

CONNECTIONS

510 Pine Street, Trinidad CO 81082 / zionsluth@gmail.com

Our Worship

Zion's worship service is at 10 a.m. each Sunday. We worship in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

Bible Study begins at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Fellowship time follows worship. All are welcome!

Bulletins and online worship links are on our website at: zion-sluth.org. Click the "Worship Bulletin" button on the home page to find it. Online links to Zoom are under both the "Event" & "Sermon & Bulletins" tabs from the home page.

Name that Tune

Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like the congregation to sing during worship? Share your suggestions using the new blue cards found in the pew racks in the sanctuary. Write your selection and, if you can find it in the hymnal, the page number of the hymn. If the hymn is from another source and you can direct the Worship & Music committee to it, share those details.

Please include your name and contact information on the card so that we can verify your preferred hymn setting and can share copyright concerns we may encounter. When you are done, place the blue card in the offering plate so we can give to the worship committee. If you have questions, let Becky McNeil or Sharon Sorenson know.



A Time of Change

By Jeff Smith

Ahhh...October...my favorite month. Perhaps it is because October brings so many changes. The days become shorter, the air crisper, the color of the oak and aspen leaves burst into the glorious hues of yellow and orange, then fall from the trees.

Locally, the wildlife becomes more visible. Elk come down from the higher elevations, bears become much more active. Everything is in flux.

And these changes are for the better. The reason deciduous trees drop their leaves is to conserve resources during the cold winter. The reason elk come down to lower elevations is to have an easier time getting food where there is less snow on the ground.

The reason bears become more active is that they enter a phase called "hyperphagia," where they eat up to 20,000 calories and gain up to three pounds per day, to help spell them through their long winter hibernation. By the way, a good trivia question. Do you know what a bear has to eat to ingest 20,000 calories? Well, how about 23,000 grasshoppers...or 20,000 raspberries...or 84 squirrels. You get the drift. It's A LOT!

All this change is part of God's plan, and as we read in Jeremiah 29:11, God has plans for all creation and they are "...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

And either by coincidence, or God's good planning, October also brings us the anniversary of Martin Luther's big change, The Reformation, celebrated this year on Sunday, October 30.

(continued on page 2)

A Time of Change...

(continued from page 1)

"Reformation," by definition is to "**change** into an improved form or condition." That's exactly what Luther set out to do more than 500 years ago after he nailed 95 Theses to a church door in Wittenberg Germany. He wanted to change the Church and get back to the basics. The essential tenets of the Reformation were that the Bible is the sole authority for all matters of faith and conduct and that salvation is by God's grace and by faith in Jesus Christ.

The church at the time had strayed from that path and made works and ritual more important than faith. A primary objection Luther had was to "indulgences," whereby a person could literally pay for a get-out-of-jail-free card, and spend less time in purgatory. So his proposed changes were for the good and we have all benefited from these changes for the last 500 years.

Likewise, change is going on in our own Zion's Lutheran Church in good old Trinidad. God has a plan for our church just as surely as he had a plan for Luther's Church and for nature; and all of it involves change. And that change will be for the good. Our Transition Team currently is working on the changes that have occurred and will continue to occur in our Church and how we can make "...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Not change for change sake, but to improve our faith and bring us closer to God, the "Mighty Fortress," Luther refers to in his most famous hymn.

Winston Churchill was attributed the following quote about change. *"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."*

Amen?

Church Council Updates — August 2022

Zion's Church Council met Sunday, Sept. 18. Cherie Holder and Lynn Chase reported on the Transition Team's activities. Financial reports were approved as submitted. Income for the month of August was \$6,612, which included \$1,502 we made at the garage sale. Expenses were \$9,239 which included \$1,143 paid out for benevolence, special offerings and 5 Loaves. Average attendance was 28 (in-person only).

Mike McNeil was elected to the Board of Trustees that oversees our trust fund. The semi-annual meeting between the Board of Trustees and Fidelity Investments, plus another meeting with Fisher Investments, is scheduled for the week of Sept. 19.

The Annual God's Work Our Hands picnic and project went well. Everyone enjoyed the music by the Orphan Valley Singers and more than \$500 was collected that day for lunches for school children. We also cleaned, organized, mowed, weeded, and trimmed the areas in and around the church. Council would like to thank everyone involved.

Vicar Lisa Rygiel resigned her position on church council. Paula Little was appointed to complete her remaining term. Norine Hazen was named vice-president. A communications team has been formed to coordinate information on our website, Facebook page, and other information sent electronically. Another committee was formed to check on using Ring or another system as a smoke detector. The next council meeting is Oct. 9.

