

Our Mission Statement

Called by God's love to serve our neighbors and glorify God

Pastor's Message

November 2024

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19

Transformed. As I write this November article, we just finished celebrating Reformation Sunday by hearing the witness of nine confirmation students who affirmed their baptism by sharing with us where they see God's activity in their day to day lives. Many of them spoke of being transformed by experiences of gathering with other peers and adults in service work, on mission trips, on opportunities for faith formation in new places and unfamiliar locations. They remarked that these experiences were life changing. Martin Luther spoke in this way as well. His life was changed as he dug into scripture and discovered an amazing grace that changed his life. His reformation paved the way for ours as Lutherans.

I am so humbled by the incredible movement of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our young people. The Holy Spirit called, gathered, and enlightened three congregations to come together and form a shared ministry in One Youth and confirmation faith formation. The mentors who are involved from the three congregations have created meaningful and life-giving relationships with our kids. Natalie Hanson is a gifted youth leader who recognizes the inherent worth of every single young person. Other adults have come forward to provide snacks and meals to students who gather on Wednesdays after school or in the evenings for our 10th-12th graders. Adults have pitched in to help with service projects on early outs and Peace Lutheran has provided an amazing space for all of our kids to gather after school. Breakfast Club provides students with a meal and a place to gather once a month before school. It also gives other committees and adults an opportunity to serve them breakfast and witness the beauty of God at work in our children's lives. And, more importantly, the invitation is open to other youth in our community. Kids invite their friends to join them. Transformation and reformation are taking place. In short, God's love is flowing through our congregations and through our kids. We are witnessing transformation.

Next Sunday we celebrate all those who have gone before us and are in that great cloud of witnesses. We have been blessed by their faith and witness in our lives. As we reflect on the people in our congregation who have impacted and transformed the lives of others through their sharing of the good news in word and in deed, we have another opportunity to give

Meetings

- Trustee Meeting
- Men's Group Gatherings
- Stephens Ministry Mtg.
- Women's Bible Studies
- Quilting Schedule

Happenings

- All Saints Sunday
- Thanksgiving Community Meal
- November Calendar
- December Newsletter Deadline
- Hospitality Team Listing for Nov., Dec., Jan. 2025
- Heads-Up: Advent Begins
- Vacation Dates
- Poinsettia Orders
- Mitten Tree

Education/S.S.

- ❖ Sunday School Information

One Youth

- Information and Updates

ULC Staff

Pastor: Jean Ohman
 SAM: Natalie Hanson
 Worship & Music Coordinator:
 Theron Jeppesen
 Secretary: Julie Johnson
 Janitor: Ashley Kurzman

ULC Council

President: Eli Reeve
 Vice President: Witney Willard
 Secretary: Pam Holsen
 Treasurer: Karen McGee

thanks to God for the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that changed our lives through their witness. God is good.

I leave you with this beautiful prayer written by Richard Rohr that we used for Confirmation Sunday:

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank you that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality every thing and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Witness for yourselves, and be a witness, to Christ's life changing love and ongoing activity in our world.

Pastor Jean

Pastor Jean will be away on vacation from November 4th through November 28th. If there is an emergency, please call Natalie Hanson (SAM) AT

Thanksgiving Community Meal

Wednesday, November 20th
From 5p.m. - 6:30p.m.

**Free Will Offering will be given to
multiple organizations**

Menu: Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner

with potatoes, stuffing, gravy, cranberries, vegetables,
desserts, coffee, lemonade and water

Please sign-up to donate mashed potatoes, stuffing,
cranberries, vegetables, gravy and desserts

➔ Sign-up sheet is by the large bulletin board.



