

## St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

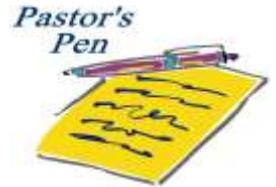
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# JANUARY 2022

*People, look east. The time is near, of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way. -"People, Look East" ELW 248*



The month of January brings us the season of Epiphany. We commemorate how the Magi from the East visit Mary and Joseph at their home and bring Jesus gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. Many families bless their home with a special inscription across the door frame. Our St. Paul Family will share in these house blessings January 9. This ritual connects us with God in our home and encourages us to live in ways that share God's love whenever we leave our home as well.

After the Wise Ones visit Jesus, his family has to flee their home to escape King Herod's threat to murder Jesus. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus live as refugees in Egypt before they set off to make a new life for themselves in Nazareth.

During the month of January, we will also take time to recognize those who have had to flee their homes. In June of 2021 the UN Refugee Agency reports that at least 82.4 million people have been forced to leave their homes around the world. That number is astounding and heartbreaking. We do have opportunities to help. During January the Children's offering collected will go to support the ministry of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, or LIRS. Check out their website to learn more and join in their advocacy work <https://www.lirs.org/>.

May this month of January be a time to welcome love into our homes and hearts.

Peace,  
Pastor Makayla

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## Thank You!

My dear St. Paul Congregation, thank you for the Christmas card and gift.



It is an honor and blessing to be your pastor!

Your generosity is most appreciated.

May God bless our ministry together.

Pastor Makayla

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**This past month** we have prayed for the following: Jon Birkey, Harlan Zamora, Jacob Dahleen, Dale Worley, Lori Dewey, Berta Beyer, Dave Kendall, MacKenzie Gorman, Eliza Marinack, Marcia Fields, the family and friends of Richard Landheer. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. **Please contact Sue in the church office if you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list.**

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## Join us For Worship

**10:00 a.m. worship and praise God.**

**We returned to indoor worship Sunday, October 24.**

**Just a reminder that masks are required while in the building.**

### Tri-Church Online Worship Services

Worship will be available at 9am on Sunday and any time after that:

<http://stpaulsterling.com/> & <https://stpaulsterling.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f94d986cbc4c67a176723cace&id=eff197e4e9&e=2acc769427>

You can call the toll-free number 1-888-975-5536 and listen anytime.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Annual Business Meeting will the January 23

The Nominating Committee will be seeking persons to serve on the Congregation Council. Please prayerfully consider serving for a two-year term. If you have questions about serving talk to Jim Gorman or Pastor Makayla.

**Annual reports due into the church office no later than Monday, January 10.**



*Annual Business Meeting*

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

### Covid-19 Policy

Per Governor's Order Aug 26, 2021



1. Masks are required for everyone regardless of vaccination status while in the building.
2. Song leaders may take off their masks to sing during indoor worship.
3. During outside worship and/or activities, masks are optional.

### Scripture Readings for Worship at Home

(These devotional readings may not exactly match the readings at in-person or online worship)

January 2022	First reading	Psalms	Second reading	Gospel
Jan 2, 2022 Second Sunday of Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
Jan 9, 2022 Epiphany, Observed	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matt 2:1-14
Jan 16, 2022 Baptism of our Lord, Observed	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalms 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 23, 2022	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Jan 30, 2022	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalms 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30



## ***Church Announcements***



### **JANUARY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Monetary donations can be sent to the church. Money can be designated for either Trinity Food Pantry, FISH Pantry or to the Sauk Valley Food Bank.

### **Coffee Fellowship**

If you would like to sign-up to celebrate a special event, the sheet is on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee time begins at 9:00 a.m. during the Sunday school hour.



### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The sign up chart is on the wall by the church office. If you would like to order in memory of in honor of someone, sign-up and let Sue know if you will be ordering them yourself or if you would like her to order for you.

**CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)** The next date will be Monday, January 31. Libby Schrader will be the host. They will be going to A's Kitchen in Rock Falls at 6:00 p.m. Sign-up up on the sheet on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you will be attending and to host a future date. We are really looking forward to seeing you! If you need more information, you can contact Libby Schrader: 815-626-0764.