— Submitted by Julie Wersal, Council President

Important "Zoom" Link Changes Coming Oct. 1

We have had to make some logistical changes to our Zoom accounts and as such, effective Oct. 1, we will have new Zoom links for online worship, Bible studies, committees, and special events.

So, please watch worship and meeting announcements to access the new links and adjust any bookmarks that you may have for existing Zion's Zoom events.

If you have concerns, please let Sharon Sorenson or Jo Moss know.

October 1: Join Us for a Blessing of the Animals



We will start October with a blessing of the animals in the fenced in lawn area by the Fellowship Hall. All socialized animals are welcome for a blessing by Pastor Kate. The brief service and blessing will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1.

Plan to bring your animals on a leash or in a crate or cage for the blessing. If is not possible for your animal to be with you in person, you are invited to bring a photo of them or even a "stuffy" is welcome to be blessed.

October is the traditional month for animal blessings as Oct. 4 is the Feast of Francis of Assisi, who died in 1226. Although Francis was born into the family of a wealthy merchant, he gave up his inheritance to serve poor people.

Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation and is considered the Patron Saint of all animals and of ecology, which is based upon several sentences in his Canticle such as "*May you be praised Lord in all your creatures*".

After the blessings, participants (human and non-human) are invited to mingle, play, and enjoy refreshments offered by Zion's Lutheran Church.

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

★ SAVE THE DATE:

- ★ Pastor Diana Linden-Johnson joins us for worship on Oct. 16 to preside at the installation of Vicar Lisa Rygiel. Afterward we will have a potluck to celebrate Lisa's journey of faith and her service to Zion's.
- ★ Bishop Gonia once again will be at Zion's for Sunday Worship. This time, he will preside at our service on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 30, and will give us a talk about Living Lutheran on Reformation Sunday. Sunday worship will be followed by a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.
- ★ We are grateful for the safety of Pastor Andrea & Paul, Pat Fletcher, and George & Jeannine follow the landfall of Hurricane Ian on Sept. 29.
- ★ Special thanks to our Transition Team, which meets regularly, and who did a splendid job with their historical timeline kick-off event on Sept. 25.
- ★ We enjoyed seeing Zion's members at Trinidad's annual Artocade Parade on Sept. 10, especially Ena Sroat, Melodie Lanosga, and Mark & Jo Moss who were part of the parade and other Artocade activities.
- ★ Note that there is a change in our worship services. During offering, our organist or pianist will play the hymn melody through the collection. The congregation then is invited to stand to sing our offering hymn as the ushers bring the offering forward. The ushers will stand in front of the altar with the offering plates until the prayer is completed.



Pastor Kate snapped a quick picture of Mark & Jo Moss' Art Car, a 1929 "Grapes of Wrath" Model A Ford.

- ★ For pastoral care, contact Pastor Kate: (619) 916-9630 or email kateschlechter2005@gmail.com. Pastor's office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact her to schedule an appointment.
- ★ Deadline for November newsletter is Oct. 18, send contributions to tozionsluth@gmail.com or to Jo Moss.
- ★ The Flower Chart has been replaced by the Flower Book, located in the back of the sanctuary. There are several weeks available this year. Sign up and use the envelopes in the book for your flower donation, which can be placed in the offering plate.

Pastor's Pondering

The Canticle of Turning Sets the Tone for Fall

One of my favorite hymns in our cranberry hymnal is *Canticle of Turning* (#723). There are four verses to the hymn and the refrain is sung after each verse. I believe the words set the tone as summer turns to fall, the leaves change from green to red and yellow and orange, and the Holy Spirit brings us into the last remaining months of the church year.

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
Wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my
Weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
Name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the first of our justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Change is in the air. Can you feel it? Taste it? See it all around you? God knows all about transformation: our God is a God of movement. Guiding, challenging and coaxing God's people to allow for adaptation and movement through change, God never leaves us where we are.

We encounter God's canticle of turning in many ways under various names: wilderness time, liminal season, fallow time, the time between dreams. Whatever the name, this time is to be acknowledged and honored as an important part of the inner work of transformation. This is a time to come to terms with and to grieve what has ended. It is also a time to listen deeply and watch for the signs of something beginning to take shape. Jesus models this cyclic time in

which there is always a rising through dying, redemption through passion, a time that integrates death and life moving together for all of us. We only need to look at Zion's historical timeline in the fellowship hall to see the resiliency of faith that has blown through the decades of community life where the seasons have given way to the integration of faith, hope, and love of Christ for the sake of service in Trinidad and the world.