**ULC Members in
Care Centers,
Assisted Living,
Home Shut-Ins**

Barrett Care Center
800 Spruce Street
Barrett, MN. 56311
•Norlin Westrom

Veterans Home-Fergus
1821 N. Park Street
Fergus Falls, MN. 56537
•Clayton Hauglie
•Dale Mickelson

Mill Street Residence
•Jean Walwick
802 S. Mill Street Apt. 307
Fergus Falls, MN. 56537

Maplewood Manor Senior Living
1010 1st Street NE.
Elbow Lake, MN. 56531

•Dwaine & Jean
Haraldson Room 8
•Helen Knutson Room 131

Ashby Living Center
•Lyle Huseth
112 Iverson Avenue
Ashby, MN. 56309





Advent 1 - December 1st: -
 Make Ready a People
 Advent 2 - December 8th -
 Nothing Is Impossible
 Advent 3 - December 15th -
 Do Not Be Afraid
 Advent 4 - December 22nd -
 This Will Be a Sign



ULCW Annual Hat & Mitten Tree Drive

Items will be donated to the WCA schools for children who need them. Please donate new or gently used items. Thank you!

Collecting till mid December



Christmas Poinsettias Orders

We are accepting poinsettia donations to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Order forms are on the table by the bulletin board.

Deadline to order is December 16th.

NOVEMBER Birthdays



Quilting Schedule

United Quilters will meet on Wednesdays, at 9a.m. Everyone is welcome! For more information contact Susan Frykman at 320-760-4887.

MOPS

Meeting on Nov. 4th & 18th. You can find them on Facebook @ United MOPS. **ALL Moms are welcome to join**



Glenda Ascherman
 Amy Benson
 Kyra Beyer
 Karleigh Brendmoen
 Carla Coleman
 Joel Coleman
 Brad Dally
 Mary Davison
 Katie Gardner
 Joslyn Gunderson
 Jeff Guttormson
 Jeff Holsen
 Jett Johnson
 Maddi Larsen

David Larson
 Jarred Lock
 Rick Lock
 Tammy Lock
 Betty Mickelson
 Keith Mickelson
 Sarah Myron
 Gary Nelson
 Tammy Nelson
 Bea Mark Nordby
 Lonnie Olson
 Sheila Olson
 Betsy Ostenson
 Joseph Pikop

Jaxon Pollard
 Leah Schei
 Beckett Schneeberger
 Julie Soberg
 Michelle Swenson

Please inform Julie of any corrections or changes. 218-685-4179



The Men's Group will gather on November 7th & 21st 8a.m. in the Fireside Room. If you would like to receive reminders, please call the church office at 218-685-4179 to have your name added to the email list.



Attention Board of Trustees
You will meet on Nov. 17th after worship in the choir room.

Pg. 4 **Trustee Minutes September 23, 2024**

Members present: Scot Beyer, Scott Johnson, Beth Pikop, Witney Willard, Pam Holsen, and Pastor Jean.

Vice President Witney Willard opened the meeting:

Secretary's report: Beth P. moved to accept the minutes from the August meeting; Scott J. seconded the motion. MCU.

Treasurer's report: Karen was unable to attend the meeting but had presented us with the financials and payables via email. Scott J. moved to pay the payables for the month, Beth P. seconded the motion. MCU

Committee Reports:

Endowment: Witney reported she had met with Mark Dewey and the Endowment fund is very healthy. They are willing to help out with projects.

Personnel: Eli was not present but we all indicated that the new janitors are doing a very good job.

Stewardship: Nothing new at this time but it should be a priority at the next meeting.

Spiritual Life and Growth: They continue to be busy. Lisa Pikop is wondering about the church directory and if we want to have one. We discussed not doing a professional picture directory but have members submit pictures or utilize members of the congregation who have camera skills to take pictures. Beth P. is to tell Lisa to go forward in that direction.

Worship Committee: The Advent series is going to be Angels Among Us. All three churches will be doing the same series starting the first week of December.

Alter Guild: We would still like to get one more person on the committee, but all is going well.

