



St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

1701 Sixteenth Avenue
Sterling, Illinois 61081-1543
Phone (815) 625-3069

Email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net
Website: www.stpaulsterling.com

JUNE 2022

Summer feels like it is here! The sun is shining. I can smell charcoal burning and hear cheering from the ball diamond down the road. I am looking forward to tasting the sweet frosting of graduation cake, while taking bites in-between conversation about future hopes and dreams. In June we often reflect and celebrate the accomplishments of the past school year, and yet look forward to what might be next. Here at St. Paul we will be taking some intentional time to celebrate the hard work of the past and yet start to prepare for our next chapter in our life together.



During worship on June 12 we will celebrate anyone who has graduated from an educational program whether it be high school, a certificate program, or an advanced degree. Please let us know if someone in your family graduated so we can reach out to get some pictures and recognize them in worship.

On June 26 we will take the time to celebrate the ministry of Gerad Von Holten. Gerad has served as the Director of Youth and Family Ministries at St. Paul since 2011. June 30 will be his last day in this role. During worship on June 26 we will share in a farewell blessing for Gerad and have a reception for him following worship so we can celebrate all that he has done for St. Paul youth over the years. You will find a farewell letter from Gerad latter in this newsletter. May God bless Gerad in his next endeavor.

Throughout June and July St. Paul will be preparing for our fall faith formation programing. Jenifer Pillars and Ann Beswick will be our new Children's Ministry Coordinators. We are excited to try new models of ministry! Pastor Makayla will be meeting with teens and their families to plan their programing. Be on the lookout for opportunities to chat, plan, and get involved!

As we look back and step forward may the Prayer of Good Courage be on our lips:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With gratitude & hope,
Pastor Makayla



This past month we have prayed for the following: Dave Lockhart, John Ukena, Florence Pfundstein, Berta Beyer, MacKenzie Gorman, and Marcia Fields. 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.**

Join us For Worship

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

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.



Prayer Vigil for Peace and Action June 2 at 7pm

Our Sauk Valley community is invited to a time of prayer, reflection, and action in the wake of our nation's most

St. Paul Lutheran Church Covid-19 Policy

Masks are now optional at St. Paul.

If you have Covid symptoms, please continue to get tested, mask, and stay home if you are ill.

Our policy may continue to change with recommendations.



Church Announcements

Join us in celebrating Gerad's ministry!

Gerad Von Holten has faithfully served as St. Paul and St. John's Youth Director for years. He has coordinated Tri-Church confirmation and been an integral part of our Tri-Church worship. As Gerad's role in these positions finishes June 30, we would like to take the opportunity to thank him for his ministry.



Please join us for a farewell celebration reception June 26 at 11am at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

To make the time together special, we will be showing a surprise video of pictures and messages to Gerad thanking him for his ministry. This video will also be included in our online Tri-Church worship.

To participate in the video:

- Send pictures of Gerad in action to pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com by June 10.
- Record a brief video message (horizontal orientation) that is one sentence and send to pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com by June 10.

Examples include: "I loved it when Gerad sang the Sheep song with us!"

"Good Luck with your future endeavors, Gerad!"

"My favorite memory of Gerad was how he encouraged me while zip lining at camp."

Remember the video is a surprise for Gerad! Thank you for helping us celebrate Gerad!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Makayla



JUNE 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.

CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)

The June date will be Monday, June 27 at 6:00 p.m. at Brink's, 214 Locust Street in Sterling. We are really looking forward to seeing you! If you need more information, you can contact Libby Schrader: 815-626-0764.



Katherine Janssen will celebrate her 95th Birthday on June 9, 2022. A card shower is being held. Please mail cards to: 408 Maple Avenue, Morrison, IL 61270.

