



Family and Friends of Trinity Lutheran Church

Just an early reminder of our Holy Week schedule that will greet us at the end of MARCH!

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion at 7:00 pm
Friday, March 29: Good Friday service "From Light to Dark" service at 7:00 pm
Easter Morning Services: 8:00 am "Sunrise Service" with Holy Communion 10:00 am "Easter Service" with Holy Communion

Let's make our presence be known to our God during Holy Week and Easter!



## Don't Forget to Direct Choice Dollars®!

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until March 31 to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to Trinity Lutheran Church. Go to Thrivent.com/ thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Dírect your Thrivent Choice Dollars Today!



# March Food Share Month

During March, the Annual Food Share Month, Trinity will again be a place where your generosity can be demonstrated with gifts to the St. Peter Area Food Shelf. Food insecurities are still very much a part of many lives in our community and around the world. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items to church when you come for worship, or any weekday during

open office hours. In addition to staples like cereal, canned goods and pasta, the food shelf is also in need of personal hygiene items such as shampoo, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, diapers, etc. Monetary contributions may be dropped off at church or mailed to Trinity with a note in the memo saying "Donation for St. Peter Area Food Shelf".



KEEP

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Church Library

## MARCH

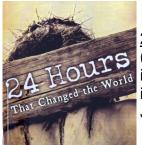
HAPPY EASTER TO ALL Allow the turning of these pages to trigger a turning of your heart.

THE CROSS, (1A Luc), by Max Lucado. What does the cross mean to you? It summons all sufferers, attracts all cynics, lures all searchers and yet history has done everything but ignore it.



### THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, (1A

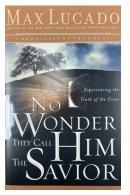
Lau), by Greg Laurie. A Biblical guide that provides you with a firsthand look at the people, the places, and the politics behind it with a chronology of the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life.



24 HOURS That Changed the World, that Changed the World itual insight and pastorel (1A Ham), by Adam Hamilton. Histor-Jesus' last and greatest hours.

THE PASSION STORY, (1A Bes). A complete English translation by J. Melvin Moe, of the original 1847 German volume Die Leidensgeschichte, by Wilhelm Friedrich Besser.

No WONDER THEY CALL HIM THE SAVIOR, (1A Luc), by Max Lucado. The centerpiece of the Christian faith where God and man encounter each other. Relive the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.







# **Volunteer Opportunity**

The Kitchen is looking for volunteers to help provide a free meal for people in need on the first Monday of each month. Volunteer areas include cooking from approximately 3:30 - 5:30 depending on the menu, setup and serving from 5:00-6:30, and cleanup from 6:00-7:30 or any combination of the three. You can volunteer for one meal at a time. Contact Sandi Francis for more information at sandikfrancis@gmail.com or 507-995-6100.

The Kitchen has now been serving meals for 18 months. For the first few weeks we served 25 to 28 guests with about 10 meals for volunteers. The numbers steadily increased over the next year. We are now cooking for 100 people and serving 70 to 100 meals to guests and 10-12 volunteers. This is back to pre-Covid number.

Five churches plan and serve meals on a rotating basis: Trinity Lutheran Church, Union Presbyterian Church, Church of St. Peter Catholic, First Lutheran Church and Scandian grove.

Our mission of serving people in need happens in many different ways including people in financial need of a meal, lonely people needing a social connection, and opportunities to volunteer and give back to the community.

The Kitchen is financially supported by donations from churches and other organization, funeral and special service donations and individual donations from those who come to meals, Food costs are kept down by preparing meals from scratch, participating with Second Harvest to obtain food at moderate to deep discounts, and bread product donations from Family Fresh and Mankato Hy-Vee. Over 60 people a month are volunteering in a variety of ways to make it possible to keep the Kitchen going.



# WELCA News

Wednesday night soup suppers will continue through Lent. The following groups have volunteered to host:

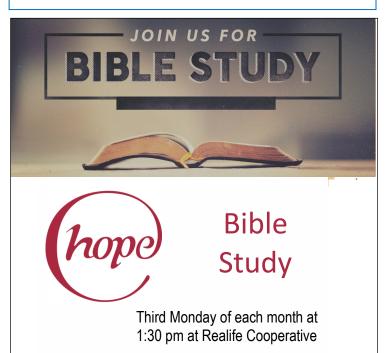
March 6 – WELCA March 13 – Church Council March 20 – Choir

Serving begins at 5:30. Please consider bringing a soup to share or working in the kitchen. Sign up in the Narthex.

**WELCA's Spring Fling** is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendar!

Mark your calendar for the Synod Convention in Redwood Falls.

