



The Spirit

Holy Ghost Lutheran Church

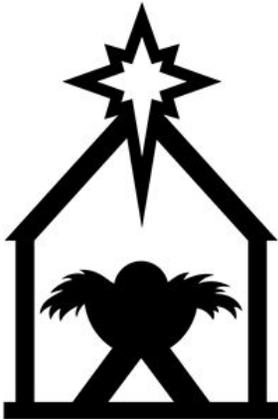
December 2016

Being & Making Disciples!

Pondering Jesus' Birth

One of our adult classes has been digging deeply in to Luther's Small Catechism. Recently we focused on the doctrine of the two natures of Jesus Christ. Namely, Jesus was fully God and fully Human at the same time. Try wrapping your mind around that one! This notion set me to ponder about Christmas which is just a few weeks away and about Jesus' birth. Why would God choose to bring the Savior of the world into existence through the whole conception (virgin) and birth process? Why not just have Jesus appear as a full-grown person?

To discover that answer, we need to move beyond the birth accounts in Matthew 1 and Luke 2. It is in the book of Hebrews that we discover God's purpose for bringing Jesus into the world in the way He did. *"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* (Heb. 4:14-16).



The writer begins by speaking of Jesus' fully divine nature, "this great high priest . . . passing through the heavens." We understand that other-worldly presence, but it often is perceived that God is way out there somewhere beyond our reach.

The writer continues by explaining that Jesus is not out of touch or out of reach to us. Had Jesus appeared on earth as a full-grown man, we would see Him as a stranger who may or may not have our best interest in mind. The writer alludes to the fact that Jesus "put off" his divine nature to take on frail human flesh. He willingly chose to go through the whole process of life from conception to birth to death to experience the fullness of our lives.

John 1:14 shares, *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."* Jesus, and Jesus alone did this so that He could fully relate to us. He experienced the fullness of our lives: pain, joy, disappointment, laughter, temptation, peer pressure, weddings, funerals, sickness, storms, various trials, suffering, and death on a cross. To ponder is to think deeply and thoroughly, and I continue to be amazed after 28 years in the ministry just how awesome and wonderful and mind blowing it is to know that Jesus went to these great lengths so that we might be saved. He didn't have to do so, but He chose to do so because He loves us more than we can ever imagine!

Ponder Jesus' birth and all it means, and have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Pastor David



All are invited to celebrate the grace of God in worship on Wednesday, November 23 at 11am and/or 6:30pm.

It is First Communion for fifth graders as we all gather at the Lord's Table to be fed.

"Come, You Thankful People, Come!"



Church-to-Church Walk

The annual community tradition of walking to downtown churches, singing carols, and hearing the Christmas story is slated for December 13 at 6:00pm beginning at Zion Lutheran Church. Stops along the way are Holy Ghost Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, and St. Mary's Catholic where refreshments and fellowship will be shared.



Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on December 26th in honor of Christmas. The office will also be closed on January 2nd in honor of New Year's.

If you have a need for a pastor during these times, please call one at his residence.



Candlelight Services are offered on December 24 at 5pm, 8pm, and 10pm.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at each service. Bring family and friends as Christ is born in the mangers of our hearts.

Christmas Day



Christmas Day Worship

Worship is celebrated at 8am & 10:30am with Holy Communion.

"Come and worship, come and worship! Worship Christ the new born King!"



End the "old" and welcome the "new" in worship on Dec. 31 at 6pm. The service is informal, the message relevant for this pivotal day, and Holy Communion is served to bless another year that has come and gone - anticipating with hope of what the Lord has in store for us in 2017!



HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN WOMEN OF FAITH

THANKOFFERING SERVICES were November 13 at the 8:00am and 10:30am services. Twenty-six ladies were honored to take part in these worship opportunities. Special thanks to these women for sharing their God-given Talents, and thanks to the pastors for letting us be part of these services. The Thankoffering collection totaled \$460.00 The Mom's Center and The Ultimate Gift of Life organization each received \$230.00. Thank you support.