St. Paul Year Budget Report

2022 Budget \$257,790 (\$21,483 Monthly)

Totals through May 26, 2022

Budgeted Expenses	\$107,415
Offerings/Interest	\$ 81,803
Expenses	\$ 90,907



Summer Co-Ed Church Softball League

Are you interested in playing softball this summer? The East Coloma Recreation hosts a church softball league for adults. If you are interested please sign up on the clipboard, contact the church office, or talk with Pastor Makayla to determine if we have enough interest for a team. The league will start after memorial day and traditionally games have been on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but we are waiting for the league to announce their details. Let's play ball!



UNITE Service Camp Volunteers

We have our biggest UNITE camp yet! During June 22-25, 36 teenagers will be painting houses around Sterling and Rock Falls and staying overnight at Bethel Reformed for our UNITE Service Camp. We need volunteers to chaperone their free time and make treats for their snacks. Sign up on the clipboard or reach out to Pastor Makayla or Gerad about helping out.

“**This summer**, some of the **UNITE** churches (including St. Paul!) are hosting student musicians from the Sterling/Rock Falls area. This includes any student completing 8th grade – a just graduated college student. Students are asked to share a piece with their home congregation and then arrange to play that piece at other **UNITE** congregations, where they will be paid \$25/service as a guest musician. This is a chance to keep music skills tip top over the summer, or share an IMEA or audition piece they may be working on, or another special piece. Please contact *Dawn Zeigler* @ 815.275.3775 or dawn@stpaulsterling.com for all of the details! We can't wait to hear the music!



Altar Guild Members! Please mark your calendars for a special meeting that will be held before worship at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, June 12.

The next Tri-Church men's meeting will be June 6th at 6:00 p.m. at Dave Geil's home, 2106 E. 38th Street, Sterling. Bring a side dish or dessert to share if you wish. All men are welcome.





The Let's Feed Our Children program is need of volunteers to “sign up”. They need to fill almost 500 volunteer spots and in order to keep track of it all you can use an online form: <https://signup.com/go/fXBAKtz>. You can sign up choose what day and what job you want. If online forms are not your cup of tea you can

call the United Way office at 815.625.7973 and they will sign them up. They prefer to not have volunteers just drop in – of course they never turn a volunteer away but they really need to track things a bit more carefully to make sure they get all of their needed jobs covered. Kids are welcome to volunteer for packing it is helpful if they are at least 8 younger than that they have a hard time see and reaching the tables.

Check out the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School hallway. Food has been delivered and is ready to be packed beginning next Tuesday, May 31. Can you find Pastor Makayla amongst all the food? She is almost “lost” in this picture from last week!



Geraniums are being purchased again this year to decorate the altar on Pentecost Sunday, June 5. They will then be planted outside to help beautify the church. If you would like to donate toward this purchase, please place your donation in the offering plate, in the office, or mail to the church.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

We will meet on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Please join us to tie the quilts in the social hall at St. Paul. No

sewing experience is required, just willing hands to tie and pin.

We are always accepting clean fabric, sheets and blankets to be used within our quilts. They can be placed in the closet by the kitchen.

Please contact Lucille Dole, 847-385-1862 or Debbie O'Brien, 815-441-0257 if you have any questions.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

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

4	Debbie O'Brien	<u>Happy 15th Anniversary</u>
5	Kameron Eakle	June 1, 2007
6	Gabe Zeigler	Brent & Katherine Eilers
8	Diane Reed	<u>Happy 32nd Anniversary</u>
	Justin Saathoff	June 2, 1990
9	Ruth George – 97	Russell & Jennifer Page
	Katherine Janssen – 95	<u>Happy 34th Anniversary</u>
12	Melissa Arians	June 3, 1988
14	Caleb Bartel	Dave & Donna Kendall
17	Lisa Lobdell	<u>Happy 6th Anniversary</u>
19	Gerad VonHolten	June 11, 2016
21	Jackson Mager	Shawn & Ashley Platz
23	Lucas Engstrom	<u>Happy 59th Anniversary</u>
	Cade Beswick	June 23, 1963
25	JJ Shore	Gene & Lillian Strike
27	Audrey Cox	<u>Happy 16th Anniversary</u>
28	Ashley Platz	June 24, 2006
		Chad & Melissa Arians
		<u>Happy 16th Anniversary</u>
		June 24, 2006
		Tony & Kelci Eakle
		<u>Happy 32nd Anniversary</u>
		June 30, 1990
		Brian & Lisa Lobdell