Don't forget to check the bulletin board in the hallway for WELCA event picture and updates.



### From Your Interim Pastor

#### **To Spring Ahead**

#### Transitional Task Force focus now shifting.

There have been questions as of late as to why we have not started the call process, and I am hopeful to be able to answer some of these questions as we are now preparing to "spring ahead"!

In the past when there has been an interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran, the primary work of any "task force" that was formed has been to put together a Ministry Site Profile which is the step before a call committee is formed and ministry candidates are given to the call committee by the synod. The situation of my interim here has been different in that I came as the result of a situation where Trinity lost both your pastors within a few months of each other. When I arrived, it was the beginning of summer, and an immediate need was to attempt to bring people back to worship. In September, as a part of our Rally Day festivities, we were able to put together a task force that first needed to address some very important questions. These questions included - Whether Trinity would be calling one pastor or two; or the question about a youth director and the direction that would take us. These were complicated questions and needed the input from leadership. finance, and finally authorization from the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Please know that these were also questions that the synod felt were important to answer prior to the starting of the ministry site profile.

We are now ready to begin putting together our Ministry Site Profile which is the next step in calling a new pastor! We

would like as much input as possible from all members of the congregation as we develop our site profile. We will be setting up various opportunities throughout the months of March and April to meet with us and discuss any thoughts you may have. Additionally, we will be sending out a survey to complete. As always, please feel free to get in touch with one of the transitional task force members if you have any questions, thoughts etc. We appreciate your support! Task force members:

Pastor Dave, Al Behrends, Ann Bruggeman, Katherin Dunn, Sandi Francis, Larissa Gieske, Gretchen Lind, Kris Rosacker, Joni Seitzer.

#### **Contact Information for Pastor Dave:**

As a reminder to the congregation, if you require a pastoral visit and / or need to contact the Pastor, there are three easy ways to contact him:

- 1. Call him at 605-321-0868 (That number is in each week's Announcement page. This number is Pastor Dave's personal number and is monitored 24/7)
- 2. Send and email to him: revchristenson@yahoo.com. This email address also goes to his cell phone.
- 3. You can text or call his cell phone.

Please keep this information close to you or to your caregiver!

#### **Church Council Contact Information:**

President - Marc Bachman: marc.woody.bachman@gmail.com Vice President - Andrew Elofson: drewdavid1999@gmail.com Secretary - Rita Gibbs: ritagibbs@hotmail.com Treasurer - Jim Kruger: jkruger@stpeterschools.org CYF - Katherine Dunn: hershey.katherine@gmail.com Community Life - Nancy Kruger: nfkruger1952@gmail.com Worship, Music and Art - Nancy Roessler: naroess26@gmail.com Stewardship - Carolyn Dobler: dobler@hickorytech.net Adult Education - Kris Rosacker: rosackerkris@yahoo.com Property - Paul Albers: palbers1@live.com

#### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Team's words from Sunday morning worship, February 11: You might be aware of some of the topics we've worked on - for instance, each Sunday the land acknowledgement for our building is contained in the Announcements, which helps us be aware of the painful history of forcing a people out of their homeland. We've discussed racism in our culture after watching an episode of the groundbreaking TV series of All in the Family. And at one of the very first events we hosted, we were in small groups and listened to each other share our backgrounds and how we first encountered awareness of racism. After each person finished, we repeated an Ubuntu greeting used in some African countries....

"We see you, We hear you, You Matter." Simple words but so meaningful.... to matter, to be seen, to be respected....to Belong.

So now this morning we are announcing a journey for our congregation as we explore stepping into being an intentional Welcoming church - which would say to our LGBTQ teens, young adults, adults, everyone - that they would truly be welcomed here. In our personal lives we all know these issues are a reality. We are all affected - these are people known to us in our jobs, in our neighborhoods - in our own families. We love and care for them. There is urgency around this work - because we know discrimination is alive and well.... but also we will not be hasty with this journey into radical Hospitality.

We want to have conversations. Please feel free to let one of us know you'd like to have a cup of coffee and talk - or one of us may call you and ask the same. There will also be some small group gatherings and educational opportunities. We invite you, all members of Trinity, to help us shape the journey as we listen to one another on this journey. The very first event for your calendar is Sunday, March 10, when Rev. Scott Richards of Gaylord, will be our guest preacher.

We ask for prayers and God's guidance on this journey.



