



# The Messenger

September 2023

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**PASTOR:**  
REV. MARI LYN JONES  
**MINISTERS:**  
THE CONGREGATION

**SESSION MEMBERS:**  
PAT REHM -  
Clerk of Session  
JEANETTE WEST -  
Worship  
DEBBY ALDRIDGE  
Personnel/Finance  
MIKE HART -  
Education  
SHAY VANWINKLE -  
Fellowship  
MIKE HART -  
Benevolence/Outreach  
RANDY KEMP  
Building & Grounds

**TREASURER:**  
PAT HART

**ORGANIST:**  
JEANETTE WEST

**CHOIR DIRECTOR:**  
SHAY VANWINKLE

**COMMUNICATIONS &  
MESSENGER EDITOR**  
#138 PETE STEBBINS

\* ARTICLES NEED TO  
BE SUBMITTED TO  
PETE BY THE LAST  
SUNDAY OF THE  
MONTH - FOR THE  
NEXT MONTH'S  
PUBLICATION.

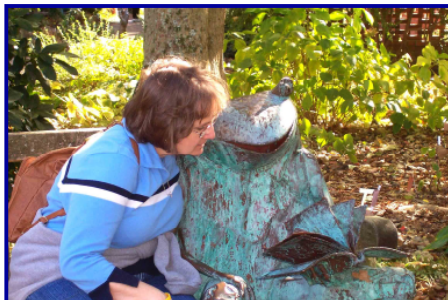
## On the Journey with Mari Lyn



In the beginning was the *Logos*. And the *Logos* was with God. And the *Logos* was God. The *Logos* was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the *Logos*, and without the *Logos* nothing came into being.... And the *Logos* became flesh, and made his home among us. (John 1: 1 – 3, 14 *Common English Bible*) *Logos* is the Greek word which shows up as “Word” in our English translations.

Up until the fourth century, as theologians, bishops and scholars translated from the Greek (earliest manuscripts) into Latin (the language of the church), they consistently used the Latin word *sermo* to translate that Greek word *logos*. But instead of “word,” *sermo* meant conversation. *Sermo* ... leads me to our word “sermon.” Unlike our current day understanding of a one-way sermon, *sermo* represented “a lively discourse, a dialogue, a manner of speaking back and forth: a conversation.”<sup>1</sup> What an interesting idea—sermon as dialogue instead of monologue, sermon as conversation instead of presentation.

I do have conversation partners as I prepare a sermon. They are Biblical scholars, theologians, professors, and pastors—from the past and present. I am in conversation with them as I read and reflect on what they’ve written (reading commentaries) or what they say (listening to podcasts). Sometimes my sermon preparation includes conversation partners in the flesh—friends from seminary and my husband. But it feels like something is missing. I would so enjoy conversation partners after sermon preparation. I wonder if you would be willing to try sermon as a dialogue, sermon as a conversation.



(Mari Lyn, pre-seminary, having a conversation with a Frog in an Atlanta garden)

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## Calendar of Events

- Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Sunday School 9:00 a.m. (first on 9/10)
- Men’s Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 am.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Sept. 6 - 1st Choir Practice 3:30 - 4:30
- Sept. 10 - Sunday School Class Begins
- Sept. 21 - Women’s monthly Devotional

September 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**Mari Lyn Comments Cont.**

For three Thursdays in September, let's discuss scripture and theme from a recent Sunday sermon. Let's bring a lunch and meet in the Adult Sunday School room from 11:45 am– 1:00 pm. We'll share food and enjoy fellowship. We'll have a conversation and make connections. And we'll let the lively discourse take us wherever it leads. After all, conversation helps us pass the time on the journey.

Thursdays:

- ◇ Sept. 7,
- ◇ Sept. 14,
- ◇ Sept. 28.

Bring a lunch and thoughts, notes, reflections, and questions about a recent sermon.



<sup>1</sup> Victoria Loorz, *Church of the Wild: how nature invites us into the sacred.* Minneapolis: Broadleaf

**New Sermon Series**

This fall, you are invited to “Come to the Waters.” Through scripture, prayer and reflection, we will come to the waters of justice and righteousness, to the streams of mercy, and the river of hope. Birthing and life-giving water will flow over and around us. We will drink from the well of living water. We will ford streams of dangerous water and ride the waves of stormy water. We will experience thirst, and our thirst will be sated by the abundance of water. “Come to the Waters,” to be challenged and transformed, renewed and restored, reconciled and encouraged.



