

# MAY 2025 The Visitor



A Community in the Model of Christ

#### From the Bishop...

There is a well-known parable where Jesus talks about seeds thrown in wild abandon. Seeds thrown randomly, haphazardly, you could almost say carelessly ... some seeds tossed upon a path, some seeds on rocky ground, some seeds among thorns and other seeds on so-called "good soil." (To read the whole parable, go to Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:2-9, Luke 8:4-8.)

In the parable there is extravagance, luxury, lavishness. Truth be told, it is terrible farming. But if you take out what we all know about farming techniques, the throwing of seeds in this parable is unfathomable and incomprehensible and beautiful to behold.

And yet ... so often we want to tame the throwing of seeds. We want to make straight lines and uniform rows. We want organization and structure. We might want new things to grow, but we want them to be what we want. Perhaps newish ... but not new. Undergirding it all, I think we want control over this seed thing.

#### But this isn't how the Spirit works.

Instead, as we hear in this parable, God's seed-throwing is all about possibility and energy and the extravagance of God. This parable is about the wildness of God's Spirit. The Sower is throwing out seeds with abandon so that something may develop, sprout, and grow – something unexpected, something astonishing.

This, of course, doesn't mean we cast aside everything already growing. Not at all. Nowhere in this parable does it say that the plants already rooted must be cleared before new seeds can be sown. There are deep-rooted plants already flourishing in God's Garden. These plants have lived through trials and joys and still bear fruit. They need to be watered and tended. They deserve our care, our gratitude, our celebration. The new seeds being scattered don't replace what is planted. Instead, they add to the texture and beauty of God's Garden. Old and new. Rooted and scattered.

## This parable reminds us that God's Garden is not static—it's alive, growing, evolving.

Of course, some seeds that have been thrown have not always taken root. As the parable says – some seeds fall on rocky ground, other seeds land on thorns. There have been experiments that started with high hopes that ended sooner than we would like. There were perhaps disagreements or different ways of doing things. It is true that what works in one section of God's Garden doesn't necessarily work in others. But this is why we plant and trust and sow and dig in the dirt. This is why we trust this Sower sowing seeds. For God's Garden is founded not on the quality of soil but on the lavishness of God the Sower through the Spirit.

When I hear this parable, I celebrate the many different ways that we are living into and sharing God's love and grace in this synod – in ways that the saints before us would recognize and cherish, and in ways they might never have imagined.

#### I invite you to pause for a moment and think of the place and space where you are promised forgiveness and new life, where you receive the body and blood of Jesus, where you hear the proclamation of grace through faith, where you have holy community.

What are some ways that you are deeply rooted? What are some ways that seeds of new possibilities are being planted? What are seeds that are in the wind right now but haven't landed yet? When you think of the broader community where you live – what is your congregation called to in partnership and imagination? How is the Sower throwing seeds of God's love and grace where you live and move and breathe?

In the Northwest Washington Synod, let us rejoice in this time when old and new things come together.

Now is the time that the Spirit is opening us up to new possibilities. Now is the time for listening and collaboration and being in community. Now is the time when we both hold that which we already love and, at the same time, open our hands in order to receive other gifts of promise and wonder.

The dirt, the soil that we are becomes holy ground when God is present. God's seeds of grace fall indiscriminately into the lives of all God's children, into the rocky, thorny, barren and fertile soil of our lives and ministries. The outcome of this gracious sowing cannot be known immediately. One never knows what may come of decadent grace. And yet, day by day, the Sower sows in wild graciousness. And we receive. Together.



