green**. These are the ordinary days in which we live our Christian faith in the regular routine of daily life. This seems simple enough, but the way the Sundays are counted on the calendar gets a bit confusing. It begins with the First Sunday after Pentecost and then counts sequentially until the 24th Sunday after Pentecost which is Christ the King, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If it stopped here that would be clear, but each Sunday during this time is also given another title: Proper 7-29 where the numbers do not coincide with the numbered Sundays after Pentecost. This proper numbering system is based on the moveable date of Easter. Honestly, there is no need to be concerned about this numbering framework, just focus on the ordinary daily life of Jesus as he goes about teaching, healing, and loving people as you live your ordinary life each day!

TO JOIN SERVICES ONLINE OR BY PHONE

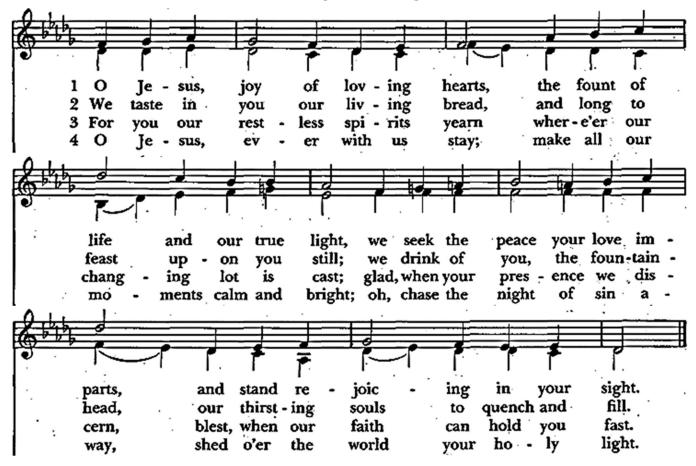
To join the 8:30 service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the links.

To join the 8:30 service by phone, call 312-626-6799
8:30 AM Service: Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300 Password: 246040

Follow the link on our website to watch the 10:30 service on YouTube.

Rector: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik Cell: 203-641-2068 Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan Mr. Josh Dulin, Minister of Music 115 South Main Street, Mt Clemens, MI 48043 Office 586-465-4573 Email: gracemtclemens@yahoo.com Visit us on the web at www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

OPENING HYMN #649: O Jesus, Joy Of Loving Hearts



ACCLAMATION

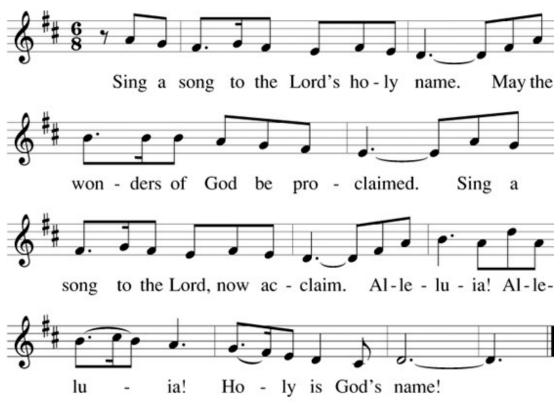
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. AMEN.

Celebrant continues:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

GLORIA: Psalm 95



Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

This Week's Readers: **Scot Lau & Lydia Reed**Next Sunday's Readers: **Neville Thompson & Selia Tuten**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Jeremiah 18:1-11

Reader A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 – Domine, probasti Verses read alternately by the reader and people, breaking at the *

¹Lord, you have searched me out and known me;* you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

²You trace my journeys and my resting-places* and are acquainted with all my ways.

³Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,* **but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

⁴You press upon me behind and before* **and lay your hand upon me.**

⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;*
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹²For you yourself created my inmost parts;*

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹³I will thank you because I am marvelously made;* your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁴My body was not hidden from you,* while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

15Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;* they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!* how great is the sum of them!

¹⁷If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;* **to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: You Are The Center



GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33 The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

THE APOSTLES' CREED

This is an ancient baptismal creed, but using the words "I give my heart," a truer translation of the Latin word "credo" than "I believe."

I give my heart to God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I give my heart to Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, and descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I give my heart to the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The People stand or kneel

Leader In peace we pray to you, O God.

We pray today for all people who struggle for survival: may you bless,

comfort, and strengthen them.

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader For our greater community in Mt. Clemens and Macomb County, and for all those who come to our building to be nourished by the food we provide.

