

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church *Welcomes You!*



 **Lutheran Women**
in Mission SUNDAY

Thursday, September 28, 2023
@ 7PM

Sunday, October 1, 2023
@ 8AM

4333 Cleveland Ave, Stevensville, MI 49127

Sunday Services @ 8AM & 10:45AM

Sunday Bible Class 9:30AM

Thursday Evening Service at 7PM

Christian Day School: PreK – 8th Grade

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

As We Gather

Lutheran Women in Mission praise the Lord for opportunities to share His message and love with people from all walks of life throughout our community and the world. Today the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) invites you to join us in celebrating the joy of serving the Lord with gladness in this congregation.

"Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"Hymn 812

1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs With an-gels
2 "Wor- thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "To be ex-
3 Je- sus is wor- thy to re- ceive Hon- or and
4 Let all cre- a- tion join in one To bless the

round the throne; Ten thou- sand thou- sand
alt- ed thus!" "Wor- thy the Lamb," our
pow'r di- vine; And bless- ings more than
sa- cred name Of Him who sits up-

are their tongues, But all their joys are one.
lips re- ply, "For He was slain for us!"
we can give Be, Lord, for- ev- er Thine.
on the throne And to a- dore the Lamb.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

Invocation

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.** *Matthew 28.19b; [18:20]*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

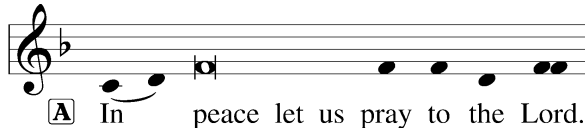
Introit



- P** The Lord lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
- C** **Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.**
- P** The Lord builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
- C** **He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.**
- P** He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
- C** **Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**
- P** The Lord lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

Ps. 147:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 147:6

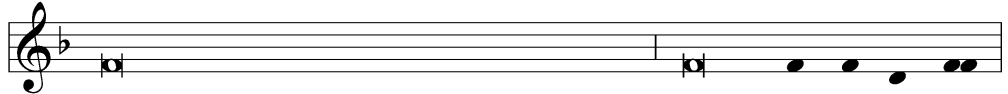
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



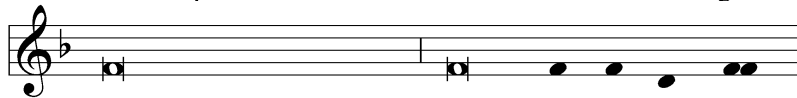
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



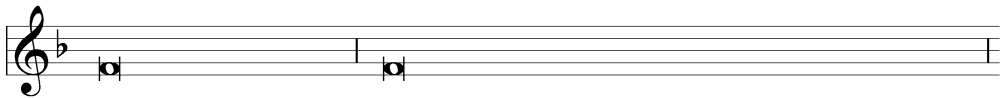
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



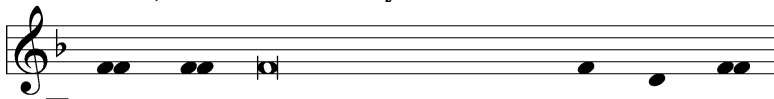
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Sit

Reading from the Book of Concord

An explanation of what we believe as Lutheran

*Formula of Concord: Epitome,
Article III, The Righteousness Of Faith Before God, 3*

We unanimously believe, teach, and confess that Christ is our Righteousness [1 Corinthians 1:30] neither according to His divine nature alone nor according to His human nature alone. But it is the entire Christ who is our Righteousness according to both natures. In His obedience alone, which as God and man He offered to the Father even to His death [Philippians 2:8], He merited for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. For it is written, “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous” (Romans 5:19).

Readings from Holy Scripture

Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

(Continued)

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

P He will command his angels concerning you

C to guard you in all your ways.

P Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Ps. 91:11; 103:1

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter

C Glory to You, O Lord.