## April 22 - Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd that demonstrates support for environmental protection. It was first held on April 22, 1970, and has since evolved into a global event that includes a wide range of events coordinated by EarthDay.org, involving over 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

The official theme for Earth Day 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics," highlighting the urgent need to reduce plastic pollution. This year's Earth Day will be an opportunity to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic on our planet and to inspire individuals and communities to take action to reduce their plastic footprint.

Here are some ways we can celebrate Earth Day:

Reduce our plastic consumption by using reusable shopping bags, water bottles, and straws and avoiding products packaged in plastic. Stay abreast of St. Peter, Minnesota's recycling program at: https://www.saintpetermn.gov/234/Recycling

Planting trees helps to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provides other environmental benefits.

Please learn more about our planet's environmental challenges and share what you know with others.

Donate to organizations working to protect the environment.

Every little bit counts when it comes to protecting our planet. We can make a difference by taking action on Earth Day and throughout the year!

Trinity Green Team

In Memory of Darwin Bruns

May 28, 1944 - February 10, 2024

Judy Scholl

March 21, 1927 - February 23, 2024

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8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:15 am	Worship Service Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsa Worship Service Sunday School	<b>10</b> at	5:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	] The Kitchen Finance Committee Meetin Church Council Meeting	<b>II</b>			12
8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	ation Lock In Worship Service Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsa Worship Service Sunday School	<b>17</b> al	1:30 pm 5:30 pm	Hope Circle Bible Study At Realife Cooperative The Kitchen	18	9:00 am	Mission Quilters	19
	<b>UNDAY</b> Worship Service Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsa Worship Service Sunday School	<b>24</b> al	5:30 pm	The Kitchen	25	7:00 pm	Green Team Meeting	26
8:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	SUNDAY Sunrise Worship Service Adult Forum Coffee Fellowship Celebration Singer Rehearsa Easter Worship Service Sunday School	<b>31</b>						

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Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2
			9:00 am Visitation for Darwin Bruns
			11:00 am Memorial Service for Darwin Bruns
6	7	8	9
9:30 am Staff Meeting 5:00 pm Mission Committee Mtg 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lenten Service			
13	14	15	Confirmation Lock In 16
9:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lenten Service			
20	21	22	23
9:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Confirmation			
27	28	29	30
9:30 am Staff Meeting	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm Good Friday Service	

#### Church Council Meeting Minutes, February 3, 2024

**Present:** Marc Bachman, Andy Elofson, Rita Gibbs, Kris Rosacker, Kristen Gurrola, Carolyn Dobler, Katherine Dunn, Pr. Dave Christenson

Absent: Jim Kruger, Nancy Kruger, Nancy Roessler

**Devotions:** Pastor Dave led the opening prayer

#### A. Business Discussed

#### 1. Pastor Report

Clean up of Christmas decorations from Advent. Boxing up and storing consumed much more time than actual set up. Resumption of confirmation for 2024. Confirmands will focus on the Apostles Creed. The time will be limited due to the early arrival of the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday services beginning on February 14.

Monthly Interim meeting at the Synod office. (Both January and February on Zoom). Executive committee / council meeting / committee meetings.

Service night with the confirmands where they assisted in taking down the trees into the basement. Also a highlight of the upcoming Lenten season and duties of each confirmation class.

Conference pastors meeting at First Lutheran. February Conference Pastors' meeting on February 20 at Trinity Lutheran. The pastors will have noon lunch at the Coop, but we will need to provide an afternoon coffee / goodie break. There are two or three pastors that are gluten free folks so we will have to keep that in mind.

Preparation for a special Sunday of the Annual Meeting that included two services with H/C, a baptism between the services, a welcoming of new members and the Annual Meeting.

Regular sermon prep, office and computer work, several pa-

rishioners in to talk and beginning to put together the midweek Lenten services beginning with the Ash Wednesday service.

Preparation for Transitional Task Force that will meet at 5:30 PM on Sunday February with a new task of preparing the congregation for calling their new pastor.

Sermon prep for 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/18. Prep for confirmation class on 1/3.

Computer work for professional reading, correspondence, letters and reports.

Daily correspondence and one to ones with office manager to confirm and plan weekly ministry events in addition to future planning.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

- Offerings as of January 31, 2024 were \$29,808.
- Total Expenses through January 31, 2024 were \$37,622.
- Expenses exceed offerings by \$7,814.
- Checking account balance as of January 31, 2024 is \$67,018.

#### 3. Financial Update

- •There is an Endowment request to use funds to pay expenses for the Simpson Forum. This was discussed and a motion was made to approve the request of \$3,515 from the Simpson Endowment Fund. See Action Item 3.
- •A cemetery task force team will be put together to review the offer of a cemetery donation to discover what this would entail.
- •Bonus for Trinity's staff of 1.5% of their 2023 earnings, to thank them for their service. See Action Item 4.
- Suggested that Property Committee put together a task force to look into lift/elevator to provide access to the second floor of the education wing. This needs to be resolved by August.