People We pray to you, O God.

For the spirit of peace in the world: that all national violence and wars, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Sudan may end, so that all people may live in peace and safety.

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader For the world's poor, for those who are hungry and homeless: let not the needy be forgotten, or the hope of the poor be taken away.

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader For the spirit of unity, forgiveness, and reconciliation in our country: guide our elected officials to put aside political rivalry and work for the good of all our citizens.

People We pray to you, O God.

For all people of minority cultures and ethnic groups in the United States who continue to be trivialized and endangered by the pervasiveness of racism: may this national sin be acknowledged and cleansed from our hearts, institutions, and nation.

People We pray to you, O God.

For all those who are sick or infirmed, and those who are on our prayer list, which is found near the back of this bulletin. Are there others?

That they may receive your healing touch.

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader For those whose lives are approaching death and for those who have died: that they and their loved ones may receive the comfort of your loving embrace.

People We pray to you, O God.

Leader For the children in our lives and in our world: grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good.

People We pray to you, O God.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Good and gracious God, send forth your Holy Spirit upon your people throughout our country and the world. Tear down the walls that divide us, and make us one through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

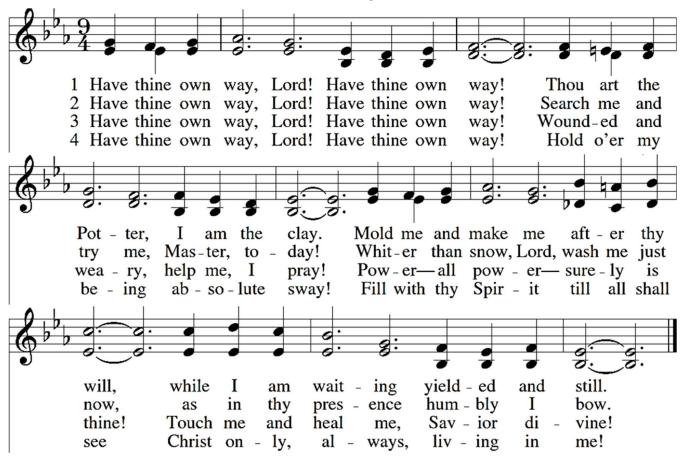
People And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

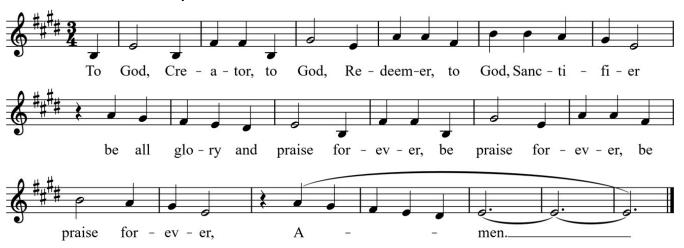
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

OFFERTORY HYMN: Have Thine Own Way, Lord!



DOXOLOGY: To God, Creator



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you. **People** And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to our God.

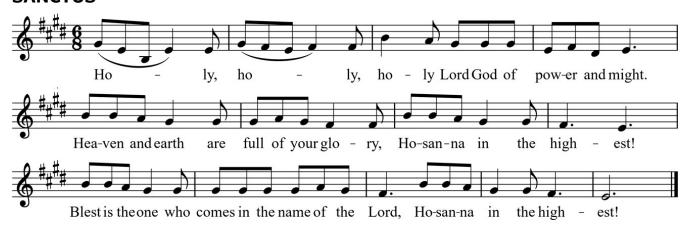
Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant continues:

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with saints and angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS



Celebrant continues:

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

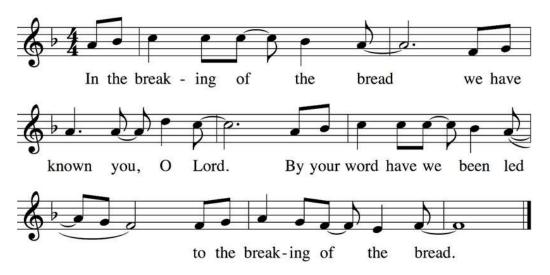
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says:

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father in heaven, holy is your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.