Buildings and Grounds: Scot B. reported that the holes in the roof have been fixed. There need to be new ceiling tiles put in the hallway where the leaks were. The drain on the top of the roof was cleaned out and this should be done yearly. Scot is going to make up a maintenance list to go with the Buildings and Grounds committee folders. Scot is going to check with Johnson Masonry in Ashby about the bricks needing grout. The air conditioner filters froze up which is why it was so hot in the church. Zach Jeppesen replaced the filters and suggested we keep the doors upstairs open during the week for air flow. We are ready to proceed with the kitchen remodel process. Pam will contact Pam Lyson and Pat Soberg to ask them to start getting ideas. John Kreft may be able to give advice on the cupboards.

Education/Sunday School: Sunday School had 16-18 kids sign up. They meet the first Sunday of the month which parents indicated was a great idea. Some of the funds from the old Luther League account (now named Education/Youth account) will be used for activities for those youth who do not attend One Youth.

One Youth: Pastor Jean handed out the minutes to the One Youth Board. A copy of those minutes may be obtained from the office. The youth will be painting the downspouts with the supervision of Brian Kjesbo.

Pastor Jean's report: The Tri Church board met and she was disappointed that none of the United representatives were there. We need to appoint one more person to this board. Scot B. will check to see if Brian Kjesbo is still on this board. There is a need for better communication among the three churches.

Old Business:

1. Update Web Page: Nothing new to report
2. Church Logo: Nothing new to report
3. Inspect and fix pews: Again, we need to talk to John Kreft
4. Pr. Jean's Work Comp: Karen wasn't present
5. Parsonage Exterior Care: Billy is mowing; Beth P. and Alan Williams pull out some shrubs?
6. Janitorial Service: Going well.
7. Ceiling in Hallway: Looking for the panels to replace damaged ones.
8. Pressure Wash Exterior: Again, checking with Johnson Masonry regarding grout/safety

New Business:

1. Roof Update: Done
2. One Youth: See under Education/One Youth
3. Vision Committee: The President of the Trustees will be the liaison to this committee. Haily Loeks will be a member of the committee. Possibly need another senior member of the congregation. Suggested names were given and Pastor Jean will check with them. The board has asked for their minutes of their first meeting which Witney will email to us.
4. Scot B. is going to get bids on snow removal this year.
5. Funeral Policies: There have been several funerals in our church and many without the use of the funeral home for the services in church. We discussed ways to reduce the stressors in our church having these funerals. We recognize that more and more people are being cremated and that is delaying the services to a later time, mainly on Saturdays. This is causing the church to be stressed by having only one pastor to do these services and the aging and declining population of those serving for the funeral. There is much discussion regarding membership/non-membership status. We will be adjusting the fees to include a facility usage fee for all funerals and increasing the serving fees, along with other decisions to be discussed at our next meeting. It was suggested that the new guidelines go into effect November 1, 2024, as there are already funeral services planned in October.

Our next meeting is Sunday, October 20 after church with the all committee meeting first and trustees' meeting following. Scot B. moved to adjourn the meeting and Scott J. seconded the motion. MCU

Pastor Jean led us in prayer.

Pam Holsen
Council Secretary



Hangings of the Greens

On Sunday November 24th

the Altar Guild will be decorating the church for Christmas. They are asking members to volunteer their time with this enormous task!

Please come at 3p.m. and lend a helping hand!

→ **Your Time & Talents will be GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

Operation Merry Christmas will be on Saturday December 7th.

This ULCW event that United has been happening many years, and our members are so pleased that we remember them during the Christmas Season.

We are asking United Lutheran members to donate Christmas Cookies, volunteer to pack cookies and/or deliver cookies to our members that are in care centers and are homebound.

There is a "cookie" sign-up sheet on the table by the bulletin board, so please prayerfully consider helping with this very important project.



United Lutheran's Bountiful Blessings



Our Bountiful Blessing Food Shelf is still in existence, and your help is needed. Please continue to bring in food products that we can make available for those in need.