THE 17th ANNUAL EPIPHANY TEA will be January 8, 2017 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. If you want to adopt a table or two, please contact Liz Hohenberger at 997-3903. If anyone would like to share some of their favorite finger foods, it would be very much appreciated. Invite your friends or a special guest to enjoy a devotion, fellowship and a decadent brunch. Come early and enjoy viewing the beautiful tables.

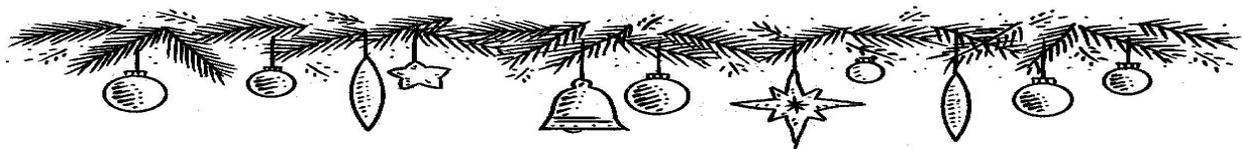
OUR SINCERE THANKS to everyone who has provided items for the LWR quilts. The generosity of the church members, as well as members of the community, is appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 3 & 4 – Fair Trade Products Sale – Evening Guild
- Dec. 8 – Lydia Circle & Katherine Luther Circle meet together for Christmas
10:30am Fellowship Hall
- Dec. 12 – Evening Guild Meeting – 6:00pm – Fellowship Hall
- Jan. 8, 2017 – Epiphany Tea – 9:00am – Fellowship Hall



A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU and YOUR FAMILY



From the 'R' Team - Read Scripture daily

In this month and season that often ends up being entirely too busy and crazy, let us focus on the hope and joy that the birth of Jesus Christ brought to the world and still brings to us today. A Blessed and Merry Christmas from the "R Team."

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|-------------------|---------------|
| Romans 12:12 | 3 Peter 1:8 |
| James 1:2 | Romans 14:17 |
| Philippians 4:4 | Psalms 118:24 |
| Galatians 5:22 | Psalms 16:9 |
| John 16:24 | Isaiah 55:22 |
| 2 Corinthians 7:4 | 1 John 1:4 |
| Acts 13:52 | Luke 1:47 |
| Jeremiah 15:16 | |



And of course, lest we forget the source of joy - Luke 2:1-20!

New Website!

The church has a new site which shares a lot of information! The newsletter, a sermon library, our faith values, youth news, history, staff info, etc.! Check out the Holy Ghost Church website at: holyghostfbg.org.





Congregational MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The bi-annual meeting will be held on December 11th after the 10:30am worship. Ministry business items include: electing four new council persons; adopting a 2017 budget; voting on the recommendation to join the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ; hearing a NALC convocation report; and receiving updates on important mission directions!

Be part of the decisions of the church!



Creation Care

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works- who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. Psalm 104:31, 32, NSRV

As the holiday season approaches we are thinking of gifts, parties, and family get-togethers. One is often distracted from checking on a few safety issues to keep your home safe.

1. Make sure that cords and extension cords are not frayed or cracked. Keep them out of traffic areas to avoid tripping.
2. Do not overload extension cords to avoid overheating or getting shocked when handling.
3. Clean your dryer exhaust vents to prevent overheating and fires.
4. Call your HVAC service people and your chimney sweep and have them do inspections before one starts heating your home. Your furnace and fireplace should be in good, safe working order.
5. Candles should be placed in sturdy containers to prevent them from tipping over. The candles should be at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
6. One needs to be very cautious with Christmas trees. The trees should be watered daily to keep them from drying out. Keep the tree at least 3 feet from anything that could set the tree on fire. Do not use a frayed or cracked string of lights on the tree to prevent shorts that can cause a fire.

This information is taken from the September 2016 and the November/December 2016 issues of the Texas Co-op Power Magazines.

Submitted by Jerry M. Christensen of the Local Missions Team.