### **St. Paul Year Budget Report**

2021 Budget \$247,050 (\$20,588 Monthly)

#### **Totals through December 29, 2021**

Budgeted Expenses	\$247,050
Offerings/Interest	\$249,487
Expenses	\$215,437



### **LSSI Holiday Hope Chest**

Thank you to all who donated. A total of \$429.36 was collected through donations and the children's offerings.



**Thank you to all who donated through the children's offering that went towards purchasing a Family Farm. A total of \$689.96 was collected. The list of items that were purchased appears later in this newsletter. THANK YOU!**

## Stewardship – Treat Your Treasure as a Trust

We never really own anything during our brief time on earth. God just loans it to us while we're here. The Bible says, *"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live on it are his"* Psalm 14:1

The first job God gave humans was to manage and take care of God's "stuff" on earth. This role has never been rescinded. It is a part of our purpose today. Everything we enjoy is to be treated as a trust that God has placed in our hands.

If someone lets you use their beautiful, beachfront home in Hawaii for a vacation and told to use it just like it's yours, do you take special care of everything. Do you enjoy the benefits of using the home without owning it? Are you responsible stewards of the gift that you were given?

Jesus often referred to life as a trust and told many stories to illustrate our responsibility toward God. In the story of the talents, a businessman evaluates each servant's responsibility and rewards them accordingly. He says. *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"* Matthew 25:21

At the end of your life on earth, you will be evaluated and rewarded according to how well you handled what God entrusted to you. That means everything you do-even simple daily chores-has eternal implications. If you treat everything as a trust, God promises three rewards in eternity.

First, you will be given God's affirmation: He will say, "Good job! Well done! Next, you will receive a promotion and be given greater responsibility in eternity: "I will put you in charge of many things." Then you will be honored with a celebration: "Come and share your Master's happiness."

There will be no greater joy, and it is available to every faithful steward of God's gifts.

**Treat your treasures as a trust; God will meet your deepest needs. Use your talents!!**

**Give generously with a grateful heart!**

**Thank you to all who make 2021 a very good year for St. Paul. Your contributions of time, talents and treasures went a long way to help sustain our mission.**

**Happy New Year 2022!!**

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**If you have not had a chance** to fill out and turn in your 2022 Contribution Pledge card, you can do so at any time either in person or by mail. If you didn't receive one or would like one, please let Sue know.

**TO DATE**, a total of \$165,760 has been pledged to our 2022 Contributions.





**Offering envelopes for 2022 are** available for pick-up. Please dispose of 2021 envelopes at the end of the year as your number for 2022 will be different. If you cannot find your envelopes or you would like some, please contact the church office.

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Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

**Our next quilting day will be Wednesday, January 19, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.**

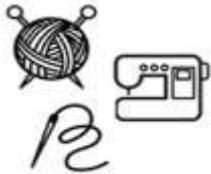
**We are in need of a working sewing machine.**

**If you have one and would like to donate it, please let us know.**

There are quilt top kits in the LWR basket in the fellowship hall. They can be taken home, sewed, and turned to the closet next to the kitchen.

We also need clean fabric such as quilting fabric, blankets, sheets and mattress pads to be reused within our quilts.

Please join us in this great ministry. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** Questions? Call Lucille Dole 847-385-1862 or Debbie O'Brien 815-441-0257.



**There are opportunities to serve and create at St. John's and Immanuel! ALL are welcome at any of the opportunities regardless of the location.**

**St. John's welcomes you to participate in their Prayer Shawl Ministry!** They gather the second Saturday of every month from 9-11:30 a.m. (or so). They have all the supplies needed (yarn, crochet hooks, & knitting needles) or you are free to bring your own. If you are interested and would like to learn how to knit or crochet they are glad to teach you! Coffee and snacks are provided. Prayer shawls are gifted to people in the midst of a challenging time (illness, grief, etc.).

**Immanuel Quilters** meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Their quilts will be used to support local ministries, LWR, and so much more! All are welcome!

