

Eastminster Eagle

Volume 42, Issue 7

July 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

I had a thought yesterday regarding Newton's First Law of Motion—an object in motion will continue moving at the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an external force (the law of inertia). A body in motion stays in motion. A body at rest stays at rest—unless an external force acts upon it.

One of two things happens to church members over time: 1) Members “retire” and become more like a body at rest. They “did that, done that,” and 2) Members have been doing the same thing for a long time. This is another kind of inertia. For things to change at the church, inactive members need to get active again, and active members need to try new things.

Pentecost is a day when the Spirit acted upon the disciples and through them acted upon thousands. Pentecost happens when we open our faith to let the Spirit blow—like setting your sail for a good breeze. The Holy Spirit is the “external force” that acts upon our lives to set us in the direction of Jesus. As the disciples awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised, they didn’t do nothing. What did they do? They gathered and prayed. It’s like a sailor who lets the sail out so when the wind blows the boat will lurch into motion again.

There are two things that you can do to help our congregation to grow again: 1) Do new things that involve meeting new people. It could be anything. Join a baseball team! Haha. You could volunteer at a nearby organization that helps people. You could join a book club outside of the church. You could take a cooking class. Whatever sparks your interest. This will change your inertia. 2) Pray. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you and the congregation. You can pray wherever you are, but praying with your fellow church mates will create more spiritual energy. We can be external forces acting upon each other. Pray in your Sunday School classes and committee meetings or start a prayer group. Specifically pray for our church to fulfill its mission of making new disciples. Pray for visitors and new members. Pray for growth in faith, membership, and mission impact.

I have witnessed several members change their inertia over my time with you. You know who you are. It’s making a difference! There is fresh wind blowing through into and through your lives.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Even if we can get just a small percentage of members to change their inertia, we will be preparing ourselves for new growth. Studies show that when 25% of an organization changes, it serves as the tipping point for the whole organization. We just need 25 members to change their inertia! Open up your faith and let the Spirit lead you!

Once we get the inertia moving in the direction of growth, it can sustain itself for years to come.

Thanks, Newton and the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Paul

EPW All Church Summer Dining

Ten of us enjoyed “Summer Dining” at Verona’s in June. We’re starting a bit earlier this year – 6:00 pm which allows plenty of time to get home before darkUnless you stick around like a few of us did to just visit.



Everyone gets plenty of publicity on these annual summer gatherings, but if you did not get an email from Vicki Lynn reminding you, let her know and she’ll add you to the list.

There are two more opportunities to join in the fun: July 8th at B.J.’s Brewhouse/Town East Mall and August 12 at Snuffers in Mesquite.

Give Vicki a call if you have any questions – We’d love for you to join us!



We will be meeting on July 8 and August 12 (the second Tuesday of each month) at 6:00 p.m.



July 8th – B.J.’s Brewhouse
1106 Town East Mall, Mesquite



August 12th – Snuffers Mesquite
3726 Towne Crossing Blvd, Mesquite

MY FAVORITE HYMN

The hymn *Here I Am, Lord, Glory to God* #69, has gained popularity among various congregations across multiple denominations. For instance, upon the publication of *The United Methodist Hymnal* in 1989, *Here I Am, Lord* quickly became one of the most popular hymns.

The devotional song was written in 1981 by Daniel Schutte, a Jesuit Catholic songwriter and musician originally from Wisconsin. He earned a bachelor's degree from St. Louis University in 1973, followed by a Master of Divinity degree in 1979 from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California. In 1980, he obtained a master's degree from the Graduate Theological Union, also in Berkeley. Mr. Schutte has received an honorary doctorate from the University of Scranton and currently serves as the director of music at the University of San Francisco, a Jesuit institution. He tours extensively as a Christian concert artist, and of his many hymns, *Here I Am, Lord* is the most frequently sung.

In the Roman Catholic context, congregational hymns were incorporated into the liturgy at various points following the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). These points include the opening processional, the offering, during the Eucharist, and after communion.

The refrain of *Here I Am, Lord* immediately brings to mind Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'" This stirring refrain is often the most captivating part of the hymn for singers.