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee bishop@lutheransnw.org

#### What's Happening in May

	ig in may			
IN THIS NEWSLETTER	May 1, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal		
2 FROM THE BISHOP	May 2, Friday	8 AM - 2 PM - LWR Loading Day   Parking Lot		
4 LIVING GENEROUSLY	May 3, Saturday	8 - 11:30 AM - LWR Loading Day   Parking Lot 9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team		
5 WORSHIP & MUSIC		3 PM - Movie for Kids   Fellowship Hall		
6 FAITH FORMATION	May 4, Sunday	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person   Downstairs		
8 FAITH IN ACTION		10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation   Library		
9 COMMUNITY		10 AM – Embodied Church Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall <b>11 AM – Traditional Worship</b> 3 PM – Madonna's Book Group   Our Redeemer's		
<ul> <li>OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF</li> <li>Thomas Voelp, Pastor pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net (206) 783-7900 ext. 2</li> <li>Gian Foddai, Informal Worship &amp; Music Director gianfranco@ourredeemers.net</li> <li>Kenna Hight, Faith Formation Coordinator faithformation@ourredeemers.net</li> </ul>	May 5, Monday	5 PM - Church Ladies Beer Night   Old Stove Gardens		
	May 6, Tuesday	7 PM - Church Executive Team Meeting		
	May 7, Wednesday	7 PM – Choir Rehearsal		
	May 8, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal		
	May 11, Sunday	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person   Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation   Library 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>		
<ul> <li>Karen Lee, Traditional Worship &amp; Music Director karen@ourredeemers.net</li> </ul>	May 13, Tuesday	7 PM - Church Council Meeting		
Debbie Lematta, Communications	May 14, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal		
Coordinator communications@ourredeemers.net	May 15, Thursday	7 PM – Informal Worship Band Rehearsal		
<ul> <li>Lake Neill, Service Coordinator neilllake13@gmail.com</li> </ul>	May 16, Friday	NWWA Synod Assembly   Everett, WA		
<ul> <li>Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator administrator@ourredeemers.net</li> </ul>	May 17, Saturday	NWWA Synod Assembly   Everett, WA Norwegian Constitution Day - Syttende Mai		
Office Phone: (206) 783-7900 Office Hours: Mon Thurs. 10am-3pm OUR VISION: In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are	May 18, Sunday	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person   Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation   Library 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>		
an inclusive, devoted, caring, and spiritual community that accepts	May 19, Monday	9 AM - 12 PM - Monthly Volunteer Grounds Crew		
challenges, takes risks, and grows.	May 21, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal		
	May 22, Thursday	7 PM - Informal Worship Band Rehearsal		
Our redeemer's LUTHERAN · BALLARD	May 25, Sunday	<b>9 AM - Informal Worship</b> 9 AM - Sprouts In-Person   Downstairs 10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes   Downstairs 10 AM - Confirmation   Library 10 AM - Adult Forum   Fellowship Hall <b>11 AM - Traditional Worship</b>		
	May 26, Monday	Memorial Day - Church Office Closed		
	May 28, Wednesday	7 PM - Choir Rehearsal		
	May 29, Thursday	7 PM – Informal Worship Band Rehearsal		



Mission Budget FY 2024–2025 July–March	Income	2024-2025 Approved Budget	Income Thru 03.31.25	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
(75% thru FY) Our Redeemer's regularly publishes a Mission Budget report to keep	Envelope & Loose Offerings	515,075	348,628	68.5%	(33,198)
	Church Use	84,375	63,452	75.2%	171
	Fundraising (Auction)*	26,000	20,677	79.5%	1,177
	Interest	500	418	83.6%	43
	TOTAL INCOME	433,175	69.2%	(36,288)	433,175
congregants					
informed about the current financial health of the church.	Expenses	2024-2025 Approved Budget	Expenses Thru 03.31.25	% of Budget Year to Date	Over (Under) Budget Year to Date
See the church's current Financial Snapshot at this url: <u>https://bit.</u> <u>ly/447rDio.</u>	Social Justice/Outreach	52,827	34,863	66.0%	(4,757)
	Pastoral Staff	122,033	87,086	71.4%	(4,439)
	Worship & Music	67,609	47,707	70.6%	(2,999)
	Fellowship & Caring	20,727	6,625	32.0%	(8,920)
	Faith Formation	25,904	10,676	41.2%	(8,752)
	Stewardship	8,418	6,803	80.8%	489
	Communications	49,985	35,746	71.5%	(1,743)
	Facilities	168,944	132,631	78.5%	5,923
	Administration	166,169	93,455	56.2%	(31,171)
	TOTAL EXPENSES	682,616	455,592	66.7%	(56,370)
rodoomor'c			(22,417)		20,082

#### A Letter to Parents from Betsy McGregor, Church Council Secretary

I write to you as a representative of the Church Council, regarding safety and security on our church campus. The Council is currently reviewing and revising safety and security policies. One area of focus has been acknowledging the realities of being in an urban environment while remaining true to our church's mission and values.