**Common Lectionary Readings** (Mari Lyn will change topics at times and may not use these readings)

	14th Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 3	15th Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 10	16th Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 17	17th Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 24
1st Reading	Exodus 3: 1 – 15	Exodus 12: 1 – 14	Exodus 14: 19 – 31	Exodus 16: 2 – 15
Psalm	Psalm 105: 1 – 6; 23 – 26, 45b	Psalm 149	Psalm 114	Psalm 105: 1 – 16, 37 – 45
2nd Reading	Romans 12: 9 – 21	Romans 13: 8 – 14	Romans 14: 1 – 12;	Philippians 1: 21 – 30
Gospel	Matthew 16: 21 –	Matthew 18: 15 – 20	Matthew 18: 21 – 35	Matthew 20: 1 – 16

**Sept. Birthdays**



- June Lubowinski 12
- J.C. Pennington 12
- Shirley Lett 25
- Pete Stebbins 26

**About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)**

**Missie Lanham:** Missie's daughter, Claire, brings Missie home to Salado a couple of Saturdays each month, so she can enjoy her cat, Luke, and see a few visitors. If you would like to visit her one of these Saturdays, please call Claire at 254-931-0596. We give thanks that Missie continues to shine in conversations and visits.

**June Lubowinski:** We pray for June's mom, Jamie, who is declining. We pray also for June. She is home from the hospital and is greatly improved.

**Renita Menyhert:** Renita had double knee surgery in August. We pray for a full recovery.

**Ron Miller:** We give thanks that Ron is healing from his eye surgery.

**Nancy Norris:** Nancy's granddaughter is due to deliver in early December. We pray for good health for baby and mommy.

**Shirley Pinkston:** We give thanks that Shirley

continues to heal from her knee surgery in July.

**Joan Ray:** We give thanks for successful surgery and a good report from the post operative appointment. Joan can begin physical therapy soon. We pray for success in the physical therapy and a full recovery from the surgery.

**Pete Stebbins:** Pete has had pain from slow healing wounds in the aftermath of more plastic surgeries (for the scarring of his legs). He's also been experiencing back pain. We pray for Pete—healing and for relief from pain.

**The Van Winkles:** Rip's gall bladder surgery was postponed in August while he has some tests run, and his medical team confer to decide when and how to proceed. Rip and Shay's son, Richard, awaits news on when and where his surgery will happen. We pray for healing for Rip and Richard; we pray for energy and strength for Shay and her daughter, Michelle—Rip and Richard's caregivers.

**Thank you for your warm welcome.**  
1<sup>st</sup> with food and fellowship, conversation,  
and cobbler after worship August 6, then  
with many birthday well-wishes Aug. 15.  
Y'all are so kind! Grace and Peace,  
*Mari Lyn*

## Church Notes

Anyone who would be willing  
to learn how to set up our  
monthly communion service,  
please contact Jeanette West,  
254-760-6564.

The Woman's Third Thursday  
Devotional series will begin  
again in September. This Sept.  
21 session will be led by Pat  
Hart and discuss "How to add  
life to your prayer life".

The signup sheets are in the  
foyer for anyone wanting to  
provide flowers, assist with  
being a greeter, or serve as  
liturgist between now and the  
end of the year, or just contact  
Jeanette. This can include any-  
one wanting to be a substitute  
in case someone has to be out  
on a Sunday.



Sunday School will be resuming on Sunday, September 10th, with a book by  
one of our favorite authors, In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus  
through the Holy Land by Max Lucado. John Booher will be leading us on this  
6-week journey as we walk in the land where Jesus was born, lived, and died.  
Please join us at 9:00 on Sundays for prayer, fellowship, a bit of old-fashioned  
learning with a cup of coffee and a cookie or two thrown in!

## ENCOURAGEMENT

We are a nation of diversity, including numerous holi-  
days. Some of my favorites, and probably yours as well,  
are Christmas and Thanksgiving, and of course Easter.  
But we also have some pretty strange holidays as well.  
To name just a few, there is National Donut Day,  
which, I have to be honest here, I could really enjoy.  
But then, there is Quitters Day, Polar Bear Plunge Day,  
(no thank you), not to mention Curmudgeons Day, and  
National Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day. (That could  
be fun). And let us not forget Wonderful Weirdos Day.

One of my very favorites is National Encouragement  
Day, which is celebrated every year on September 12th.  
But we don't have to wait till September rolls around  
again. We can celebrate this holiday every single day of  
the year. NED is dedicated to uplifting people around  
us and making a positive impact. And Heaven knows,  
with the state of the economy, the weather, and all the  
other issues threatening to destroy our planet and our  
way of life, I'm sure we could all use a little more en-  
couragement in our lives.

I have always felt that encouragement was one of the  
gifts God blessed me with, and I try very hard to use it  
as often as I can. It really isn't that difficult. Anybody  
can do it. You only have to pay attention to the people  
around you and be willing to smile, say a kind word,

give a compliment, or a word of praise for a task well  
done, send a card, make a phone call, or perhaps visit a  
friend or a loved one in a nursing facility. We may never  
know what a difference we made to a stranger on a  
street corner, who is going through a rough time. Every-  
body needs to be acknowledged and know that they are  
appreciated and remembered.

One of my favorite songs, by Don Moen, is titled "He  
Knows My Name." In the song, based on Psalm 139,  
Don talks about the God who sees us. "HE knows my  
name, HE knows my every thought. HE sees each tear  
that falls, and hears me when I call." You can listen to it  
on YouTube. I know you'll enjoy the song, as well as  
the back story.