An interesting aspect of this hymn is the shift in perspective between the stanzas and the refrain. The stanzas are written from God's

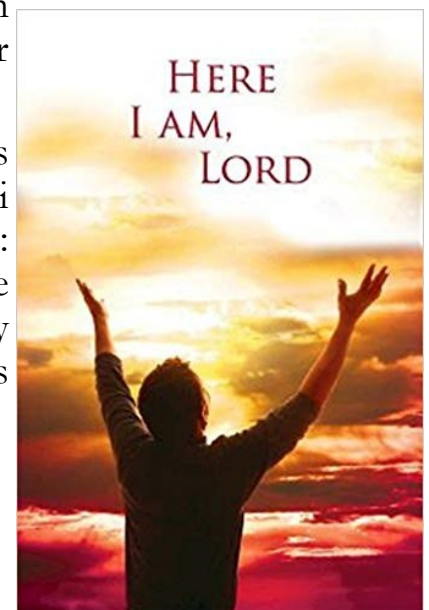
perspective in the first-person singular, while the refrain, although still in the first person, expresses the singers' willingness to offer their lives to God.

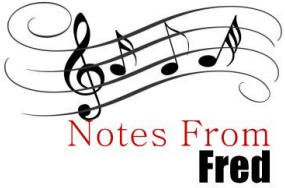
Each stanza presents a paradox. The powerful God, who is the creator of "sea and sky," "snow and rain," and "wind and flame," is also the God who hears the "people's cry," bears their "pain," and tends to the "poor and lame." This hymn speaks of transformation. In the first stanza, God transforms darkness into light; in the second, He melts "hearts of stone" with love; and He nourishes the "poor and lame" with the "finest bread," which is a clear reference to the Eucharist. Each stanza concludes with the question, "Whom shall I send?" While rhetorical questions are common in Christian hymns, this is not one of them. The refrain immediately provides the answer: "Here I am, Lord."

To quote Dr. Harold Hawn, Professor of Sacred Music at Perkins Theology School, SMU:

"We are all grateful for this gift from a Roman Catholic composer to the church universal, a gift that has become one of the hymns most often sung by our generation."

This song/hymn is a favorite of Toni Bacon. She writes: "It speaks to me and makes me cry as does the Lord's Prayer."





From the beginning until now, singing has played a significant role in worship and within the Christian community.

Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn at the end of the Last Supper, likely drawn from Psalm 119, which reflects a Jewish tradition during Passover. Since Jesus and most of the early believers were Jews, they were accustomed to incorporating music into their worship and religious gatherings, primarily through the Psalms. Sacred music consists of compositions based on scripture or texts that interpret and enhance the meaning of the scriptures and are typically written for use in worship. Most of us find that music reaches and expresses our deepest feelings far more powerfully than words alone. Few would want to worship in a church where there is no music.

In my early ministry through music, which began on August 1, 1958 during my sophomore year of college, I started learning some important lessons from my experiences. One key lesson that stood out to me is that not everyone in the congregation appreciates or always feels inspired by every style of music, even when it is sacred music. To address this in our music ministry, I have tried to incorporate a variety of musical styles in the anthems, hymns, and songs selected for worship, ensuring they complement the day's liturgy. In other words, if you like a particular style of music from Gospel to "Classical," and we don't sing your favorite style, we will.

While we acknowledge the significance of music, we do not downplay the importance of the Word and sacrament. Instead, music can enhance the impact of Scripture,

preaching, prayer, and sacrament. Each selection is made with the hope that God will communicate with us through the hymns, songs, and anthems.

Music has a unique ability to emotionally and historically connect us to the past. Consider significant moments in the church calendar, such as Christmas and Easter. Can you imagine these occasions without music? In fact, music may be the first thing that comes to mind when we think of these important celebrations.

Each week, what influences your sense of "being at home" or "not feeling at home" while worshiping in a familiar church or visiting a new one? The type of music you hear and are invited to sing likely plays a significant role in shaping those feelings.

Music is something we both hear and sing during worship. This relates to the idea that worship involves both a call and a response. The call of God resonates deeply within our hearts, carrying a unique power through music, singing, and the sounds of instruments. This expression conveys our innermost responses to God. In addition to hearing the Bible read during worship, we also hear it sung. For example, in Handel's *Messiah*, a series of Bible verses becomes truly unforgettable. Many of the anthems we sing are adaptations of Scripture.