There is a blue tub, by the front doors, where you can place your food items. Thank you all for your generosity and help with this important endeavor!

- ❖ The Bountiful Blessings Pantry is located in the Coat Exchange area off the Fellowship Hall.
- ❖ The pantry is available Monday - Thursday while the church building is open.
- ❖ If you partake in this blessing, **please** only take items that you need.
- ❖ **Please** be considerate of others who are also in need of this important service we provide!



**Stephen Ministers will meet
on November 12th at 9a.m.
in the Fireside Room.**

Newsletter Deadline for December is

November

18

This November we will continue the Gather Bible Study entitled, "Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians." The new Gather magazine for November has not arrived yet, but the author, Heidi Haverkamp says that by reading and discussing scripture, we can embrace the reality of grace. We have been saved by grace through faith, and this is the gift of God!

We invite all women to come to our Bible study in November. There will be no Circle of Hope in Nov. as Pastor Jean will be away on vacation. The Morning Circle will meet on Thursday, November 21 at 9:30 AM in the fireside room. Please join us for coffee and treats as we enjoy fellowship with one another and discuss the Bible study. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

ULCW Business meeting will be on November 14th at 9:30a.m. We will meet in the Fireside room. All women are welcome and there will be treats and coffee.

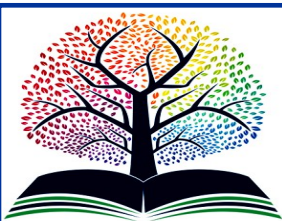
The Soup and Sandwich Luncheon Fundraiser was enjoyed by many people. Thank you all for your generous donation of \$501 to the ULCW kitchen fund. We appreciate your generosity. Also, a big thank you to the women who brought crock pots of soup and desserts and also helped in the kitchen.

We will be setting up the Mitten Tree in November. We are gathering donations of hats, mittens, and scarves to be given to those in need of warm clothing. The tree will be in the narthex until the middle of December when we box everything up and take items to the WCA Elementary school.

Just a reminder that the annual Operation Merry Christmas will take place on Saturday, December 7 at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall. This is when we bring homemade Christmas cookies to church and put them on pretty Christmas plates to be taken to the senior members of our congregation who are 80 or older. This has been a fun and very rewarding tradition, as we give someone a little Christmas cheer and visit, along with some sweet cookies. We hope you'll come and join us for the morning. Of course, we enjoy a cup of coffee and a Christmas cookie, too.

Ephesians calls us to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (4:1) and "to speak the truth in love." (4:15)

Pam Lyson, president
Home: 218-685-4004, Cell: 701-301-0095



Women's
Bible Studies
All Are Welcome!

**No Circle of Hope in November as
Pastor Jean away on vacation.**

+ Morning Bible Study will meet on
Thursday, November 21st at 9:30a.m.
in the Fireside Room. All Are Welcome!



Monthly
Hospitality Teams

November 2024: Team 6 Leaders:
Jeff & Pam Holsen

December 2024: Team 1 Leader:
Melissa Anderson

January 2025: Team 3 Leaders:
Mark & Pat Soberg

Sunday School was off to a great start in the month of October. The children learned about the Belt of Truth and created their own belt to wear. This month we will be reading about David and Goliath and creating the Breastplate of Righteousness. We are excited to see all the children and their families in the church pews! Parents, feel free to enjoy the coffee fellowship after worship or join us in the Sunday school room.



Ephesians 6:13-17

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the

belt of truth buckled around your waist, and the **breastplate of righteousness** in place,

15 and with your **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.**

16 In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of Spirit**, which is the Word of God.

Schedule

*Nov. 3rd - The Breastplate of Righteousness

Sparks Story - David and Goliath

*Dec. 1st - Advent Celebration

Sparks Story - Angel's Visit

*Jan. 5th - Epiphany Celebration

Sparks Story - Wise Men



November 2024 Information

MISSION Statement: Empower youth to KNOW God, GROW in faith, SPEAK truth, SERVE with love, and LEAD others to do the same. **VISION Statement:** To see the lives of youth deeply transformed by Christ, confident and courageous in who they are and what they're living for.