As we reflect on our cultural moment in this time and place and ponder anew what the future holds. We can see the resiliency buoys us to find hope and celebration in the wilderness of liminality and know that corporately we are held in God's grace and care. Always. At times we may feel lost, or like the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness between the grief of what was and the hope and trust in God's power to companion them and us with each step taken. As the Canticle of Turning verse four reminds us:



*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving
word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear
and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe
away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

With you on the journey through the past, the present, and into your future with God.

Blessings,
Pastor Kate Schlechter



What Is this Transition Team Thing Anyway?

By Kathy Broman

The first thing we asked ourselves as we (the Transition Team) gathered around the table is why are we here and what is the purpose to this thing called the transition team? We will be meeting weekly for one and a half hours for at least 6 months so that seemed a pretty key question.

In the process of answering, we discovered that Pastor Kate has two years of specialized training in intentional ministry in addition to her other 30 plus years of pastoral experience. I also back and read



more about the TEEM experience that Lisa is starting with our congregation. I have discovered that there are many informative articles in our previous newsletters about TEEM.

So after talking and reading for several weeks we clarified our purpose as discovering the essence of folks that are the congregation at Zion's. Where has Zion's been in the past? Where we are now? And eventually where are we going as faith community? We are going through changes that we wish we didn't have to go through.

How do we grieve the change of moving on without Andrea as our pastor, let alone her eventual passing on from this life? (May that not be for some time with the grace of God.)

We have this opportunity to figure out how we Really accomplish goals, not how we Think we accomplish them and what characterizes this amazing group of people. We will ask what systems have become routine, how do we communicate, how does each individual's faith history contribute to what they understand and expect from the rest of the community.

This will be a joint task between those of us on the team and the rest of you as the congregation. This will involve a lot of diligent listening and thinking. We will start by looking at how our past shapes our values now, with a timeline activity Sunday 9/25 (so it has already occurred by the time you read this).

During that activity we discovered that we have a lot additive years of experience and there are many faith traditions besides Lutheran in our makeup. Please look at the tree of faith history with each individual's history

on their apple and put yours up there if you weren't at the meeting. There also is a timeline of when folks joined the church in relation to what was happening locally, nationally, and internationally.

In the next month or two there will be small group meetings with those who are interested about how we individually see ourselves in the church, as well as how we envision the church as a whole and future goals.



Above: Pastor Kate talks about transitions. Below: Kathy Broman & Lisa Rygiel work on the timeline.



Add Your Input!

Transition Team Member Arthur Pierce reminds people that if they missed the Timeline Event on Sept. 25, please stop by the Fellowship Hall and fill out an apple with your faith journey information and place it on the tree. Extra apples and tape are on the piano next to the tree.

Also, feel free to fill in any events on the timeline sheets and add your name to the decade/year when you came to Zion's.

If you have questions, please ask one of the Transition Team members or Pastor Kate.

God's Work Our Hands Projects Shine in Our Synod



This September, throughout the ELCA people carried out God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) projects of ministry and service.

At Zion's, we focused our service upon our Sanctuary and surrounding grounds to ensure that our historic church continues as a beacon of hope, grace, and welcome for the people of Trinidad. Vicar Lisa Rygiel and Council President Julie Wersal headed up Zion's projects on Sept. 17.

Special thanks to everyone who participated. We were able to complete major work in and around the Sanctuary, including landscape, kitchen cleaning and organizing, cleaning the sanctuary including the storage areas and polishing the woodwork, and installing a baby changing table in one of the Fellowship Hall restrooms.

Not only does our GWOH projects contribute to the congregation and to the community, but also gives us a chance to interact and share our skills. In addition to the service project, Zion's contributed more than \$500 for the school

lunch program at Holy Trinity Academy to help ensure that students receive healthy lunches and snacks. We also enjoyed our traditional GWOH outdoor worship at Round Up Park at the Fairgrounds, which included music by the Orphan Valley Singers, and a picnic potluck.



Photos (Left, then clockwise): Lynn Chase, Mark Moss, Kathy Nicolai, Mike McNeil, Pastor Kate, & Kathy Broman (Vicar Lisa at sanctuary backdoor); Kathy Broman tree trimming; Ena Sroat & Erin Ogletree kitchen duty; Kathy Nicolai tidying fence; Pastor Kate & Kathy Broman bagging up.