We should acknowledge the powerful preaching and witnessing that occurs through gospel songs like *Precious Lord* or *Hallelujah* from *Messiah*. Augustine reminds us that when we sing, we pray twice. It is rare for a congregation to pray with such intensity as when they sing a great prayer hymn like *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* or *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*. Prayer expressed as praise almost compels us to sing: *Alleluia!*, *Holy! Holy! Holy!*, *I'll Praise My Maker, Healing Grace, Great is the Lord*, along

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

with the countless hymns, spirituals, gospel songs, contemporary gospel anthems, and praise songs our congregation shares.

Music enhances the inherent power of the sacraments. A well-chosen baptism hymn can significantly enrich the experience of holy baptism. Similarly, when a congregation receives Holy Communion, the familiar and beloved hymns, songs, and choruses create a profound atmosphere. (I also appreciate silent communions, where I feel God's presence in a special way.) Overall, music plays a vital role in shaping how the rest of the service unfolds.

Make a joyful noise by singing regardless of your skill. This lifts us up and helps our hearts and minds become more open to clearly hear and fully receive the good news of the gospel. When we leave the church and head into the weekday world, we can carry God-given power with us, as long as we have the music echoing in our hearts and a tune on our lips.



We thank God that He brought us a new member in the loving person known as "TK." And we are so grateful that Tanatida Kungvarlvangse answers to "TK,"

which rolls off the tongue with less effort!

TK was born in Bangkok, Thailand on September 8, 1981. Her father is Thai, and he

met her mother in college in Arlington, where they were married, and later moved to Bangkok. When TK was two years old, she and her mother returned to the states and lived with TK's grandparents in Duncanville, TX, where her grandfather was a Baptist minister.

As a young woman, TK worked as a waitress, and she later became a certified massage therapist. Though she began doing drugs at sixteen years of age, one of her early relationships drew her deep into the drug world. About the age of 23, she decided that God did not exist; nothing or no one had helped her, no prayers were working. She was an atheist for many years. However, too many unexplained happenings in her life began to make her question if there really might be God as we know Him. Before long, she totally surrendered her life to God, and she will tell you that it was the most liberating experience she has ever felt.

Hobbies and interests for TK include arts and crafts, landscaping, helping others, the joy of giving, and cooking. She enjoys a hearty laugh, and peace. Her interests tie into Outreach, and that is where her heart is, reaching out to others. Her goal is to own an RV park with ten stationery homes in which she can offer a safe place for people coming out of jail, people who need love, security, and help in returning to society. She wants all people to know that God saved her, and He can help them, also. It is a monumental project, but TK has faith that God will provide the means in His plan for her.

CELEBRATING WITH MUSIC!

The Eastminster choir joined with the Presbyterian Village North Village Singers and a brass quartet to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Presbyterian Village North. If you attended the Eastfield Early Brass program on May 18th, you heard the hymn *I'll Praise My Maker*,



arranged by Lloyd Pfaustch. The choir, along with the Village Singers and the brass ensemble,

performed that arrangement, as well as a *Fanfare of Praise* by Jay Althouse, incorporating verses from the hymn *All Creatures of Our God*.

There were 200 people present, including Judy Moreland, who was recognized for her service as the Administrative Assistant to the PVN ministers for several years. Judy is a faithful member of our Sanctuary Choir. Fred Watkins has been directing the Village Singers for the past 10 years and as of May 1 our Music Program for 44 years.

This was one of the Worship Committee's outreach programs, as was the Eastfield Early Brass concert. Sharing God and Jesus' message with others through music is an important and joyful ministry.

**Eastminster Vacation Bible School:
Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace
June 15-19**

We had 3 joyful children in attendance, and just as joyful adults helped. The children enjoyed snacks, Bible study, games, crafts, and music. They learned about Egypt, and



Joseph's journey from prison to palace. During the week, we all learned that God gives us hope, special abilities, wisdom, forgiveness and a

family. I want thank the following people for helping: Janice, Christine, Janet, Hilda, Judy, Melissa, Michele, Bruce, Jim, TK, Jacob, Carol, and Paul. There was so much laughter, learning, fellowship, and joy.