#### 4. Other Business/President's Report

- •Reflection of Pastor Dave's duties per the call agreement. Pastor Dave is leader of the staff and asks for support of Church Council.
- •Live Stream of the 10:00 service has been requested. The reporting of the music for contemporary services is in order. It is requested that Worship, Music and Arts Committee inform the broadcast team of this request.
- •Church Access The library representative would like Archives door to have a lock installed. Property can look into swapping handles with another door that no longer needs to be locked.
- •It is recommended to council for Property to rekey the exterior doors of the church. Motion to approve the exterior doors be fitted with new keys/locks. See Action Item 5.
- •Worship Service assistants the ushers, altar care and lay reader volunteers need to have an updated list of who is responsible for each week. This compiling of these lists falls under the responsibility of the Worship, Music and Arts committee.
- •Coffee Fellowship hosts it is requested that Community Life train volunteers and to update the list of volunteers for this.
- •Coffee with Pastor Dave will be held the second Sunday of each month to allow the congregation to visit, ask questions and to check in. This will begin March 11, since Pastor Dave will not be here February 11.

#### 5. Nominating Report

- Complete committees are Executive, Council, Finance, Children Youth & Family, Property and Community Life.
- Committees with openings are as follows: Adult Ed (one 2 yr spot); Mission (one 2 yr spot & one 1 yr spot); Stewardship (two 2 yr spots & one 1 yr spot); Worship (one 2 yr spot & two 1 yr spots); Personnel (one 2 yr spot).

#### 6. Personnel Report

- Personnel Policy was updated.
- Youth Director position description was finalized. Now looking to post it on Indeed, Gustavus, Synod website

- Motion to appoint Darrell Jodock as the President's designee on the Endowment Committee. See Action Item 6.
- Motion to appoint to Finance Committee: Mikkel Haugen, Cathy Carlson, Nate Newhouse, Jamie Seitzer and Bob Broeder. Also to appoint to Personnel Committee: David Arpin, Kim Oeltjenbruns, Gretchen Bachman, Sarah Nelson and Wendy Bachman. See Action Item 7.
- Motion to move the Council meetings to the second Monday of the month. **See Action Item 8**.

#### 8. Committee Reports

- Adult Education reviewed the schedule for Adult Education.
- Children, Youth & Family March 17 is confirmation retreat weekend, First communion will be Palm Sunday, February 25 will be camp Sunday.
- Community Life no report available
- Mission looking to participate in God's Work Our Hands again this year.
- Property no report available
- Stewardship Green Team falls under Stewardship. Looking into a green audit to help us be better stewards of our resources.
- Worship, Music & Arts no report available

#### B. Actions Taken:

Motion M/S/P to approve February agenda. Motion M/S/P to approve January Council minutes. Motion M/S/P to approve request from Simpson Forum for \$3,515 to be taken from the Simpson Endowment Fund for expenses.

Motion M/S/P to approve and recommend to council a bonus for Trinity staff of 1.5% of their 2023 earnings. Motion M/S/P to approve Property Committee to move ahead with rekeying the exterior doors of the church.

Motion M/S/P to approve Darrell Jodock as the President's designee on the Endowment Committee. Motion M/S/P to approve the listed members for the Finance Committee and for the Personnel Committee.

Motion M/S/P to approve moving the Council meetings to the second Monday of the month. Mation M/S/P to adjourn the mosting

Motion M/S/P to adjourn the meeting.

#### Responsibilities Assigned:

Worship Committee to compose worship volunteer schedules for Altar Care, Ushers and Lay Readers Worship Committee will need to communicate with the broadcast team to let them know of the request to broad-

cast the 10:00 service also.

Community Life Committee to compose a schedule for Fellowship Coffee volunteers and train if needed. Marc to coordinate access to Breeze for each Council member.

Finance Committee needs to appoint task force to study details of accepting a cemetery donation. Next Meeting: Monday, March 11 at 6:30 pm.