ELCA Update

In Memoriam: Pastor Wayne Weissenbuehler, First RMS Bishop

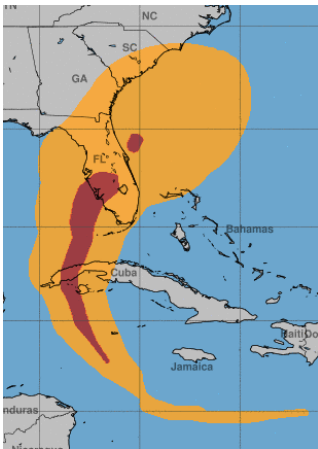
With gratitude for his life and ministry, we commend to God the Rev. Wayne Weisenbuehler, who served as the last bishop in the Central District of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the first bishop in the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at its formation in 1988.

Ordained into the American Lutheran Church in 1963, Pastor Weissenbuehler served St. John's Lutheran Church in Pittsburg, Kansas, and Christ the King Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado, before becoming assistant to the bishop of the Central District of the ALC. He was elected bishop of the Central District in 1981, and in 1987 he was elected as bishop of Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA.

As bishop, Pastor Weissenbuehler helped create the Lutheran-Episcopal Concordat, served as a human shield to Lutheran bishop Medardo Gomez of El Salvador, encouraged congregations and church leaders in Madagascar and Estonia, and flew below the radar during the civil war in Namibia. He advocated for the ordination of women, served on college boards, and never turned down an invitation to proclaim a sermon. He loved his pastors and their congregations. In his last years, Pastor Weissenbuehler resided at Klein Center nursing home in West Burlington, Iowa. He was 87 when he died from complications of Alzheimer's on September 2, 2022.



Lutheran Disaster Response Poised to Respond to Hurricane Ian



Hurricane Ian made landfall in Florida on Sept. 28 as a strong Category 4 storm that caused major damage and flooding. It is expected to make landfall again in the Carolinas. Early reports see the potential for substantial loss of life as Ian is predicted to be one of the worst hurricanes to hit the United States in decades.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is poised to help hurricane survivors as long as needs exist. LDR can provide immediate relief, including water, clothing, gifts cards, tarps, and more. This response is in addition to LDR's ongoing work in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona and storms in Alaska as well as ongoing needs to the drought in Africa and the war in Ukraine, to name a few.

The best way to help disaster survivors is through donations that allow LDR to spend funds for items that are most needed. You can help by following this link to donate now:

<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse?erid=5ccb6f09-dfdd-4938-a959-d66e25960ca7&trid=5ccb6f09-dfdd-4938-a959-d66e25960ca7>.

Zion's Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner is Coming Soon

Plans for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner are in the works and include determining whether we can again serve meals in the Fellowship Hall. Either way we will make Thanksgiving deliveries as usual. In addition we are now reaching out to local businesses for both monetary and in-kind donations.

We also need individual assistance for everything from deliveries, to food donations and preparation, to identifying people who may need a holiday meal. As usual, our greatest needs are for delivery drivers, cooks, servers, and clean up. In the next few weeks, you will find sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall so you can identify ways that you can help. This is a community event and all are welcome.

Zion's has not missed a Thanksgiving Dinner celebration in more than three decades, although Covid-19 restricted our ability for in-person dining.

If you can help or need more information, please contact Norine Hazen or Peggy Gustafson. If you are willing to help deliver meals, please contact Jo Moss or call the church and leave a message.



Spotlight On:

Art, Wine, and Mission Focus on Zion's Strengths



Creative arts continue to play a key role in our congregation — we have members who are artists, writers, poets, performers, musicians, florists, cooks, and more.

Paula Little is one such artist, whose painting of Zion's Sanctuary is used on our notecards, business cards, and in many publications. She also is an advocate in encouraging the creative abilities of people around her, no matter whether they have confidence in their artistic skills.

She will be doing just that when she leads a Wine & Painting Party from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15, in the Zion's Fellowship Hall.

Not only is this a chance to explore creativity, but also an opportunity to share fellowship and benefit Diane Hagen's mission work in Panama, where the need is particularly great right now. While the workshop is free, a freewill offering will be collected to support Diane's work.



Diane Hagen's Work Helps Panama's Needy

Although she now lives in Colorado Springs, Diane regularly worships with us on Zoom, goes to Panama several times a year. Her efforts are something that Zion's regularly supports with 5th Sunday Offerings and now has an opportunity to further support. A freewill offering will be collected at the Wine & Painting Party to benefit Diane's work.

Many people in Panama depend upon Diane's mission work. She regularly takes suitcases loaded with baby clothes, toys and personal items for the poor in Panama. She also buys food for as many families as she can. The need now is greater than ever but to current riots (about which many are unaware) as well as natural disasters.

"Diane Hagen is a brave woman and a true disciple of Christ who engenders the philosophy that we are all one family," says Paula Little. "She walks the walk and is a courageous inspiration to all."