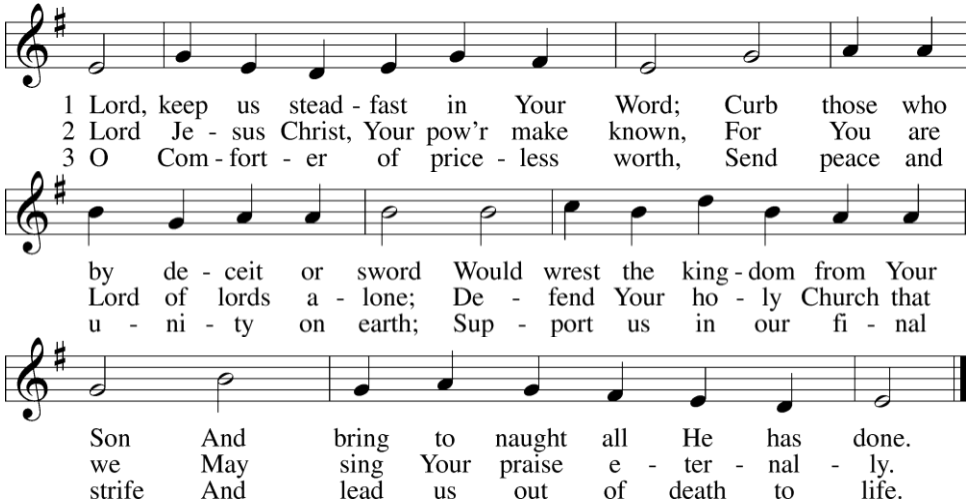
²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”Hymn 655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and
 by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal
 Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; in: Catherine Winkworth, 1827-76, ed.
 Tunes: Gesangliche Unter- und Gesangs-Verweise, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klig
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

“The Power of Prayer”

Matthew 7:7-8

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

LWML Pledge

C In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

Sit

Gathering of Our Tithes and Sacrificial Offerings

*There will be no passing of the offering plates.
Please place your offering in the plates in the narthex.*

Offertory

"O Savior, Precious Savior"Hymn 527



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, Whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, Who won - drous - ly hast wrought
3 In Thee all full - ness dwell - eth, All grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 O grant the con - sum - ma - tion Of this our song a - bove



O name of might and fa - vor, All oth - er names a - bove,
Thy - self the rev - e - la - tion Of love be - yond our thought,
The glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is Thine.
In end - less ad - o - ra - tion And ev - er - last - ing love;

We wor-ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We wor-ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We wor-ship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where per-fect prais-es ring,
 We praise Thee and con-fess Thee, Our ho-ly Lord and King.
 We praise Thee and con-fess Thee, Our gra-cious Lord and King.
 We praise Thee and con-fess Thee, Our glo-rious Lord and King.
 And ev-er-more con-fess Thee, Our Sav-ior and our King!

Tune: Francis H. Heugel, 1830-79
 Tune: Arthur H. Hays, 1850-1929
 Text and Lyrics: Public Domain

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen

"Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way"Hymn 857



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
 5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
 fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

Tune: Hymnal G. Schwaner, Jr., 1921-1927
 Tune: The Whole Book of Psalms, 1562, London
 Tune: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LDS Hymn License no. 110002711
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+ Silent Prayer +

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

THE PREACHER & THE LITURGIST.....Rev. David Speerbrecker
 THE ORGANIST (Sunday).....Mark Steffens
 THE ORGANIST (Thursday).....Mary Spaulding
 ELDER(S) ON DUTY (Thursday).....Rich Wandel
 ELDER(S) ON DUTY Andy Copi
 ALTAR GUILD Cheryl Knuth, Deb Appelget
 USHERS Steve Huycke – Captain, Tom Ulmer
Andrew Gerken, John Schulz, Mike Essig, Chuck Dinges

Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd...” Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.

Church News!

Welcome! God says: "Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"

(Psalm 78:1). Let us listen for God's voice as we worship. If you are visiting, please sign our guest book and treat yourselves to one of our *visitor* bags located on the "welcome" center desk.

FLOWER CHART – If you want to sponsor altar flowers, be sure to add your name to the **2023 chart in the commons**. Consider honoring a family member or special occasion by sponsoring Sunday altar flowers. The cost is **\$35.00**. After church services, the bouquet is delivered to a shut-in members or an individual on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar today are dedicated to the glory of God,

In memory of Megan Safran.

Given by Sue Collins



In memory of Barbara Glinka.

Given by Mike & Shannon Reinschreiber.



RADIO SPONSORSHIP – Christ Lutheran records two radio broadcasts per month. Consider sponsoring a broadcast for \$150.00 to share with a family member or friend. Be sure to sign-up in order to secure a specific date! Our *Local Lutheran Worship Service Broadcasts* are on **WSJM 106.1 FM** on **Sunday mornings from 9AM – 10AM**. The services can also be heard by visiting www.wsjmsports.com and clicking on *listen live*.

Radio Broadcast

Our service was recorded last Sunday and will air today.

This broadcast is dedicated to the glory of God,

In loving memory of Andy Treiber.

Given by Dennis & Lyla Metz.

THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE.