**One of the tenets of Our Redeemer's is that we are a welcoming and open community.** We want all of our neighbors to feel invited into our church and to feel God's presence and acceptance. This includes people who may be struggling with untreated mental illness as well as those in the active use stages of drug or alcohol addiction. Each of us on the Council believes it is essential to extend this type of welcome at Our Redeemer's. At the same time, we recognize that untreated mental illness and substance use can sometimes lead to unpredictable, and occasionally concerning or unsafe, behaviors.

## As Council works through our safety and security policies and procedures, an area of focus is the safety of children, youth, and vulnerable adults in all aspects of our church community–especially on Sundays during worship.

On Sundays, the exterior doors in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall are unlocked and anyone can enter the building at any time during worship and Sunday morning activities. The Council is particularly concerned about unattended children in these areas during services as there is no staff available to supervise them.

Jordan serves as our church nursery caregiver. During services when nursery care is not needed, he stays in the back of the Sanctuary to help with the children's area.

To be clear, the Narthex and Fellowship Hall remain accessible to you, your children, and anyone else during services. The intention of this email is to ensure all parents, guardians, and responsible adults in our congregation have the information needed to make the best decisions for the children in their care on Sunday mornings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at <u>bemac7309@gmail.com</u> or reach out to Pastor Thomas.





Life is challenging and busy right now. This one designated hour helps me feel a little more grounded, a little more able to face the many tasks ahead.

#### **Rhythm of Silence**

by Karen Lee, Our Redeemer's Traditional Worship and Music Director

Once a year — from noon on Good Friday to noon on Holy Saturday — our church offers the opportunity for a 24-Hour Prayer Vigil. I sign up each year because that hour of uninterrupted silence and prayer is rare and meaningful.

This time, after reading the provided devotional notebook — with some pages created years ago by my dear mom — and all the slips of paper with hand-written prayers from members of our congregation, I allowed myself to sink into my chair in front of the candle cross. I closed my eyes and asked God to let me hear whatever I needed to hear.

Musician that I am, every sound around me became a rhythm. I first noticed my own heartbeat: steady and always there, though I usually don't pay attention to it — and realize I often take it for granted. Next was the noise of cars — usually annoying to me when I long for silence — but today, I heard music in that too: the crescendo of a motor as it drove past the church, and the decrescendo, almost like wind, as it sped away. The constant ebb and flow of the cars became predictable and even comforting, as strange as that sounds.

I encourage you to sign up for the 24-Hour Prayer Vigil next year. And until then, let's all try to grant ourselves more moments to be still and listen for God in all the many rhythms around us.

## Save the Date – June 8 Pentecost Sunday – 9 AM & 11 AM Services Graduation Sunday – 11 AM Services

We are celebrating Pentecost on Sunday and our graduates on June 8th. Pentecost is the day we recognize God's creation of the Church. It is our tradition to wear red that day. If you have a graduate you'd like celebrate that day, let Pastor Thomas know.

### **Ongoing Worship Assistant Training**

Worship is a large part of our life together as a church. We best represent that life in our worship services with the many gifts shared through prayer, reading, greeting, welcoming, guiding, and sharing of the sacraments. Our **Sign-Up Genius online** allows you to get involved as you feel moved—signing up for one or more roles helps our sharing of God's works to and through us!

If you have served, or have a desire to serve at worship, and need a refresher or some direction, Pastor Thomas is glad to help you feel confident in your role. Would you like to write prayers of the people? Would you like to both serve at the table and read the scriptures? Would you like to embolden the drama of the liturgy and learn to embody reverence and grace? All these things are possible and more. Contact <u>Pastor Thomas</u> if you are interested or use the QR Code here to sign up online. Thank you for what you do!