POINSETTIAS to be used in decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season are now available for purchase through the church office.

Cost for poinsettias: \$8.00 (Deadline is December 12th)

Given in honor of _____

Given in memory of _____

Poinsettias may be picked up after the 9:00am worship on Christmas Day, after the weekend services, or at the office the following week.



WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

*Saturday, 6:00pm offers an informal service;
Sunday, 8:00am is a traditional service; and
Sunday, 10:30am is a varied format.*



“Come, let us worship the Lord!”

WORSHIP THEME IN DECEMBER 2016 is ***“And He shall be called....”***. Each week will center on the various names that the Savior will be called as prophesied in Isaiah 9. See the themes below. Join in the festive worships during the Advent/Christmas season!

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 3 & 4: “And He shall be called.... Wonderful Counselor!” One of the roles that the prophet Isaiah proclaimed that the Christ Child would fulfill. Where do you need His counsel these days? How do you receive His counsel? How is His counsel “wonderful?”

Sat. & Sun., Dec 10 & 11: “And He shall be called.... Mighty God!” Another of the identities that the Savior would meet for sinful humanity! Not just any old God, but the “Mighty God!” A mighty God who was willing to take on human flesh, human sin, and the punishment we should have received.

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 17 & 18: We continue our series from Isaiah 9, with the title, and shall be called “Everlasting Father.” How is the Messiah both a Son and a Father? We will explore what that term means. The 10:30am service will be the Sunday School Christmas Program.

Sat. Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: Worships are at 5pm, 8pm, and 10pm as candles are lit, carols are sung, and the gift of Jesus is revealed. It’s a silent night, holy night to be held in awe by all.

Sun., Dec. 25, Christmas Day: “And He shall be called.... Prince of Peace!” On this day of days, God lay down His sword and gave His Son, so that God and sinners might be reconciled—and that peace between God and humans be initiated. Communion is served as the Christ child is celebrated!

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 31 & Jan 1: Ringing in the New Year falls over the weekend this year. We will combine our Journey into this New Year with the Journey that Jesus took in Matthew 2. What new journey’s lay ahead for us in this new year in our faith, our lives, and our world?

Questions to Ask Kids Instead of “How was your day?”

Are you looking for questions that are conversation starters, inspired, and will generate a response other than “okay”? Here are several ideas:

1. Who made you smile today?
2. What do you most like to do at recess?
3. What would you rate your day on a scale of 1 to 10? Why?
4. Did anyone do anything super nice for you today? What was the nicest thing you did for someone?
5. What new fact did you learn today?
6. If one of your classmates could be the teacher for the day, who would you want it to be? Why?
7. Did anyone push your buttons today?
8. Who do you want to make friends with but haven’t yet? Why not?
9. What would have made your day better?
10. Who did you sit by at lunch today and what did you talk about?
11. If you could be invisible for a week, what would you do?
12. If you had three wishes, what would they be?
13. Describe your perfect day.
14. What challenged you today?
15. What is the funniest or strangest thing that happened to you today?

Happy communicating! HGLC Healthcare Team

Calendar

Church Website

Ministry Schedule
Excel Spreadsheet

Altar Guild:

December: Cheryl Sione, Kristen Crenwelge, Virginia Feuge, Laura Lundquist & Valerie Bonn

January: Windy Duecker, Lisa Olfers, Sandra Poole & Lisa Bullion

Women of Faith Study Leaders:

<u>Circles</u>	<u>December</u>
Evening Guild	Group
Lydia Circle	Christmas party
Katherine Luther	Christmas party

Nursing Home Comm.: December

Wednesday, 12-7	9:30am	Knopp Assisted
Wednesday, 12-7	10:00am	Knopp #2
Thursday, 12-1	9:30am	Heritage Place
Thursday, 12-1	10:00am	Paige House
Thursday, 12-1	10:30am	Tri-Star
Wednesday, 12-14	9:30am	Windcrest
Wednesday, 12-14	10:30am	Fredericksburg
Thursday, 12-8	9:30am	Knopp Retirement
Thursday, 12-8	10:30am	Knopp #1



Birthdays:

12/14/20	Mildred Grona
12/16/24	Ruth Usener
12/24/23	Loreen Nebgen



Anniversaries:

12/26/59	Earl James & Sammie Knopp
12/30/55	James & Ruth Welgehausen

(If we missed your 90+ birthday or 50+ anniversary, please call the church office, 997-2288.)

Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms:

11/12/16	Jack Nielsen Eckert
11/12/16	James Max Eckert

Funerals:

11/14/16	Atley Usener
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Holy Ghost Financial Report:

Gen. Fund Balance, October 1, 2016: \$31,278.85
 October Receipts: \$67,561.97
 October Expenses: -\$53,660.05
 Gen. Fund Balance, October 31, 2016: \$45,180.77

Special Offerings For Oct.:

TV-Gemechis Buba	\$1,788.00
Total Sep/Oct:	\$3,530.56
AME-Fbg Church	\$1,329.00
Total Sep/Oct:	\$2,346.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$6.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$59.00

Financial Barometer:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Oct.	\$67,561.97	-\$53,660.05	\$13,901.92
YTD	\$599,742.05	\$589,561.28	\$10,180.77

Building/Debt Retirement Fund:

Dedicated Fund Balance, Oct. 1, 2016: \$5,501.76
 Receipts: \$10,705.33
 Expenses: -\$12,200.00
 Balance Oct. 31, 2016: \$4,007.09

Fellowship Hall Loan Total Due:

Loan Balance October 31, 2016	\$125,310.41
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Thank you for your faithful gifts and presence!

Altar Flowers

We still need people to sign up for altar flowers. The dates that are open are as follows:



January 14/15
February 25/26
April 29/30

If you would like to sign up for any of these dates, please call the church office at 997-2288.





Tamales, Tamales! Kinderneest will pre-sell tamales just in time for Christmas! The tamales will be ordered from "Delicious Tamales" in San Antonio. The tamales will be sold November 21st - December 7th and the cost is \$10.00 a dozen. Tamales will be sold at church before and after worship services on November 27th and December 4th. The tamales will be delivered on December 12th and will be ready for pick up from 3:30-6:30 at the Fellowship Hall.

A Christmas Program will be held December 16th in the church sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. The children will tell the story of the birth of Jesus in song! We will choose a family from the angel tree this year to help spread love and joy to those less fortunate this season.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year!



Annual Nativity Display

The Fishers of Christ Team is once again asking the congregation to consider lending Nativity sets for display. Nativity sets will be on display Friday, Dec. 2 through Sunday, Dec. 4. We ask that you set up your Nativity sets on Thursday Dec. 1 and pick them up on Sunday, Dec. 4 after the late service. We also have a display of angels as a part of the Nativity display. We invite you to lend angels for the display as well. Assistance will be available, if needed. Table space may be reserved for multiple sets and large displays.



Christmas Dinner

Proclaim his glory to the nations, his mighty deeds to all peoples. (Psalm 96:3)

The Local Missions Team will join with the Hill Country Community Needs Council to provide Christmas Dinner in our community to folks who might be alone for the holiday. Dinner is served at noon with transportation and/or delivery provided.

If you or someone you know will be alone for Christmas Day and would like to attend as a guest or have dinner delivered, please call Linda Christensen at 309-361-3970. The meal is free, but free-will offerings will be accepted. All reservations must be in by December 4th.

If you and your family would like to participate in this community outreach, please call the number listed above.

Feeding John for December will be combined with the Christmas dinner on December 25th.

Our next highway cleanup is Saturday, Dec. 3rd, meeting at the Fellowship Hall at 8 AM. If you would like to help please call Jerry Christensen at 309-992-8121. 9

"Fishers for Christ Team" is appreciative of any assistance offered. On Wednesday, Nov. 30 the preparations begin.