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**Part of the ministry we share** includes providing a worship space that gives glory to God. Especially in this, one of our highest festival occasions, we decorate with particular detail. Thanks to the following people for the donation of poinsettias, a symbol of the season:

**Pastor Makayla & Jacob Dahleen** in honor of our parents and grandparents

**Pam Sorrenson and Lori Dewey** in memory of Merle & Lucille Wolfley

**Jerry & Kye Crofts** in memory of Heather Crofts

**Judy & Bob Bartel and family, Donna & Dave Kendall and family** in memory of Ruth & Don Stern and Mabel Rohde

**Lucille Dole** in memory of Jack Dole and Keith Dole

**Leta VanZuiden** in memory of family and friends

**Julie Woessner** in memory of Bob Woessner and Bob Wasmund

**Diane Yoeckel** in memory of Craig Yoeckel

**Nancy Frank** in memory of Harold Frank

**Dale & Sharon Worley** in memory of Woody & Justine, Harvey & Pearl

**Hope Howell** in memory of Victor Howell and Ethelyn Pool

**Noreen & Verges Aageson** in memory of Ken & Miriam Chubb, and Carl & Minna Weideranders

**Harold & Sandy Julifs** in memory of family members who have gone before us

**Dianne Stern Miller** in memory of our family and friends

**Nancy Beck** in memory of loved ones

**Ron & Janie Billings** in memory of our parents

**If you ordered a poinsettia** and would like to take it home, you may do so.

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**In addition to poinsettias**, an opportunity was given to purchase needed items for ELCA Good Gifts.

**Water Filter**

John Renner

Dick & Audrey Cox

Nancy Frank in memory of Eric Arduini

Nancy Beck

**Latrine**

Mike & Debbie O'Brien

**Fruit tree seedling**

Florence Pfundstein

Myra Oelrichs

Dianne Stern Miller

**Seeds and gardening tools**

Myra Oelrichs

**Mosquito Net(s)**

Donna Kendall

Myra Oelrichs

Leta VanZuiden

**Hygiene Kit**

John Renner

Nancy Beck

Leta VanZuiden

Cathy Cox



**BIRTHDAYS FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS & GUESTS**

If you don't see your name on this list or there is a correction to be made, please let Sue know in the church office.

2 Marilyn Geiger

3 Greg Zeigler

11 Dale Ordean

15 Vicki Sauter

17 Ron Gerken

18 Rebecca Waite

19 **Donna Palmer – 91**

20 Berta Beyer

Jim Lincoln

Eliana Avelar

22 Cathy Cox

Jacob Straw

25 Evan Lobdell

26 Nancy Frank

Chad Arians

28 Kate VonHolten

29 Paige Reitzel

30 Eli Beswick

31 Karol Gerken

Bev Julien

Amy Zeigler

**Happy 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**

January 3, 1970

Bob & Judy Bartel

**Happy 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**

January 24, 1960

Ron & Karol Gerken

**Happy 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

January 26, 1968

Mike & Debbie O'Brien

**JANUARY**



**BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES**

# BRANCHES



*Youth and Family Ministries of St. John's and St. Paul Lutheran Church*

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## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

### HIGHLIGHTS

**CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS** Thanks be to God for the St Paul children, youth and adult leaders who brought us the story of our savior Jesus's birth through word, song and artwork. The St Paul Christmas program was also featured as part of a Tri Church youth Christmas worship online December 26.



# EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION

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## FAITH FORMATION 2021-22:

### PREK 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL/SUNDAY

**YOUTH GROUPS:** We will continue to meet in person for faith formation groups at St. Paul. For the safety of our families, all students and teachers are required to wear masks for all indoor activities and events. The PreK-K, 1st—3rd grade, 4th—6th grade Sunday school classes and the 7-8th grade youth group meet from 9-9:45am High schoolers are meeting after the 10 am worship service (times and location of high school youth group will vary each Sunday). **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL or YOUTH GROUPS JANUARY 2 – CHRISTMAS BREAK.** Sunday school resumes January 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the St. Paul Sunday school children, youth and adults for your hard work on this year's youth worship/Christmas program.



### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH:

Sundays...