## Faith Formation

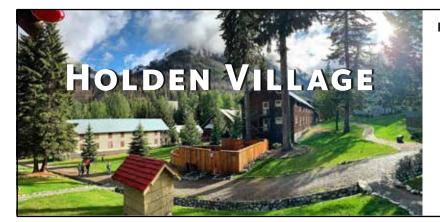


#### **Embodied Church: Breath**

Sunday, May, 4, 10 AM | Fellowship Hall

Did you know that each of us has probably breathed in some of the same atoms that were exhaled at the Last Supper? Come experience what our breath has to teach us about God, about ourselves, and even about community. (Hint: it's a surprising amount!)

All ages are welcome. We'll end with a nature walk complete with contemplative breath practices.



It's not too late to join Our Redeemer's for a special week at Holden Village, July 13-20. It's a wonderful opportunity to get away, connect, reflect, and learn in the beauty of the Cascades.

Self-register directly through Holden Village: <u>https://www.holdenvillage.org</u>.

#### Sign up soon to be sure you get a spot! (Scholarships Available)

Questions? Contact Tad Anderson – tadand99@ gmail.com | (206-445-5052) or Cindy Anderson – cindyrowanderson@gmail.com | (206-351-4098).

## **Celebrating May Birthdays**

- 1 Maria Kalina
- 2 Jennifer Kremer
- 3 Iris Miller
- 4 Mia Brady
- 4 Victoria Hunter
- 5 Alyson Sundal
- 5 Angela Beranek
- 6 Cyanne Tung
- 7 Erin Miller
- 8 Carolyn Davis
- 9 Kim Smith
- 10 Margaret Berg
- 11 Anita Lewis
- 12 Logan McCarthy-Fredericks

- 12 Connie Sandstrom
- 12 AJ Schoolcraft
- 12 Ed Woodfield
- 13 Shelbe Kukowski
- 15 Jean Hall
- 16 Jodi Somm
- 18 Steve Kaimmer
- 19 Linda Carbone
- 20 Matteo Lowe
- 20 Mary Peterson
- 21 Elaine Stevens\*
- 22 Sonja Braasch
  - 2 Sonja Braasch
- 22 Malaika Dugaw
- 22 Jolanta Grigsby

- 22 Steven Jones
- 23 Kathy Hendricks
- 23 Eric Running
- 24 Katharine Staples
- . 25 Emilie Purvine
- 26 Emily Brown
- 26 Emily Purvine
- 26 Emily Bicknell
- 28 Matteo Lowe
- 28 Colina Neu
- 28 Andrew Shimer
- 30 David Neu
- 31 Shirley Holt
- 31 Olivia Rallo

\* Birthday Blessings to Elaine Stevens who is celebrating a 90+ birthday this month.



#### Youth Faith Formation News and Updates

by Kenna Hight, Faith Formation Coordinator (faithformation@ourredeemers.net)

#### NEW! Saturday Movie Showings Begin in May

Our Redeemer's is excited to launch a new series of Saturday movie afternoons designed for kids and families. These gatherings offer entertainment, connection, and meaningful conversation around important themes—starting with Mental Health Awareness Month.

#### Family Movie Afternoon: "Inside Out 2"

#### Saturday, May 3, 3 PM | Our Redeemer's

Kick off Mental Health Awareness Month with a fun, family-friendly showing of Inside Out 2! This animated film opens the door to age-appropriate conversations about emotions and mental health. Healthy snacks provided.

#### **Documentary Screening: Mental Health & Resilience**

#### Saturday, May 17, 3 PM | Our Redeemer's

Join us for a thought-provoking documentary exploring mental health, brain resilience, and how we care for ourselves and others in challenging times. A great opportunity for older kids, teens, and adults to engage in meaningful reflection and discussion.

