

...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.

Volume 25 Issue 2 April and May 2024

Friends in the Resurrected One,

Do you like a good mystery? There's nothing quite like collecting clues, questioning witnesses, laying out the evidence, and putting the pieces together until you can say "case closed." A mystery solved is satisfying. What about an unsolved mystery? Aren't they particularly captivating?

Growing up I remember settling in to watch the Friday evening television program: Unsolved Mysteries. The host told the story with great drama in his voice. Fear would run through my body causing goosebumps as I heard of the fate of the victims and of the unidentifiable persons who had caused it and gotten away. Why was this show so captivating? Did we imagine we might be the ones to solve the unsolved? Or did we love that there exists mystery that isn't easily understood and secrets in life that can't be unlocked?

While browsing the web for a resource recently, I was met with an advertisement for an "Easter Escape Room" marketed to youth groups. An Easter Escape Room? What an odd concept! You have likely heard of the concept of an escape room. You gather a group of friends, colleagues, or family and go to a business that offers a unique form of entertainment. They lock you in a dramatized captive scenario,

and you and your cohort must break the code to escape.

The details of the Easter Escape Room were described as follows: "Our Easter Escape Room takes students back in time where they will solve mysteries related to the arrest, trial, crucifixion, & resurrection of Christ by decoding puzzles, answering questions, and breaking secret codes!"

Solve the mystery of the resurrection? Now wouldn't that be something!

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are the world's greatest mysteries. How is it possible that God could die? How did Jesus descend to the dead? How is it that he defeated sin, death, and the devil? And how could he rise to life again, victorious over the grave? These are among the great mysteries of God.

In seminary we learned a term for these questions we carry our whole lives long: they are wonderings about the Hidden God. As we ask great big questions, God often hides from us, seeming not to reply.

This is God unpreached. But the preached God does not remain hidden.

Instead of providing us with answers, God provides us with his very self, incarnate, for us, crucified and risen. We ask about the mysteries of God and the universe, and God shows up in Jesus to assure us he's got us even in the face of that which remains unsolved. Rather than explain death, Christ defeats it. Rather than define love, Christ pours it out on us. Rather than impressing us with knowledge, Christ rescues us with a promise. This is more compelling than an unsolved mystery, and it has become our great escape! Thanks be to God for the mysterious resurrection miracle.

In the Easter hope this miracle brings, Pastor Jess

Music Newsletter April and May 2024

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Allelyia!



Thank you to the children and parents who committed to the Palm Sunday Children's Choir. They did a fabulous job and were such a joy to work with. In this setting, not only did we work on singing techniques, rhythms and song lyrics, but also read the story from the Bible regarding Palm Sunday

and its significance.

The children are not afraid to ask questions and one that came up was "What does Savior mean?" That prompted a discussion on all the names for God and Jesus. It reminded me that some words that adults use regularly, are not always part of children's vocabulary.





Easter Sunday and Palm Sunday were filled with glorious music by the Sanctuary Choir, Hand Bell Choir, pipe organ and a Brass Ensemble. It is so gratifying to have such talented musicians who are willing to donate their time and talent to enhance worship services.

Glory to God for the beautiful pipe organ and Mary Ermel for making it "sing." We had some repairs done on the organ recently, so we used the grand piano for a couple of weeks. It is such a blessing to have beautiful instruments and accomplished musicians to play them.

The brass ensemble this year included: Barb Jensen, Zander Larsen, Luke Hanson, Nate Buus, Matt Nelson, Evan Cyphert, Jacob York and Isabelle Dickey.





The 10:30 Praise band and some of the beautiful dedication flowers on Easter morning We have certainly been blessed with a very mild winter this year. Now we are ready for the spring showers and the May flowers! Heading into a new season is always exciting and refreshing. Life is a cycle of change, and the change of seasons are another reminder of that.

Thanks to the community who helped with our Fill the Cup campaign, the Mission Coffeehouse now has the new equipment that was needed to continue to be the best place it can be! A salad cooler, dishwasher, ceiling fan, service island, and new sinks have been installed so far. We will continue adding more storage cabinets and making it more efficient for our staff and volunteers.

Lenten lunches have had an amazing turnout as I write this. It is wonderful to see everyone come together for a meal and service during the Lenten season. A huge thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible!

Our youth continue their journey classes on Wednesday evenings with the meal served and open to all from 5–6 pm. The meals will continue through April 17th until we are back in full force this fall.