Jan. 2 – NOT MEETING – CHRISTMAS BREAK

Jan. 9, 11am – noon – youth group at St Paul

Jan. 16, 11am – noon – youth group at St John's

Jan. 23, noon – 1:30pm @ Immanuel Lutheran, Rock Falls

Youth gathering getting ready meeting w/ lunch

Jan. 30, 11am – noon – youth group at St Paul

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### Confirmation Class



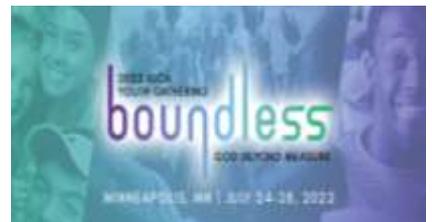
**TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS:** The 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders are currently meeting at Immanuel Lutheran in Rock Falls, 7:00 – 8:15pm. Classes resume January 5. NOTE: The class has written their own version of the Lord's Prayer, which was used for Tri Church online worship on December 26 and will be used during upcoming worship services. REMINDER: if your student's school is cancelled or

dismissed early due to weather, they will not need to attend confirmation class that evening.

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### YOUTH GATHERING IN MINNEAPOLIS 2022

For current 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. We have officially registered for the gathering next summer. However, if you would still like to go, standard registration continues to **January 21, 2022** (standard registration deposit = \$140 due at the time of registering). Students who have registered already, please make sure you pay the \$100 deposit (**checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church**). If you have



received a youth gathering scholarship, the deposit is waived. We estimate the gathering will cost around \$1,000 per participant (based on the early reg. rate). We will continue to fundraise to offset the cost of this trip. Scholarships through the ELCA are available to apply for (until they run out of funds). Ask Gerad about scholarships. **Our next ‘Getting-Ready’ meeting is Sunday January 23, noon – 1:30pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Falls; free lunch is included.** Get latest updates at [elca.org/YouthGathering](http://elca.org/YouthGathering) and at [facebook.com/youthgathering](https://facebook.com/youthgathering) and check your email.

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**YOUTH GATHERING 2022 YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS APPLY**

If you are a senior in high school this year or older and will be at least 19 years-old at the time of the gathering July 22, 2022, applications for servant companions are being accepted. Please contact Gerad if you are interested in sharing a week of your time to help at the youth gathering. Your travel, room and board expenses will be covered. This is a great opportunity to serve and learn and grow in your faith. Our young adults who have volunteered for the gathering in the past have had life-giving experiences. For full details and to apply go to: <https://elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>



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**ST PAUL VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS UPDATING**



Sunday school teachers, VBS volunteers, all children and youth ministry volunteers: we continue updating our volunteer applications for anyone who works closely with children and youth. This also includes updating background checks for volunteers who have not had a background check completed within the last 3 years. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work through this process together. Thank you to

volunteers who have already turned in their updated forms! And, thank you for helping us to create and maintain safe spaces for our young people and volunteers.

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**JANUARY CHILDREN’S OFFERING:** This month our offering goes to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). We especially remember the people who have recently fled Afghanistan seeking safety. “Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum



seekers and refugees in the U.S. Simply put, we resettle refugees, reunite children and parents, and rekindle the American Dream.” (*LIRS.org*) Thank you for your ministry of giving.



## Community Announcements



**Whiteside County Senior** is resuming in person services and activities to combat senior isolation. Daily lunches are currently being served Monday thru Thursday from 11am until 12pm. These meals cost only \$3 to those age 60 and over (under age 60, \$6). Link can be accepted as payment. Starting January 4, they are bringing the coffee clutch back every morning from 8-9:30am, if you are looking for coffee and conversation stop by for “Coffee Time with Luis.”

They will be offering monthly educational watch parties through the Alzheimer’s Association, for the caregivers of loved ones who suffer with Alzheimer or dementia. Fancy Feet Foot Clinics are on the first Wednesday by appointment only (call 815-213-0324).

They are bring back the FUN with games, cards groups, movie days, pool tables, yoga and line dancing! We will be traveling again too! Their first day trip is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> to Circa 21 – “Just Desserts”, a comedy matinee with lunch, dessert, and transportation all for one low price. Please call the senior center 815-622-9230, to reserve a spot!