Pleasant Grove Food Pantry for month of March, 2025



Date	Families	Adults	Seniors	Children	Total Persons	Pounds
5/5	90	178	47	122	347	5784
5/6	167	310	97	203	610	12233
5/7	52	50	51	41	142	3900
5/12	108	195	69	98	362	8236
5/13	208	385	133	232	750	18136
5/14	52	50	51	41	142	2080
5/19	99	170	53	124	347	5375
5/20	176	327	103	205	635	12224
5/21	52	50	51	41	142	4160
Total	1004	1715	655	1107	3477	72128

Preventing blind spots

About 40% of any vehicle consists of blind spots, which are responsible for an estimated 800,000 accidents each year in the United States. People also have blind spots, and when they're spiritual, they can have tragic consequences.

Pastor Rick Warren suggests these steps for discovering and overcoming blind spots:

- ♦ Pray, asking God to remind you what is true about him — and about you. “Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life” (Psalm 139:24, NLT).
- ♦ Ask some trusted Christian friends or family to point out things in you that you can't see. “Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others” (Proverbs 12:15, NLT).
- ♦ Finally, ask Jesus to change you. The Bible says the truth will set you free (John 8:32), and Jesus calls himself the truth (John 14:6). So the closer you are to Jesus, the more he will fill you with the truth. As God's truth helps you see clearly, you'll be less vulnerable to self-deception.



Tips for gardeners

“Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year,” said evangelist Billy Graham. “It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul.” Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn't bloom.

The warmth of summer and love aren't the only ingredients required for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. “Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden,” advised Clyde Francis Lytle. “It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life.”

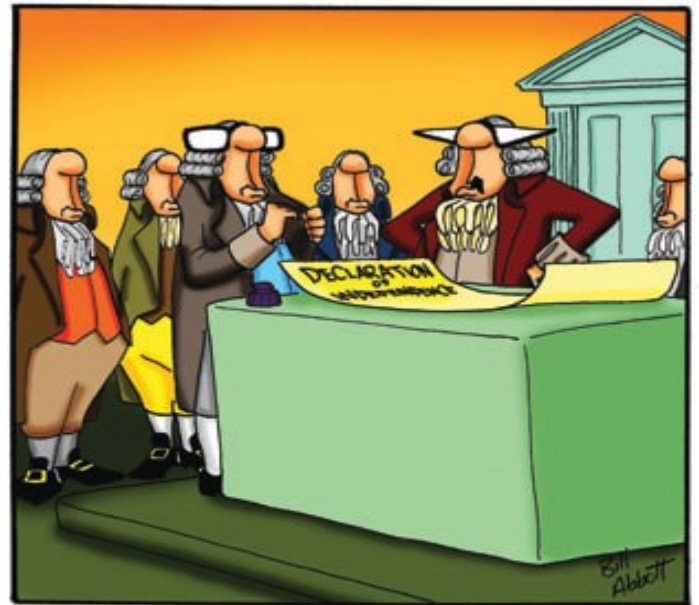


In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31)



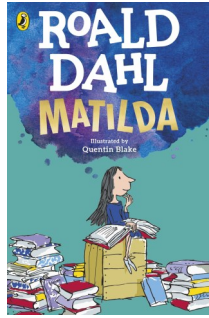
“Oh, come on! Nobody brought a pen?”

Scripture Readings for July

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Luke 22:63–71 | 11 Mark 1:1–13 | 22 Mark 4:21–34 |
| 2 Luke 23:1–12 | 12 Mark 1:14–28 | 23 Mark 4:35–41 |
| 3 Luke 23:13–25 | 13 Matt. 23:29–39 | 24 Mark 5:1–20 |
| 4 Luke 23:26–31 | 14 Mark 1:29–45 | 25 Mark 5:21–43 |
| 5 Luke 23:32–43 | 15 Mark 2:1–12 | 26 Mark 6:1–13 |
| 6 Matt. 22:1–14 | 16 Mark 2:13–22 | 27 Matt. 25:31–46 |
| 7 Luke 23:44–56a | 17 Mark 2:23–3:6 | 28 Mark 6:14–29 |
| 8 Luke 23:56b–24:12 | 18 Mark 3:7–19a | 29 Mark 6:30–46 |
| 9 Luke 24:13–35 | 19 Mark 3:19b–35 | 30 Mark 6:47–56 |
| 10 Luke 24:36–53 | 20 Matt. 25:14–30 | 31 Mark 7:1–23 |
| | 21 Mark 4:1–20 | |

Echoing God's goodness

Roald Dahl's 1988 novel *Matilda*, since adapted for stage and screen, tells of a young girl surrounded largely by abusive adults. With her exceptional intelligence, wit and courage, Matilda decries her father's lying and cheating, resists injustice against her classmates and kind teacher and, in the end, refuses to perpetuate a cycle of revenge. A community-theater director in Minnesota wrote in the musical's playbill, "Her story reminds us that strength isn't always loud, and power doesn't always look like we expect."