#### Interested in an Affordable Week of Summer School?

#### 9 AM - Noon Daily, July 28-August 1 | Our Redeemer's

Looking for a Summer Camp for the kids that's affordable and faith-filled? Then have them join Our Redeemer's at an exciting week at *God's New Creation*, a faith-filled Vacation Bible School! Designed for children of all ages, this engaging program is based on ELCA World Hunger's VBS curriculum and focuses on the vital role of animals in ending hunger around the world. Use the QR code here to register to immerse your child in a week of faith, fun, and making a difference in the world. Registrations submitted by the end of May will earn a \$15 discount. Adults can join in on the fun as a VBS volunteer. Please reach out if interested! Email Kenna or use the sign-up sheet at church!



#### Monthly Youth Group Meetup

#### Mondays, 6 PM | Ballard Coffee Works, 2060 NW Market Street

We had our first meetup on April 28th. Thanks to those who showed up! We will be hosting more hangouts for youth from grades 7-12 for the purpose of connection and conversation. Stay tuned for upcoming dates as we ramp up these get-togethers!









#### Lutheran World Relief: Spring Loading

LWR Loading Dates: Friday & Saturday, May 2 & 3 | Our Redeemer's Parking Lot

The LWR loading event takes place this Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, in the parking lot. We'd love to have you stop by during the truck loading:

- Friday, May 2 from 8:00 AM 2:00 PM
- Saturday, May 3 from 8:00 AM 11:30 AM

Whether you come to see how it all works, to lend a hand, or just to drop off cookies or pastries for the loaders—we welcome you! It's an inspiring sight: folks travel from as far as Aberdeen to the Canadian border to deliver quilts and kits to Our Redeemer's. We operate entirely on community support—no government funding—so everything we do is made possible by your kindness. Let's keep the momentum going!

#### **Be a Part of Ballard Sunday Dinner** Third Thursday, May 18 | Ballard First Lutheran Church, 2006 NW 65th

Every third Sunday, Ballard Sunday Dinner (BSD) partners with local churches at Ballard First Lutheran to serve a warm, nourishing meal to our neighbors in need. It's a simple act of kindness that can have a big impact, especially during the colder months. **Our next dinner is May 18**, and there are roles for you! No experience is necessary—our team will guide you every step of the way to ensure you feel comfortable and supported.

We'd love to have you join us in making a difference! Sign up here: <u>https://rb.gy/ea817</u> or reach out to Pastor Thomas at <u>pastorthomas@ourredeemers.net</u>. Thank you for helping us spread kindness in our community!



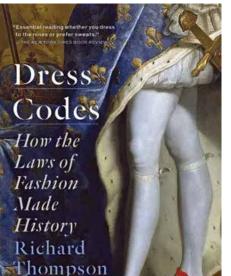


## Are You Curious about Church Leadership?

Every year, members have an opportunity to participate in church leadership. If you have any curiosity or interest in serving on Church Council please contact the nominating team: Emilie Purvine, Jana Davis, and Steve Cromwell. If you don't reach them personally at church, please send an email to the Parish Administrator Karie Stearns (<u>administrator@ourredeemers.net</u>) with "Nominating Team" in the subject line and she will forward it to us. One of the team will gladly give you information or answer any questions you have about the rewarding Council ministry. Thank you in advance for your inquiries.







### Save the Date: Annual Meeting is 6/22

Sunday, June 22 | Our Redeemer's

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday June 22nd after the morning service (there is just one summertime service that day at 10:00 am). At 11:00 am we will vote to approve income/expenditures for 2024–2025 and voting to approve the 6 month budget for 2025.

All active members in good standing are eligible to vote.

### Madonna's Book Group Meets in May

Sunday, May 4, 3 PM | Our Redeemer's

The next Madonna's meeting is on May 4th, 3:00 pm at church to discuss the book **Dress Codes**, by Richard Thompson Ford. Everyone identifying as female are welcome to Contact Lynne at <u>buckomcneill@yahoo.com</u> to get on the group's mailing list.

In Dress Codes, Richard Thompson Ford explores how fashion has long been a marker of status, control, and social change. From medieval sumptuary laws to modern workplace norms, dress codes have shaped power dynamics and social mobility. With sharp insight, Ford reveals the hidden influence of clothing, proving that fashion is far from superficial.