Oh Holy Night



BUILDING PROGRAM TOWN MEETING

A forum will be held on Dec. 11 during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall to hear a presentation by the Building Team about the next proposed phase. This part of the program addresses a much-needed Narthex (gathering) space for the church as well as Sunday School and Kindernest enhancement.

ALL ARE INVITED!



LWR WORLD HUNGER
SPECIAL OFFERING

December is dedicated to receiving a special offering for Lutheran World Relief World Hunger! LWR is one of the world's top accountable organizations with 86% of your gift going for direct program assistance; 7% dedicated for fundraising; and 6% spent on administration. A special offering envelope is enclosed in this newsletter. Please use the brown pew envelopes and give prayerfully!



Coming Soon !

HGLC Lenten Devotion 2017

Holy Ghost will publish a Lenten Devotional booklet packed full of stories and insights from HGLC members and friends. The 2017 Lenten theme is **A Time for Everything** from Ecclesiastes 3. Please read this passage and prayerfully consider sharing your thoughts in a short essay. More information will be available and sign-ups will start the weekend of January 7-8.



Adult Class Opportunities



“THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD” studies Isaiah, Hebrews and Revelations led by Alton Klier, Jim Paige, Norm Nevins, and Travis Jones. (Sundays, 9:15am - FH)

Luther’s Small Catechism: The Fundamentals of Our Faith. Anyone who would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church and the basics of their faith is invited to join. Pastor David leads the class. (Sundays, 9:15am - FH)

New Book Study: “*The Best Yes*” is the book that will be studied by the Sunday morning adult book group. This class focuses on discerning all the “good” things we could say “yes” to from all the “better” things. It is written by Lysa Terkheurst and led by Pastor Bobby! Copies are available for \$5.

Women’s Class: A special study designed for women of any age is based on the book by Jennie Allen, “*Anything.*” It is held during the Sunday School hour in the Kammlah Room. Purchase your copy on line. The class is led by Carrie Culpepper and Rhonda Gross.

Men’s Breakfast Devotion: On the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30am, a group meets for food, fellowship, and a devotion at Jalisco’s Restaurant.

Ladies Lunch Study: The ladies lunch study meets every other Wednesday from noon – 1ish in the FH Alpha Room. Priscilla Shirer’s The Armor of God. All ladies welcome! Bring your lunch! Contact Mary Eckert (998-4337) or Kim Gibbs (456-7299).

Men’s Community Bible Study meets every Thursday at 7:00am in the fellowship hall. Leading the class is Pastor Bill Counts. Mike Birdlebough is the contact (998-4504).

Women’s Bible Study “Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy” by Beth Moore is the current study. Please call Karen Nevins (992-9424) or Sandy Birdlebough (998-4504) with any questions.

I would like to thank my loving family and dear friends for their support during my chemo-therapy treatments during the past six months. Their prayers, flowers, and cards of inspiration were truly a blessing.

A special thanks to those who made the home cooked meal for us, and the surprises left at my front door with notes of hope. They were such a blessing.

May God bless you all as you have blessed me.



Sammie Knopp

The Spirit is the official news publication of Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Fbg., Texas, which is wholly responsible for its content.

The Ministers, the Congregation
 Bobby Vitek, Pastor David Priem, Pastor
 Clint Pluenneke, Pastor of Youth & Family Ministries
 Daniel Hofmann, Minister of Children & Young Families

Shanese Lochte, Office Manager
 Jennifer Juenke, Office Assistant
 Blake Neffendorf, Office Assistant
 June Woerner, Finance Secretary
 Alan Williams, Visitation Minister
 Jan Unger, Visitation Minister
 Marti Jennings, Ministry Facilitator
 Kim Bonillas, Kindermost Preschool Director
 Jim Parker, Maintenance Technician
 Deanne Moellering, Music Ministry Coord.
 Carol Brinkmann, Fellowship Hall Supervisor
 Arnold Schlueter, Pastor Emeritus
 Paul & Marie Senff, Missionaries Emeritus