❖ **7th-9th Grade Faith Formation—OPEN TO ALL! Invite your friends!**

Formally known as confirmation, Faith Formation is designed to not only nurture the faith growth and curiosity of 7th-9th grade youth, but also to help them build trusting relationships with one another and adult volunteers and create a safe, fun community of faith where they feel accepted, heard, and valued. Faith Formation will consist of snacks, large group time, worship, games, interactive activities, small group time, prayer, and group blessing. Like last year, Faith Formation will take place at Peace Lutheran Church in Barrett on Wednesdays after school from 3:30-5:15 p.m., except for the first Wednesday of the month, which is an early-out day for West Central Area Schools. **Faith Formation will be on November 13th & 20th.** We encourage kids to walk to Peace during nice, fall weather. More details to come on possible winter transportation options.

- Please keep in mind, ONE Youth Faith Formation is an opportunity for outreach, therefore is open to **ALL** youth, 7-9 grade, from our churches and from those beyond our church doors. In other words, all youth are welcome, whether they are members or not, so we encourage you to share this faith-building opportunity with others you may know who are interested in faith formation for their children.
- For anyone interested in providing snack for our Faith Formation youth, please stay tuned for sign-up details, which will be shared on our social media platforms.

❖ **HS Youth Group—10th-12th Grade**

HS ONE Youth is designed to not only nurture the faith development and maturity of 10th-12th grade youth, but to also provide a safe, fun place for them to build relationship, be real with themselves and one another, take a step away from the busy pace of life and expectations and just BE with friends, mentors, and the Lord. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 5:45 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church. **Wedn. November 13th & 20th.**



ONE

Continued Information

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

❖ HS Wednesday Morning Prayer Time—10th- 12th Grade

New this year—Wednesday Morning Prayer time for the 10th-12th grade youth on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:20 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church. **Morning Prayer Time will take place on Wednesday, November 6th & 20th.** The youth have experienced the transforming, heart-warming power of prayer, therefore, we want to continue to nurture this faith practice of prayer by providing a time to gather with others to seek prayer or to offer prayers for friends.

❖ Breakfast Club

will be Friday, November 15th, from 7-8 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church. Youth, grades 5-12, are welcome to come and enjoy a warm breakfast prepared by countless, awesome members of our churches and communities. It's a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational connections and as an intentional way to show our youth the incredible encouragement and support they have from their community. Thank you to all the groups who have already committed to giving of their time and food to support this awesome outreach ministry.

❖ Morning Prayer

10th-12th grade and others who are interested in attending. Come and gather with friends to seek prayer and pray for one another on **Wednesday November 6th at 20th at 7:20a.m.**

❖ Family Faith Worship

All families and youth are invited to Faith Family Worship at Messiah in Hoffman. **Wednesday November 6th at 6:30p.m.**

❖ HS Mission Trip

- One Youth decided to travel domestically instead of internationally. Discussions are still being made as to the location for this summer's trip.
- Trip decisions are difficult as it's important to meet everyone's needs. We do apologize for those who were eager and excited to go to Belize. We hope an international trip is in One Youth's future as we do believe international mission trips provide a unique worldly perspective that can be very impactful and life-changing. However, at this time, we are in discussion about details for another mission trip this coming summer. Stay tuned for more details to come.