Mission Coffeehouse continues to be successful. We have our busy mornings with our caramel roll groups and serving Kool Beans coffee all day. Lunches continue to be successful with our scheduled groups and newcomers that we continue to see. I cannot say it enough that our coffeehouse has the perfect atmosphere for morning or lunch gatherings.

We have homemade soups most days of the week.

These wonderful soups are made by our volunteer groups. I would like to welcome Kay Dahl and Brenda Algood as they have joined the fun! Thank you to all volunteers for dedicating your time making soups!!

I would like to wish everyone a blessed Easter. Thank you all for your support as the Mission Coffeehouse continues to prosper and grow. The volunteers make this happen and we are always open to anyone interested in joining.

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!!
LaDeane Harrison



Mission of the Month



LaDeane Harrison (M)
presenting a check to Pastor
Dorthy Tufte (L) and Father
Larry Ort (R)
from Brookings Ministerial
Association, our January
Mission of the month.



A donation was collected for the Brookings County Humane Society in February. Shown is LaDeane Harison presenting a check to Joni Mueller.



First Lutheran Church Children's Ministry News April - May 2024 Newsletter



Did you know that Journey to Discipleship ends in April? Wednesday, April 17th is the last Wednesday Journey to Discipleship Sunday, April 21 is the last day of Sunday Journey to Discipleship.



sth Graders will have the Welcome to Confirmation Steppingstone on Wednesday, May 28 at 6:00 pm. This is an opportunity for 5th graders and their adults to learn what to expect from the next step in their faith journey. If you have a 5th grader, please RSVP to Kari York by April 21st via faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org.

Have no Fear, Registration for Journey 24-25 is here

https://forms.office.com/r/ubA2tZ94pz

PLEASE take the time to register your child/children or to volunteer TODAY.

Once Christian Education ends for the year, we start planning classes for the next year. Knowing how many students and volunteers we have are the biggest pieces to putting our programs together. Then go out and enjoy your summer without worrying about if you registered for Journey to Discipleship.



Speaking of Summer! Vacation Bible School Planning is under way SAVE THE DATES July 22-25, 2024 5:30-7pm

March Book Study: In March several families and caregivers of little ones met on Mondays to share a meal and engage with Dr. Dawn Rundman working through her book Little Steps Big Faith. Learning how the brain develops in young children and simple, meaningful means of inserting faith into each stage of development. The connections and knowledge, that developed from this experience will lead us into the next phase of creating a new ministry here at FLC. We would love for you to join us! Watch for more information coming soon.

Have you ever thought about working in the Nursery?

The nursery care providers at First Lutheran Church are trained and paid by the church to provide a safe and nurturing environment during services, Christian Education times, and special classes/events. We welcome adults, High School and Middle school aged people who are interested in this opportunity to contact Kari York

faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org

Did you know there is a worship bag committee?

What do they do you ask?

*Assemble engaging worship bags to support children as they attend worship services.

*Create worship bags for our 4-year-old steppingstone.

*Create fun items to be added to the bags.

*Periodically check the bags to replenish items, items are safe and clean. These are all minimal time commitments that make a huge impact on children visiting, children who regularly attend service and their families. If you have a few minutes a month or every other month contact Kari York and she will put you in contact with the Worship Bag Committee.



The Children's Ministry at First Lutheran could not happen without all the amazing volunteers.

Whether you donated items, or your time, know you are appreciated, valued, and making a difference in your community. Words cannot express how grateful and blessed the ministry is because you volunteered.

thank you to all of those who volunteer!



SPRING PRESCHOOL NEWS

The teachers and students are gearing up for all the fun year end events. We are also practicing and preparing for our Preschool Graduation Ceremony that will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 10:30am and 2:30pm.

If you or anyone you know would like to register a child for the 2024/2025 school year, we still have some openings available. We offer preschool classes to children that are 3, 4 and 5 years old. We also offer a Jr K class. Children must be three years old by September 1 and potty trained to attend. If you have any questions, or if you would like more information, please call the Preschool Office at 697-2756 or email me, sueann@firstlutheranbrookings.org.

It has been another wonderful and rewarding year for all the staff at First Lutheran Preschool. We appreciate all the support we receive from the church staff, and the congregation. We hope you all have a fun and safe summer.