Ford

## Are You Going to the 17th of May Seattle Parade?

Saturday, May 17, 4-6 PM | Ballard

Many in our community celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day with the largest 17th of May parade outside of Norway, right in the heart of Ballard!

*Did you know...* Norwegians all over the world celebrate the 17th of May with parades, speeches, and more. Since 1889, the Norwegian-American community of Seattle has celebrated the 17th of May, and now the festivities in Seattle is touted as the third largest 17th of May celebration in the world, behind Oslo and Bergen.

If you are celebrating Norwegian Constitution Day take a photo and share it with us by emailing <u>communications@ourredeemers.net</u>. HIPP HIPP HIPP HURRA! Learn more: <u>https://www.17thofmay.org</u>





Sign up today to host or attend our next Breaking Bread Together Dinner on June 8th and share a meal in community!

#### Breaking Bread Together – Sign Up to Host or Attend!

Sunday, June 8, 6 PM | Various Congregant Homes

Our Breaking Bread Sunday evening dinners are just the ticket for getting to know other members of the congregation! Six people gather at various hosts' houses for a potluck dinner and conversation. Our next Breaking Bread Group is set for Sunday, June 8th (Pentecost Sunday). We are seeking hosts as well as dinner participants. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or you can sign up by email.

Contact: Annie McGrew (<u>annemcgrew@msn.com</u>) or Cindy Anderson (<u>cindyrowanderson@gmail.com</u>) if you have questions or to sign up. Let's celebrate Pentecost together!



## Build a Community of Faith with the Women of Our Redeemer's!

Monday, April 7, 5 PM | Old Stove Gardens Brewery

Looking for a warm and welcoming space to relax and connect? Join the "Church Ladies" of Our Redeemer's for an evening of conversation, delicious food, and refreshing drinks! This monthly gathering is all about building friendships, offering support, and strengthening our ties with one another and our community — while gathering back to our faith and celebrating what we all have in common.

If you identify as female, we'd love for you to be part of it! We meet at 1550 NW 49th St, near the Ballard Bridge, where you can enjoy a variety of food and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options available). Free parking is nearby. If you need a ride or have questions, reach out to Kari Guddal at <u>kari\_guddal@outlook.</u> <u>com</u>. We look forward to seeing you there!



#### Be a Community Gardener at Our Redeemer's Monday, May 19, 9 AM - Noon | Our Redeemer's Gardens

In April, we made some exciting updates to our landscaping! New plantings were added below the main sign near the birch trees, replacing hundreds of bluebells with drought-tolerant plants that provide seasonal color and stay low to the ground. Keep an eye out for the vibrant Mango Geum flowers blooming this summer!

In May, we'll focus on pruning the south garden bed to improve visibility around the church grounds and continue weeding to keep everything looking beautiful.

All levels of gardening experience are welcome! Come enjoy the outdoors, connect with others, and help care for the grounds that welcome our community. Questions? Contact Carol Hurlburt, <a href="https://chtd015@gmail.com">chtd015@gmail.com</a> or Connie Sandstrom, <a href="https://conniesandstrom05@gmail.com">conniesandstrom05@gmail.com</a> .

## Easter Sunday at Our Redeemer's

























2400 NW 85th Street Seattle, WA 98117

www.ourredeemers.net (206)783-7900

return service requested

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM Informal Worship 11 AM Traditional Worship

Stream Online on Sundays (11 AM) Facebook: facebook.com/OurRedeemers Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/822691346

**Church office hours:** Monday-Thursday 10 AM - 3PM

## Take Your Loved Ones to the Ballgame! Mariners Faith & Family Day

## Saturday, August 2

T-Mobile Park, Seattle

Join Our Redeemer's at the ballpark and cheer on the Mariners as they face the Texas Rangers. Enjoy a day of fun, fellowship, and faith!

## Ticket Cost \$21

Sign up at church or contact <a href="mailto:signup">sign up at church or contact</a>







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