From a Merry Heart, *Linda Lloyd*



## Summary of Stated Session Meeting - Aug. 20, 2023

The Session met Sunday, August 20, 2023 in a stated meeting. Minutes of both the May 7, 2023 stated meeting and the June 18, 2023 called meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pat Hart reported that year to date, the church's finances and investments are in good shape, even in anticipation of needed roof repair later this year. This summer, a \$10,000 gift was received--\$6,000 of it has been deposited in our Texas Presbyterian Foundation account. A new computer for the church office and up-to-date accounting software were purchased with \$2,000. The remaining \$2,000 has been placed in the operating fund.

**Worship:** Jeanette West reported receiving multiple compliments about the guest preachers and special services in July. Choir practice resumes the first Wednesday in September at 3:30.

**Education:** Mike Hart reported plans for several short-term book studies for Sunday School this year. So far, John Booher, Mike Hart, and Pat Hart have agreed to lead at least one of the book studies. The Men's Prayer Breakfast continues to meet for breakfast, prayer, and Bible study on Tuesday mornings, at 7:45. Beginning September 21, the Women's Devotional Group will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:30 for brown bag lunch followed with devotionals from 12:00 – 1:00.

**Building and Grounds:** Randy Kemp reported that the new cleaning crew is doing a good job, and expected roof repairs will begin when the temperatures cool down.

**Fellowship:** Discussion about 2023 fall/winter Fellowship events was tabled and will be revisited at the next stated session meeting (October 15).

**Benevolence:** Mike Hart reported that Benevolence contributions through June 30 total \$9,074. Benevolence Committee will meet after worship September 17. The next 5th Sunday event will include a presentation in worship from Salado Family Relief and Hearts & Hands. Whether or not to include a Fellowship event afterward will be discussed at the next Session meeting on Oct. 15.

**Finance/Personnel:** Debby Aldridge reported that the 2023 Nominating Committee (Debby Aldridge, Laquita Arner, and Sarah Pettijohn) will meet and have two names to nominate for the class of 2026 (to serve on the Session 2024, 2025, and 2026) at the Congregational Meeting on November 5.

**Communications:** The church's mission and vision statements will replace other statements about the church in our weekly Salado Village Voice ad.

**Future dates:** Stated Session meeting: Oct. 15, 2023 after worship. Congregational Meeting—to elect 2 elders to the class of 2026, to elect 2 members-at-large to the 2024 Nominating Committee.

## ♪ Musical Notes ♪

After a couple of months without choir practice, it's time to get back into the swing of things! We are beginning on the same day of the week (Wednesday) and at the same time (from 3:30-4:30) as before we took our summer break. I am so proud of the dedication of our choir members as they have continued to robe up, sit in the choir area, and sing to the glory of God!

Please consider joining us on Wednesday, September 6, in the worship area. We are always open to receive new choir members. The only requirements are you love the Lord and want to "Make a joyful noise to the Lord," Psalm 100:1 (New Revised Standard Version)!

If anyone has hidden talents you have been keeping a secret for just the right time to reveal.....it would be NOW! If anyone plays an instrument, (ie, flute, violin, tambourine, harmonica, guitar, ukulele, spoons, kazoo???) - yes, kazoo...remember, the scripture said "joyful noise), please let your talent be known to Jeanette, any choir member, or Mari Lyn!

Over the next several Sundays, you will be hearing some of the choir's previous numbers from Sundays and



years past. Among these are "This is the Day," "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore," "We Worship You Almighty God," and "As the Deer Pants for the Water." Another thing you will recognize is some of the hymns we sing will be familiar melodies from favorite hymns, but with different words, like we did for Mother's Day, when we sang "Giving Thanks for Mothers," to the familiar hymn, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee."

Tell me how excited you are getting just to know choir practice will begin this Wednesday! There will be old and new hymns, choruses, Christmas carols....the choices are endless! At the end of the previous choir season in May some of the choir members even received "Dove" awards for singing solos, and duets! Yes, you too, can come and be a part of the Adult Choir of the Presbyterian Church of Salado! SEE YOU WEDNESDAY!

Sharing in Christ's Service,  
Jeanette West  
254-760-6563



## Welcoming Social for Mari Lyn - August 6



## Summer Bible Study Ends August 31

For the past two months over 20 persons, both members and friends of this congregation, participated in our summer Bible study. "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ" focuses on persons and events recorded in Luke and Acts. As a physician who traveled with Paul throughout the Roman Empire, he witnessed the growing and enthusiastic response of Gentiles to the "Good News" about Jesus as the Son of God and shared it in his writings.

Luke respected women and included them as evangelistic partners, such as Lydia in the Early Church. The final lesson of this study features the apostle Peter's act of raising a woman disciple from the dead in Acts 9:36-43. Tabitha, also called Dorcas, had been doing "good works and acts of charity" when she became ill and died. Other disciples in her town requested that Peter, who was traveling within a day's journey, come to her. Tabitha's faith community of believers waited expectantly that he would resurrect their friend, and he did. - *Pat Rehm*