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Friday: 8:30 a.m. - noon

Telephone: 997-2288 / Fax: 997-7869
 Email: holyghost@austin.twcbc.com
 Website: www.holyghostfbg.org

Bobby Vitek - pastorbv@austin.twcbc.com
 David Priem - pastordp@austin.twcbc.com
 Clint Pluenneke - clintp@austin.twcbc.com
 Daniel Hofmann - danielh@austin.twcbc.com

Kindermost Montessori Preschool
 113 E. San Antonio Street
 Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
 Telephone: 997-8939



Please keep us informed

There are many times when your phone call to the church office is the only way we may discover that someone is in the hospital, ill, or in need of a pastoral visit. Please let us know if you have special needs outside the regular office hours.

Nursery

Childcare is available on Sunday mornings from 7:45am-noon so that parents might attend worship and/or Sunday School. Children ages 8 months through 4 years old are welcome. Penny Ersch and Carol Bottlinger are the childcare providers. Penny Ersch also coordinates the volunteers. Additional volunteers are always needed and welcome!

MINISTRY TEAMS:

Barnabas Team	JoAnn Durst	997-2245
Bread of Life	Charles Feller	997-8006
Building Comm.	Kory Keller	210-213-7035
"C" Team	Virginia Clark	997-3494
Cemetery Team	Carey Bonn	997-7215
Cemetery Team	Laverne Boos	997-5759
Feeding John	Sandy Birdlebough	998-4504
Float Team	Jennifer Helfrich	998-5207
Fishers for Christ	Debbie Klaehn	997-7234
Health Care Team	Carla Herbig	992-1865
Holy Ghost Quilters	Helen Usener	997-7945
Holy Ghost Quilters	Irene Crutcher	997-7072
Hospitality Team	Kat Jacoby	210-391-4407
Investment Team	Jamie Runnels	992-2019
Kindermost Team	Tammy Staedtler	998-7031
LWR Quilters	Roslee Lochte	997-1536
Landscape Team	Gary & Lisa King	456-4463
Local Missions	J&L Christensen	309-361-3970
NH Comm. Coord.	Verdie Pezzaro	210-722-4754
NH Devotions	Windy Duecker	997-2983
"P" Team	Donald Pressler	830-329-3603
Passion of Christ	M&D Akin	997-4630
	K&B Sagebiel	997-9519
Property Team	Greg Henricksen	990-8138
Prayer Team	Laverne Cuddy	456-0782
"R" Team	Mary Beth Bauer	864-4201
Resource Mgmt.	Corrine Jung	889-8640
Stewardship Team	Dwayn Boos	456-7218
Welcome Patrol	Sandy Poole	997-9098
Worship Decorating	Yvonne Fox	669-2018

WORSHIP TEAMS:

Altar Guild Coord.	Adela Wunderlich	456-1958
Altar Guild Coord.	Donna Rees	210-355-6971
Communion Servers	Corrine Jung	997-3310
Disciple Team Leader	Glenna Hartman	257-2469
Disciple Team Leader	Marjorie Otte	644-2655
Disciple Team Leader	Polly Zenner	997-5701
Nursery Child Care	Penny Ersch	997-9747
Nursery Child Care	Carol Bottlinger	998-2857
Nursery Vol. Coord.	Penny Ersch	997-9747
Organist/Pianist Coord.	Bernice Basse	669-2380
Readers Coord.	Lois Weidenfeller	997-8455
Video Tech Coord.	Linda Adams	889-3250

CHOIRS:

Bell Choirs	Deanne Moellering	990-8410
Sanctuary Choir	Larry Reavis	997-4287

GROUPS:

Church Council Pres.	Steve Olfers	669-2462
Men in Mission	Ron Cuddy	997-7068
Sunday School Supt.	Kay Melcer	992-9779
Women of Faith	Carol Feuge	997-3071
Women of Faith	Polly Zenner	997-5701
Youth Group	Brook Nevins	992-9424



HOLY GHOST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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