❖ **One Youth - Operation Christmas Child** is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational Evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Operation Christmas child fills shoeboxes for children in need around the world, spreading the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the students Early-Out Service Day, Wednesday November 6th, we will be filling Operation Christmas Child boxes. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to donation items for these boxes. Our goal is to fill at least 30 boxes. A detailed listing is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

❖ BEST WAY to Stay Informed

If you have a child in ONE Youth or are interested in staying up to date on all the happenings with ONE Youth, we encourage you to join our **REMIND app**. Instructions are below:

Send a text to this number: 81010

Text this message: @oneyouthgr

If you haven't already, we highly encourage you to follow us on Instagram and Facebook as we post weekly updates. On occasion, when needing to communicate on specific program/trip details, we send emails from our ONE Youth Gmail account. If you have a child in ONE Youth, we encourage you to add our email address to your contacts to ensure you receive the emails.

Our email address is: oneyouthforchrist@gmail.com.

➔ Donation Opportunities

We are continuously overwhelmed by the generosity of our church community. We consistently receive an outpouring of monetary donations and memorials, and we want to thank you for your loving support. These donations support our on-going expenses, but also are used for supplies, activities, and trips.

Donations can be made payable to ONE Youth and mailed to: United Lutheran Church, ATTN: ONE Youth, 215 10th Ave. SW, Elbow Lake, MN 56531.



Eat
Die



November 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

All Saints Sunday



Color Codes for the Tri-Churches:
United Lutheran, Messiah Lutheran
Peace Lutheran, Combined Church

1 Building Closed
2 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

3 **All Saints Sunday**
9a.m. - Worship
10a.m. - Sunday School
10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship

4 10a.m.-Bible Study
6p.m.-MOPS Mtg.
6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook

5 9a.m.-Bible Study
7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support

6 7:20a.m.-Morning Prayer @ Peace in Barrett
9a.m.-Quilters Meet
*No Confirmation
6:30p.m. - Family Worship @ Messiah in Hoffman

7 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering
1:30p.m. Quilting Mission Fellowship

8 Building Closed
9 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study
8a.m.-3p.m. - Super Saturday Daycare- Liz Jenks

10 9a.m. - Worship
10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship

11 10a.m.-Bible Study
6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook

12 9a.m.-Bible Study
10:30a.m.-Natalie @ Maplewood Manor Service
7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group

13 9a.m.-Quilters Meet
2p.m.-Natalie @ Barrett Care Service
3:30p.m. - Confirmation
5:45p.m. - HS Youth Gathering

14 9:30a.m. - ULCW Business Meeting

15 Building Closed
7:10a.m.- Breakfast Club
16 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

17 9a.m. - Worship
→ After worship - Board of Trustees Meeting
10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship

18 December's Newsletter Deadline
10a.m.-Bible Study
5:30p.m.-Ruby's Parity
6p.m.-MOPS Mtg.
6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook

19 9a.m.-Bible Study
7p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group

20 9a.m.-Quilters Meet
7:20a.m.-Morning Prayer @ Peace
3:30p.m. - Confirmation
5-6:30p.m. - Thanksgiving Community Meal

21 8a.m. - Men's Group Gathering
9:30a.m.- Women's Morning Circle Meets

22 Building Closed
23 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

24 9a.m. - Worship
10a.m. - Gather Together Fellowship
3p.m. - Hanging of the Green - Christmas Decorating

25 10a.m.-Bible Study
6p.m.-Bible Study on their Facebook

26 9a.m.-Bible Study
10:30a.m.-Natalie @ Maplewood Manor Service
7p.m.-p.m.-Spiritual Growth Support Group

27 9a.m.-Quilters Meet
9a.m.-Newsletter Assembly
1p.m.-Peace Book Club @ Knotty Pine
*No Confirmation
*No HS Youth Gathering

28 Thanksgiving - Building Closed
Pr. Jean Returns

29 Building Closed
30 7:30a.m. Messiah Men's Bible Study

Season of Advent begins on December 1st

Theme: "Angels Among Us,
Do Not Be Afraid!"



Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed.

TAB

TAB

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
215 - 10th Avenue SE.
Elbow Lake, Minnesota 56531

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Faithnews
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