They hope to bring even more activities, services and volunteer opportunities. Watch for their information and events in the Golden Echo news!

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### Member Churches of Good Neighbor Emergency Center

At our GNEC Board meeting, November 23, 2021, the Board made a decision to **dissolve Good Neighbor Emergency Center (GNEC) at the end of the year.**

GMEC was organized more than 30 years ago and it has worked well. We are generously supported, but we no longer have enough volunteers and the volunteers who do serve so willingly, are aging and have to quit serving. We are not finding younger volunteers who feel an ownership for our community to replace our aging workers.

Many needy have been helped by the ministry of Good Neighbor. Thank you for your generous support over these past 30 years, but we are no longer able to carry on this ministry on your behalf.



GNEC Board Members: Pastor Phil Gronbach, President; Lois Rowzee, Secretary; Harold Dale, Treasurer; Dan Erisman, Volunteer Coordinator; Sandy Julifs, Exec. Secretary; Leonard Johnson, Harold Julifs, Joyce Long and Sandy Vandernick.



# Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

## The Magi

X T T S Q T Q M R Q P M G L O W L Q B W  
Z S H P H V O F A M K T Y J V E W M E I  
T A O L L J U D E A I O N R G Q E V T S  
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KINGMAKER

MYRRH

TORAH TEACHERS

GOLD

BALAAM

JOURNEY

KING HEROD

FRANKINCENSE

BETHLEHEM

PARTHIA

PROPHECY

JERUSALEM

HORSES

JUDEA

WISE MEN

STAR

YESHUA

MICAH



**Please remember our Members & Friends on the Home Visitation List:**

*Katherine Janssen* – Rm. B104  
Resthabe Nursing Home  
408 Maple Avenue, Morrison, IL 61270

*Viola Koster* – Rm. 306  
Windsor Manor  
403 Scenic Street, Morrison, IL 61270

*Cliff Miller*  
Moosehaven  
1701 Park Drive, Orangepark, FL 32073

*Burt Severson*  
5147 Edgewood Circle, Mesa AZ 85206

*Gladys Stern* – Apt. 206  
Heritage Woods  
2205 Oak Grove Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081



# TELEPHONE PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

We welcome your prayer requests and also your praise reports:

*(Want to be a part of this? Call the church office.)*

Pastor Makayla (815) 780-9401  
Janie Billings (815) 564-8628  
Judy Bartel (815) 751-6768  
Greg Zeigler (815) 632-3366

James 5:16 *Pray one for another.*

## DIRECTORY OF STAFF and CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

(815) 780-9401 – [pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com)

Gerad Von Holten, Youth Director; (815) 626-8329 home;

(815) 590-0006, cell – [gerad@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:gerad@stpaulsterling.com)

Sue Dirks, Parish Secretary

(815) 535-3574 – [sue@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:sue@stpaulsterling.com)



### 2021 Congregation Council

President – Jim Gorman

Vice President – JJ Shore

Treasurer – Chrissy Zollinger

Secretary – Janie Billings

#### Christian Education/Youth

Jennifer Pillars ('22) 716-0311  
Andy Beswick ('23) 785-202-0636  
Kelci Eakle ('23) 441-5401

#### Stewardship

Janie Billings ('22) 564-8628  
Bev Julien ('23) 716-8797

#### Social Outreach

JJ Shore ('23) 590-2868  
Bev Julien ('23) 716-8797

#### Lay Ministry & Worship

Jim Gorman ('23) 716-7043  
JJ Shore ('23) 590-2868

#### Property & Management

Pam Machan ('23) 847-302-6772  
Andy Beswick ('23) 785-202-0636  
Jim Gorman ('23) 716-7043

#### Treasurer

Chrissy Zollinger ('22) 262-903-0007

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1701 Sixteenth Ave.  
STERLING, ILLINOIS 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**– DATED MATERIAL –  
PLEASE DO NOT HOLD**



***LOVING – SERVING – SHARING***

**DIRECTORY OF STAFF**

Office (815) 625-3069

Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Email: [stpaulsterling@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsterling@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stpaulsterling.com](http://www.stpaulsterling.com)

Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Sterling, IL

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

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