As part of the afternoon's activities, Paula will demonstrate abstract painting and says that this is a project for everyone, "Including those who say they are not artists!"

In addition to the artistry, wine and treats will aid in the creative spirit and the camaraderie.

Paula explains, "You do not have to be able to draw for this creative process. The class will start with painting on a canvas that includes some collage.

"While that is drying, there will be a 'Round Robin' painting adventure, a kind of musical chairs, walking around a table, making marks with different weird tools, paint and pastels on a large piece of paper."

As the fun continues, Paula explains, painting number two will begin, and "dancing is not frowned upon!"

When the afternoon concludes, each participant will be taking home two paintings "and memories of a joyful day, forgetting all about the cares of the world and hopefully moments of side splitting laughter!"

There is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or e-mail Paula at paulajeannlittle@gmail.com to reserve a space. Sign up helps with preparations and supplies. Also, if you are able, please bring a treat to share.












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October 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Lectors: 02 — JoAnn Karspeck 09 — Mike McNeil 16 — Joni Jones 23 — Ruthie Culpepper 30 — Pamela Nelson-Serafini						1 10 a.m.: Blessing of the Animals — Fenced Lawn by Fellowship Hall
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Worship & Fellowship Follows	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)			5 p.m.: Transition Team Meets 		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Worship & Fellowship Follows 11:30 a.m.: Church Council meets in Blue Room	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)			5 p.m.: Transition Team Meets 	9:30 a.m.: Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & Zoom) 	1-4 p.m.: Art & Wine workshop in the Fellowship Hall 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Worship (Pastor Diana Linden-Johnson) & Potluck 	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)	Newsletter Deadline 		5 p.m.: Transition Team Meets 		
	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Worship & Fellowship Follows	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)			10 a.m.: Book Club (F'ship Hall) 5 p.m.: Transition Team Meets 	9:30 a.m.: Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & Zoom) 5 Loaves Preparation Day	5 Loaves Delivery Day 
30	31	Ushers: 02 — Steve & JoAnn Karspeck 09 — Mike McNeil & Cherie Holder 16 — Mary McKenna & Joni Jones 23 — Carol Schulzkump & Ruthie Culpepper 30 — Dr. David Serafini & Pamel Nelson-Serafini				
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Reformation Worship (Bishop Gonia) & Potluck 	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)					

From Our History Books:

More Milestones for Zion's Lutheran Reflect Rich History

(This is the second in a series looking at the life of Zion's Lutheran. Last month we explored Zion's early history, including its constitution, sanctuary construction and the introduction of English into worship and Bible study. That review covered 1888 to 1914, next we focus on 1915-1925.)

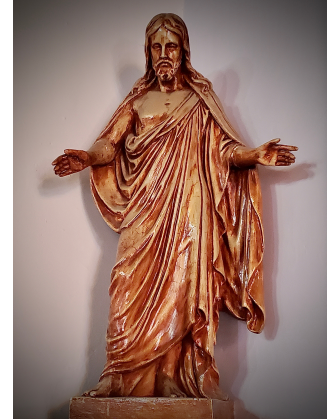
In 1915, Zion's invited the Rocky Mountain Synod to hold its annual session in Trinidad. However, prior to the Synod meeting, Pastor Schmitt resigned, and his vacancy immediately was filled by Pastor W. Fieg, who served for the next two years and was the host for the Synod meeting.

It took 13-months to replace Pastor Fieg. His successor, Pastor A. Fielbalkorn served Zion's from April 1918 through July 1921. During his tenure, the last vestiges of German were eliminated from worship, which then was conducted entirely in English. In addition, the church replaced the original gas lighting in the sanctuary with electric light.

Two items that still grace the sanctuary today were purchased in 1919 and 1920 respectively. They were a replica of Danish sculptor Thorvaldsen's Christ statue (donated by Mrs. Philip Germer) and the lectern, donated by Miss Hilda Butz.

After Pastor Fielbalkorn's departure in July of 1921, it took another seven months to fill the pastoral vacancy before Pastor C.J. Ferster arrived in February 1922 and remained through the end of that year. During that time, 20 new members joined Zion's and the Women's Missionary Society and Lutheran Brotherhood organizations were formed.

The following year, Pastor C.L. Ramme, came to Trinidad from the Iowa Synod and served Zion's for the next six years. During that time, Zion's continued to see a remarkable growth in membership. In January 1925, the church's name officially was changed from "German Evangelical Lutheran Church, Zion Congregation" to "Zion's Lutheran Church of Trinidad, Colorado," which remains the official name today, albeit shortened to Zion's Lutheran Church.



The Christ statue has been part of Zion's sanctuary since 1919.

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