FRACTIO: Emmaus



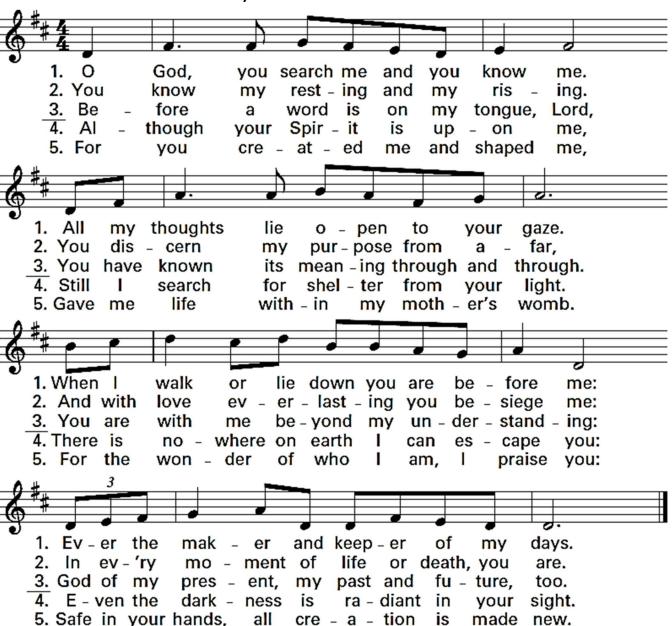
Celebrant The Gifts of God, for all of us, the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION HYMN: O God, You Search Me



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People say together:

Gracious God, we thank you for nourishing us with the food of our savior. Now send us out in the power of your Spirit to be beacons of hope and love in your world. For it is through Christ and with all your saints that we offer ourselves and our lives to your service, O God. We humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son. AMEN.

BLESSING

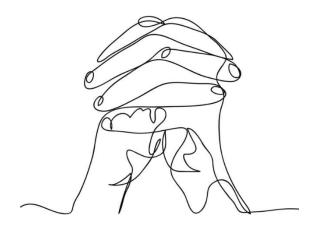
May Christ, who is human and divine, who is of heaven and earth, give you strength to do God's will in this world; and may the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you this day and forever. **AMEN.**



DISMISSAL

Celebrant Our worship has ended; let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and your neighbor. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!



The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger–Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Nina DiGaetano; Donna Hanes; Katherine Domienik; Jasmine Gardner; Tom & Sandy Krell; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Andy Jaeger; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Beth Smith; Bill Sobkowicz; Martha Wehba; Carolyn Siewert; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Joshua R.; Suzanne LaMontagne; John Schober; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Ernie Simon; Nancy & Bob Johnson; John Kelvin; Rick Ghersi; Rory Heinz; Lynn Vineyard; Erica Fields; Emily Lau-Ward & Josh; Sue Sargent; Jim, Sean, Seth, and Jason Cueny; Dave Otto; Alessandro Biehl; Louise Lambert; Carole Schwertman; the St. Peter family; the Schlanbusch family.

Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.

In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please call the office. Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them to the prayer list.

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH Currently

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, in person & online 8:30 & 10:30 AM. Visit our website for more information. Bible Study: Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Guild Room

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers: Wednesdays at 4:00

Sunday Suppers: Sundays at 4:00, November-March

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 AM -12 noon, curbside pickup Serving from 250 - 350 people every month

Fueling Kids' Futures:

Tuesdays at 2:00 PM at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4 35088 Automation Drive Clinton Township, MI 48035 Packing for the 2025-26 school year begins on October 7

All outreach ministries welcome volunteers, financial donations, or food and clothing donations.

Call the office to learn about helping or giving: 586-465-4573

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open **Mondays and Thursdays** from **8:45 AM to 2:45 PM** and **Tuesdays** from **8:45 AM to 10:45 AM**.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the book club will be held at Grace Church on **Thursday**, **September 11** at **6 PM**. We'll be discussing *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom. Join us! If you have any questions, please call Ann Strevel.

QUARTERS FOR A CAUSE

Join us on **Saturday, September 20** for a fun night of Quarters for a Cause! Doors open at **5 PM** and the bidding starts at **6 PM**. Just **\$5** per person buys three paddles; bring an item for the food pantry (especially peanut butter and/or cereal) and get an extra paddle. We'll be raffling off themed baskets and baked goods, and don't forget to take part in the 50/50 drawing! Hot dogs, chips, beverages, and desserts will be available for purchase. Please call Christa Carpenter at (586) 663-6246 with any questions or donations.