We remember the following Missionary in our prayers this week:



Rev. James and Angela Sharp serve the Lord as missionaries of the LCMS in Uruguay. James plants new churches and works to support mercy outreach projects around the country. Through Word and Sacrament ministry, he partners with local church leaders to form and develop groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations. James also teaches Lutheran theology courses to help train individuals in the Lutheran faith and to develop local leaders to carry on God's mission. Angela focuses on education. She teaches English-as-a-Foreign-Language (EFL) classes to people of all ages. She organizes, directs and provides content for Sunday schools throughout the country and conducts workshops for training new teachers and educational leaders.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS WITH PASTOR QUARDOKUS - Bible class led by Pastor Quardokus held on **Thursday mornings at 10:00AM**. Class is beginning a new study of the prophet Micah.

GOSPEL OF JOHN BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES – The midweek bible class will continue studying the unique Gospel of John. Join us: **Tuesday evenings at 7pm or Wed mornings at 9:30am**.

LWML FALL RALLY – October 1st is the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Fall Rally at *St. Paul's in Cassopolis*. Registration begins at **2pm**. Please meet at Christ Lutheran by 1:15pm if you need to carpool. Speaker at the rally is Timothy Unsinn, from *Dakota Bay and Girls Ranch* [recipients of a National LWML Grant], will be this year's speaker.

MONDAY MUSICAL CLUB – Organist Brenton Offenback will perform at the *Monday Musical Club* program on **Monday, October 2, at 7:00 PM** at the *First Congregational Church*, 2100 Niles Avenue, St. Joseph. He has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in sacred music from Andrews University and is currently the Director of Music Ministry at First Congregational Church. The program is free and open to the public.

2023 LIFEPLAN FUNDRAISING BANQUET – Plan to attend the annual LifePlan banquet on **Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 pm**. The banquet will be held at The Amory, 727 S. Eddy Street, South Bend. You can register at www.lifeplan/annualbanquet or by contacting Pastor Tom Batsky (269-930-0204) or by email at bemalt510@gmail.com.

LADIES NIGHT OUT! – If you've experienced loss or trial in your life - whether self-induced or thrust upon you, you'll want to hear Robyn Dykstra's encouraging discoveries to energize your faith in God. Surprisingly funny and refreshing despite what she's been through, Robyn is a *Humorous Speech Champion* and captivating storyteller. Through her in-depth Biblical teaching and funny personal illustrations, she will have you laughing one minute and crying the next as you discover fresh truth from God's Word.

Save the date! **November 2nd**. Doors open 6:00pm. Tickets \$10. Immanuel Lutheran Church | 9650 N. Church St. | Bridgman, MI | 269-465-6031

LUTHERANISM 101 CLASS – Interested in learning more about what Lutherans teach and believe? How Lutherans are similar to other Christians, and yet different? Pastor Measel is planning on starting a new class this Fall. Let him know if you're interested. All are welcome!

CRAFTERS WANTED! The CLS PTL Craft Bazaar will occur on **Friday, December 1, 2023**. Our CLS students enjoy this annual tradition and always look forward to it. Can you help our PTL by making some crafts for our students to purchase? We will need many items for our students to choose from. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry DeJong (269-332-0475) or Kala Hoover (269-757-4847) with the CLS PTL. Donations for the event should be brought to the office by *Monday, November 27*. Thank you for your help!



Weekly Services

Attendance

Thursday 09/21/23	7PM	19
Sunday 09/24/23	8AM	87
Online Attendees: 23	10:45AM	79
		Total 185
Tuesday Bible Class	09/19/23	8
Wednesday Bible Class	09/20/23	24
Thursday Bible Class	09/21/23	21
Sunday Bible Class	09/24/23	19

*Week of 09/24 total budgeted receipts	\$9,639.00
YTD Contributions	\$165,600.96
YTD Budget	\$215,000.00
YTD Over (Under)	\$-49,399.04

**This area represents budgeted receipts for plate and envelope giving, plus undesignated memorials.*

This totals \$860,000 for the year ending June 30, 2024.



LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission



Sunday, Oct 1	8:00AM 9:30am 9:30am 10:45AM	Worship Service BIBLE CLASS SUNDAY SCHOOL Contemporary Worship Service
Monday, Oct 2		
Tuesday, Oct 3	7pm	BIBLE CLASS
Wed., Oct 4	9:30am	BIBLE CLASS
Thursday, Oct 5	10am 6:30pm 7PM	BIBLE CLASS CHOIR Communion Worship Service
Friday, Oct 6		Half Day
Saturday, Oct 7		
Sunday, Oct 8	8:00AM 9:30am 9:30am 10:45AM	Communion Worship Service BIBLE CLASS SUNDAY SCHOOL Communion Worship Service



Rev. Martin P. Measel, Pastor

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