That also aptly describes Jesus, who came not with what society deems strength and power. Instead, the Messiah showed that true strength is kind, compassionate and sometimes quiet. True power is not bullying and domination, but giving of oneself in love. Refusing to curse his opponents or even his executioners, Jesus prayed for their forgiveness, demonstrating how to end cycles of violence and death.

Humans — no matter how brilliant! — can go only so far by themselves. That's why Jesus went farther, rising to new life and defeating death entirely. But in the world around us, particularly in books, plays and other works of art, we can catch echoes of God's goodness. Inspired by characters like Matilda and real-life neighbors who uplift others, we too can echo God's goodness. While we trust above all in our Savior Jesus, let's work courageously and creatively for kindness and care. —Heidi Hyland Mann

A modern Noah and his ark

A commercial mariner in the Gulf of Mexico makes it his business to save animals from drowning — not just two by two, but hundreds over recent years. In 2018 Brandon Upton first saw shadows floating near his boat. Realizing they were sea turtles, he contacted animal-protection authorities. The creatures were "cold-stunned" because the water had dropped below 56°F. Sea turtles become comatose in such conditions, putting them at risk of drowning, boat strike or, if washed ashore, land predators.

Every winter since, Upton pulls an airboat alongside his main vessel, rescuing any stunned turtles he sees. He brings them to San Padre Island National Seashore workers, who gradually warm them in a rehabilitation center. Then they release the turtles back into the wild.



As Christians, we often focus on helping people in need. But God created and cares about animals too. Perhaps you share love with a pet or donate to protect endangered species. Maybe you've taken kids to a zoo to learn the wonders of animal life. Perhaps you take pains to carry a spider outside or, like Upton, own special equipment to help animals. We can care for God's creatures in countless ways — no need to build an ark!

—based on a story at Good NewsNetwork.org



Blair Garrett 7/5
 Emma Wallis 7/8
 Steve O'Neil 7/9
 Tim Kreger 7/16
 Darlene West 7/20
 Bonnie Lucas 7/21



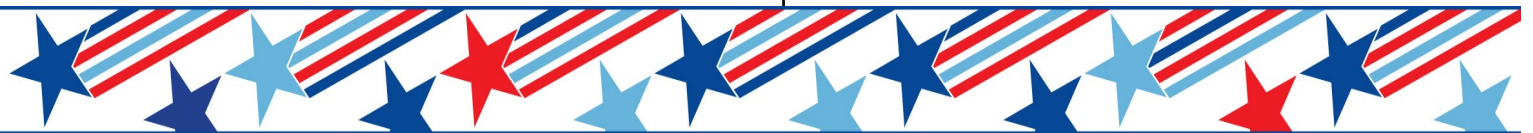
**Eastminster
 Session**

Chandra Anderson
 Melody Davis
 Philis Knox
 Dick Knox
 Kathy Kreger
 Michele Pappas
 Bruce Turner
 Patience Uche
 Darlene West



Pastor
 Director of Music
 Organist
 Administrative Assistant
 Hostess/Housekeeper
 Child Care Provider
 Audio/Visual Technician

Rev. Dr. Paul Burns
 Fred P. Watkins
 Melody S. Davis
 Chandra Anderson
 Minerva Hernandez
 Betty Crabtree
 Sean Turner



HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

June 22, 2025

- ◆ Enjoyed a meal provided by Bruce and Charlotte Turner.
- ◆ Joyfully received David Aldrich into membership.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Commissioners to the May 31, 2025, Presbytery Meeting at Grace First Presbyterian Church, Weatherford.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer regarding higher expenses and lower revenues for the month of May.
- ◆ Heard a report from the Treasurer stating that the Mother's/Father's Day offering totaled \$1,235.00.
- ◆ Removed Nelda Gentile from the roll, with thanksgiving for her life.
- ◆ Approved the job posting for the Administrative Assistant position.
- ◆ Approved a request from Angels on Earth Learning Adventure Center to use the vacant ball-field lot.



Special dates

- ◆ Canada Day, July 1, 2025
- ◆ U.S. Independence Day, July 4, 2025