Have a Super Spring and Summer! SueAnn



HAPPY SPRING! WHAT IS NEW IN THE WORLD OF FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH?!



JACOB YORK (TRUMPET) AND HIS JAZZ BAND FRIENDS PERFORMED FOR THEIR EXPRESSION OF FORGIVENESS



MADISON'S PAINTING AS THEIR EXPRESSION OF FORGIVENESS





CONFIRMATION STUDENTS ACTED AS ACOLYTES, USHERS, READERS AND GREETERS DURING WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERVICES

6-8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION:

DURING LENT CONFIRMATION STUDENTS ATTENDED AND SERVED DURING THE EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES WHERE WE FOCUSED ON THE 10 COMMANDMENTS. WE HAD A NOVELTY FOCUS OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION OF FORGIVENESS THAT RANGED FROM POETRY AND JAZZ TO PAINTING TO INTERPRETIVE DANCE! EACH SMALL GROUP TOOK TURNS ASSISTING WITH OUR LENTEN SERVICES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS.

AFTER THE SERVICE SMALL GROUPS UNPACKED THE LESSON FROM THE EVENING AND RELATED IT MORE TO THEIR LIVES. IN THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A PAINTING DURING THE SERVICE WITH MY OWN REFLECTION ON FORGIVENESS. THANK YOU TO ALL THE AMAZING CONFIRMATION VOLUNTEERS THAT MAKE OUR SMALL GROUPS POSSIBLE! Y'ALL HELP TO CRAFT THE FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT WITH YOUTH MINISTRY BUT NOT REALLY SURE WHAT WOULD FIT FOR YOU? CHAT WITH MADISON OR PASTOR JESS, WE COULD ALWAYS USE MORE SUPPORTIVE ADULTS AROUND!

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION:



WE ARE STILL WORKING OUR WAY THROUGH THE WELLNESS WHEEL! IN FEBRUARY WE HOSTED PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AT MILLER WELLNESS CENTER WITH A SPECIAL GUEST TO CHAT ABOUT FAITH AND BODY CONNECTION! MANY THANKS TO TATUM, YOU WERE SO WONDERFUL TO HAVE JOIN US! YOUTH WERE THEN WELCOME TO USE THE FACILITY! IN MARCH, WE HELD A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT FINANCIAL WELL-BEING WITH WENDY FLANERY AND TIFF LEWIS. IN APRIL WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND IN MAY WE WILL BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR FAITH PROJECTS.

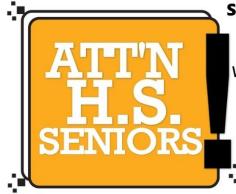
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:



SPRING SEMESTER WE HAVE FOCUSED ON THE RELATION OF FAITH AND SCIENCE AS WELL AS ATTENDING THE LENTEN SERVICES. AT THE END OF FEBRUARY WE HOSTED A HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY RETREAT AT THE CAMP ON LAKE POINSETT. OUR THEME WAS J. CHRIST & T. SWIFT: THE ERAS OF GOD'S PROMISES. WE TALKED ABOUT THE DIFFERENT LAYERS OF GOD'S COVENANTS, RELATED TAYLOR SWIFT'S JOURNEY TO OUR OWN HUMANNESS, AND TOOK TIME TO GET AWAY FROM THE REGULAR HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF LIFE AND RETREAT IN FAITH.



SENIOR INFORMATION:



SENIOR STEPPINGSTONE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH FROM 5:30-7:30 WITH DINNER!!

SENIOR SUNDAY: MAY 19TH

WE ARE ASKING ALL SENIORS TO SEND IN A CURRENT PHOTO AND BABY PHOTO TO BE SHARED ON SENIOR SUNDAY. IF YOU HAVE NOT HEARD FROM MADISON ABOUT PICTURE REQUESTS, QUILTS, OR THE MAY ACTIVITIES PLEASE REACH OUT TO THEM. SEND SENIOR PHOTOS TO MADISON AND CYNDI VIA EMAIL AT MADISON@FIRSTLUTHERANBROOKINGS.ORG
OFFICE@FIRSTLUTHERANBROOKINGS.ORG BY THE END OF APRIL.

SUMMER YOUTH TRIP 2024:

NEXT SUMMER 21 OF OUR YOUTH WILL BE HEADING TO NEW ORLEANS TO EXPERIENCE THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY! THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLKS WHO JOINED US FOR OUR PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH AND TOOK HOME SILENT AUCTION ITEMS.





UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:

THROUGHOUT APRIL WE WILL BE FLAMINGOING YARDS AS A FUNDRAISER!
IT WILL BE \$30 TO FLAMINGO A FRIENDS YARD OR
\$50 TO PURCHASE FLOCK INSURANCE!
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AND ASK TO FLAMINGO A FRIEND!

IN MAY WE WILL ASK FOLKS TO "TAKE STOCK" IN OUR YOUTH BY MAKING A DIRECT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAITH FILLED EXPERIENCE WE ARE EMBARKING ON. MORE TO COME IN MAY

IN PEACE AND PRAYER, MADISON MCCABE
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES



Supporting and Celebrating Belizean Graduates

Traditional black graduation gowns are as much in fashion in Belize as they are in the Brookings. At Alvin L. Young Nazarene High School where Dee Shanley serves as our FLC missionary and as a volunteer sewing teacher, Dee was asked to ease the students' and school's financial burden of renting gowns by sewing them at the school. Faced with this challenge, Dee responded in her usual manner: "Why not?"

To tackle this new project, Dee first needed to acquire 45 yards of black fabric that she found in Chetumal, Mexico while visiting Bruno. This young man, her former student in Belize, is now a Fashion Design major at a university in Mexico -- on a scholarship sponsored by Dee. Bruno is now winning awards for his sewing expertise! Dee emphasizes, "Scholarships DO make a difference!"

Next, Dee made a pattern drafted from an existing gown. Later, Bruno suggested some design changes to the yoke to simplify the process; these have been incorporated in the latest pattern.

Dee planned to have her current students work on their own gowns as much as possible. Edan was the first one to finish. He expressed how very proud he was to have sewn his own gown and how proud he would be to wear it on his graduation day!

In addition, FLC member Jean Gentry provided a big boost to the production by completing 5 gowns during her 3-week visit this winter as she supported Dee's service at the school.

The post-graduation celebration with families in attendance will be another visible way that FLC support is seen and appreciated.

Thanks be to God for eyes that see, hands that respond, and hearts that provide for the needs of others.







Jean Gentry and students who helped make the graduation gowns

Value-Added R & R

Mission trips provide an opportunity to walk with each other, learn from each other, and see first-hand how God's love reaches ALL!

Escaping from SD cold by heading south to serve others in Belize adds satisfaction to vacation time. Debbie Pederson and Jean Gentry discovered these bonus benefits in their travels this past winter to support Dee Shanley's work at Alvin L. Young Nazarene High School. Now, the next mission team of 13, traveling from April 13 - 21, plans to follow suit.

FOODIES! Debbie has a special interest in helping establish a lunch program at the school. During her January visit, she connected with the new cooks and added to her own knowledge of food preparation, while also encouraging the cooks to promote healthy eating habits. To meet this goal, they will access produce grown on the school's farm, such as cilantro, and look for more farm-to-table possibilities.

ARTISTS! Jean's recent 3-week visit to Belize provided an outlet for her to use artistic skills in meaningful service. In addition to sewing graduation gowns, Jean designed and pieced the top for a quilted wall hanging that will be gifted to the school by the April travel team. This will remind students of God's love for them.

Watch for a photo in the next newsletter!

SERVICE-LEARNING + R & R! For the April '24 trip, Nancy and Jim Schade's goal as leaders is to embrace and support the current and previous efforts of the ministry. The travelling FLC team seeks to strengthen relationships with the school and scholarship recipients.

Here's a preview of our activities:

Meet with 32 FLC scholarship recipients, encourage them in their studies, and help them recognize God's love for them.

Review 2024/25 incoming scholarship applications.

Celebrate our Christian faith in a school-wide chapel service.

Visit classrooms, school gardens and teachers, share meals together.

Meet with school administrators to learn about their goals and challenges.

Bonus: the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate God's beautiful diverse creation, both people and places in these activities:

Explore farms and visit local producers. Visit women's cooperatives and markets.

Tour cultural sites; enjoy recreational opportunities.

Please pray with us for faithfulness in serving and thanksgiving for learning opportunities.

JUNE 15 QUILTING BEE SAVE THE DATE

WHAT

An old-fashioned quilting bee to make mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief

WHERE

Activity Center & Mission Coffee House First Lutheran Church Brookings,SD

WHEN

Saturday, June 15 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

WHO

Sewers and non-sewers are needed and welcome!