### COMMITTEES

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Jim Kruger, Mikkel Haugen, Jamie Seitzer, Bob Broeder, Cathy Carlson, Nate Newhouse

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Andy Elofson, Gretchen Bachman, Sarah Nelsen, Wendy Bachman, Kim Oeltjenburns, David Arpin

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:** Darrell Jodock, Thomas Young, Marc Bachman, Carolyn Dobler, Justin Dunn

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Rita Gibbs, 6 vacancies

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Kris Rosacker, Barb Simpson, Al Behrends, Bill Nelsen

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COMMITTEE: Katherine Dunn, Nancy Sizer, Gretchen Lind, Larissa Gieseke-Nieves, Joni Seitzer, Liz Harris

**COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE:** Nancy Kruger, Vonnie Nelson-Borgmeier, Annette Meeks, Kathy Herberg, Kristen Loken, Melanie Schmidt

**MISSION COMMITTEE:** Kristie Gurrola, Mel Bexell, Sandi Francis, Beverly Pillars

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** Paul Albers, Duane Krenz, Barry Wood, Leo Strong, Cody Olstad, Jeff Feder

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Carolyn Dobler, Edi Thorstennson, Jason Bexell

WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE: Nancy Roessler, Cary Albers, Erick Lind

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Marc Bachman (President)

	Andy Elofson (Vic	e President)	Personnel Committee Chair
	•		
	Rita Gibbs (Secretary)		Nominating Committee Chair
Jim Kruger (Treasurer)		urer)	Finance Committee Chair
	Kris Rosacker	Adu	It Education Committee Chair
	Katherine Dunn	Children, You	th and Families Committee Chair
	Nancy Kruger	Con	nmunity Life Committee Chair
	Kristie Gurrola		Mission Committee Chair
	Paul Albers		Property Committee Chair
	Carolyn Dobler	÷	Stewardship Committee Chair
	Nancy Roessler	Worship, I	Music & Arts Committee Chair

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# SPRINGTIME WORDSEARCH

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APRIL BREEZE JACKET MAY RAINBOW SHOWERS THAW BASEBALL CLEANING KITE PICNIC RAINCOAT SPRING UMBRELLA BREAK CLOUDS MARCH PUDDLES SEASON SUNSHINE WINDY

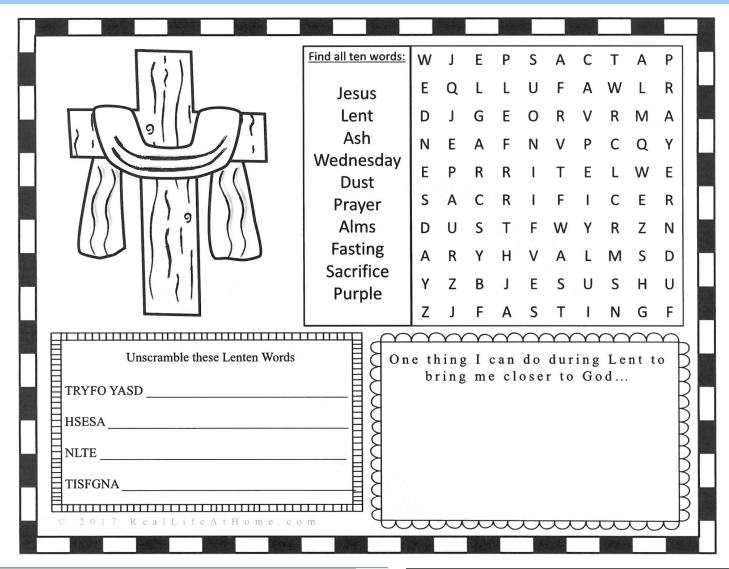
Children, Youth and Families

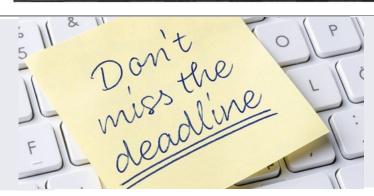


Trinity is actively looking for a candidate to fill a full time Youth Director position. If you know of a candidate that is qualified they can go to Indeed and apply.



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Any committees or individuals that have information for the **April** newsletter need to have it turned in **no later than March 20.** 

Please use the **Publishing Request Form** which is available in the church office and send the information to: editor@trinitystpeter.org. Otherwise it may not be published. Thank you!

## Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that Trinity Lutheran Church is situated on the ancestral homeland of the Wahpeton, Wahpekute, Sisseton, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, and Dakota people. We also acknowledge that we as a church body have a variety of thoughts and feelings as to how we should reconcile this fact. We as a church commit to continuing the important work of challenging ourselves and our congregation to live the love of Christ in all we do. Address label





Interim Pastor: Church Administrator: Youth Director Financial Support Building Supervisor Organist/Pianist: Celebration Singers Director: PraiseBAND Director: JOY! Choir Director: Rev. Dr. Dave Christenson Kristen Thomas

Josie Lust Don Carlson Judy Maharry Paul Matzke Avis McDaniel Nancy Sizer Office Hours Monday - Friday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

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