RSVP

to Julie Bergan Abraham j.b.abraham67@gmail.com 605-690-6292

Lunch & Snacks Provided

Sandwich, chips, cookies & bars Coffee, water, lemonade

What can I bring?

If you have your own sewing machine, please bring it.
Limited machines available to borrow.

What else?

We need **fabric** and **sheets**! *100% quilting cotton (1-2 yd lengths) *Cotton sheets (full, queen, or king)

QUILITING NEWS

SPREADING GOD'S LOVE ONE STITCH AT A TIME

Quilters Serving Graduates

Show 'n Tell times aren't just for school children! Any time the FLC Mission Quilters groups gather, whether weekly on Monday evenings or Tuesday mornings, we are energized by seeing the latest designs and color combinations that our members have created. One of the favorite times we enjoy sharing our work is on Senior Sunday when high school graduates gather in worship to receive a blessing and be gifted a Senior Quilt.

The Senior Quilt project is spearheaded by Brenda Hayne who keeps tabs on the number of seniors and who creates most of the quilt tops. Occasionally other family members contribute a quilt for a relative, and some other quilters might sew a top, too. The design typically includes fabric with faith-based images or words and with squares pieced in a cross-shape pattern. as seen in the photo to the right.





Gifting the graduates with their quilts on Senior Sunday also energizes us! The physical connection and symbolism of sending our students off into the world wrapped in a colorful comforter creates a meaningful ceremony. This is why we appreciate the presence of each student, the congregation, and the words of blessing spoken during this faith stepping-stone church service.

We thank God for our wonderful graduates, whether through a diploma or GED process, and for our opportunity to celebrate the way God has been with them throughout their schooling. We pray that you will always be reminded of God's faithfulness through these Quilts.

Thanks be to God -- soon it will be Show 'n Tell time again!



The Membership Records of First Lutheran Church from December 2023- March 2024

Baptisms

Renley Jo Roach Child of Carter & Jaclyn Roach

New Members

Taylor Reit

Joelle & Anthony Winters and Addison Andrew & Erin Pedersen and Tatum Deb Holmstrom Andrea Law

Deaths

Eileen Johnson Patricia Meyer Ricky Novak D. Boyd Shank Robert Houtkooper



Memorials given in memory of

Boyd Shank Jeffrey Robbins Dr. Charles Canaan

Brookings County Food Bank Donations

November 162 items
December 43 items
January 45 items
February 55 items

Announcing Operation Restoration Vacation Bible School at First Lutheran Church!



- Dates: July 22nd July 25th
- Time: 5:30 7:00pm (registration begins at 5:00pm)
- Ages: 3 years 5th grade
- Location: First Lutheran Church Brookings

Register at the link below: https://form.jotform.com/240785119988170

or use this QR code to register







	April 2024							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
	1 OFFICE AND MCH CLOSED 5:30 pm Sew What	8:30 am Quilters 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study	5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:00 pm Youth Group NO Sanctuary Choir	4	5	6		
8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:30 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	9 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study	5:00 pm Meal 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:00 pm 9 th Grade Night 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir NO Bell Choir	6:30 pm Church Council	12	13		
8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm CYFT meeting 7:00 pm Bible Study	5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation** 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 am Sanctuary Choir	18	19	20		
8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	24 5:00 pm 5 th Grade Steppingstone 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Choir	25	26	27		
8:30 am Festival Service 10:30 am Praise Service	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.) HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone					



	May 2024								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.) HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone			5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	2	3	4			
5 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/HC	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	8	9 6:30pm Church Council June/July Newsletter deadlne	10	11			
8:30 am Festival Service 10:30 am Praise Service	9:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm ULC & Parkplace communion 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	15 10:00 am & 2:00 pm Preschool graduation	16	17	18			
8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC SENIOR SUNDAY	9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 5:30 pm CYFT meeting 7:00pm Bible Study	22	23	24	25			
26 9:00 Worship Service	OFFICE AND MCH CLOSED 5:30 pm Sew What	8:30am Quilters 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	29	30	31 Synod Assembly in Sioux Falls (Fri & Sat)				





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If you have an article or information for the June/July Newsletter, please have it to the church office no later than 5:00pm May 9th.

If you would like information put in the Sunday announcements, please have it in the church office by noon the Monday before. Thank you!



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