JUNE



Scripture Readings for Worship at Home

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

June 2022	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Day of Pentecost June 5, 2022	* <u>Acts 2:1-21</u> or <u>Genesis 11:1-9</u>	<u>Psalm</u> <u>104:24-34,</u> <u>35b</u>	<u>Romans 8:14-17</u> or <u>Acts 2:1-21</u>	<u>John 14:8-17,</u> <u>(25)</u>
Trinity Sunday June 12, 2022 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<u>Proverbs 8:1-4,</u> <u>22-31</u>	<u>Psalm 8</u>	<u>Romans 5:1-5</u>	<u>John 16:12-15</u>
Second Sunday after Pentecost June 19, 2022	<u>1 Kings 19:1-4,</u> <u>(5-7), 8-15a</u>	<u>Psalm 42 &</u> <u>43</u>	<u>Galatians 3:23-29</u>	<u>Luke 8:26-39</u>
Third Sunday after Pentecost Third Sunday after Pentecost June 26, 2022	<u>2 Kings 2:1-2,</u> <u>6-14</u>	<u>Psalm 77:1-</u> <u>2, 11-20</u>	<u>Galatians 5:1, 13-</u> <u>25</u>	<u>Luke 9:51-62</u>



Stewardship – Make the Most of Your Talents

God has given you unique abilities, talents, and gifts. Each of these talents/gifts represent a person’s SHAPE: Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. This bundle of talents is the thing God has given you that makes you who you are and sets you apart from other people.

If you think your talents are simply for you to make a lot of money, retire, and die, you’ve missed the point of your life. God gave you talents to benefit others, not yourself. And God gave other people talents that benefit you.

In the body of Christ, each part matters. There are no insignificant people in the family of God. You are shaped to serve God, and he wants to see how you are going to use the talents he gave you.

Whether you’re a musician or an accountant, a teacher or cook, God gave you those abilities to serve others., The Bible tells us “*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms*” Peter 4:10

You are a manager of the gifts God has given to you. They may be great or small in your eyes, but the matter to God. When God created you, he made an investment in you, and he expects a return on that investment. Are you using what he’s given you for the benefit of others to make the world a better place? Or are you just using those talents to benefit yourself?

If God has given you a talent, he wants you to use it. It's like a muscle. If you use it, it will grow. If you don't use it, you'll lose it. If you have a talent but are afraid to use it, or if you get lazy and don't use it to benefit others, you're going to lose it. Like the parable of the ten talents in Luke 19, if you don't use what God has given you, he will take it away and give it to some else who will.

But if you use your talents wisely, God will give you more. If you use your time wisely, God will give you more time. If you use your energy wisely, God will give you more energy. If you use your influence wisely, God will increase your influence. God will bless you level of faithfulness.

**In the body of Christ, each part matters. Use what you have been given!
Give generously with a grateful heart!**



BRANCHES



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

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

HIGHLIGHTS

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR OUR GRADUATES:

This month we honor and celebrate 8th grade students, high school senior graduates and post-high school graduates. May God continue to bless you for who you are and in all that you do. On Sunday, June 12, we'll be having a special graduate blessing during worship at St. Paul. And, on June 12 we'll be celebrating all graduates during the online Tri Church worship service.

Celebrating 8th grade students:

Addisyn Petty	Dixon Reagan Middle School
Bradyn Arians	Bureau Valley Junior High School



Celebrating High School Seniors:

Owen Pillars	Rock Falls High School
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Celebrating Post-High School Graduates:

Logan Pillars	Wheeling University/West Virginia <i>Bachelor of Science and Business Administration</i>
Luke Steinke	Bellmont University <i>Bachelor in Business Administration, Major in Music Business</i>
Rebecca Waite	Illinois State University <i>Degree: Exercise Science, Health & wellness minor</i>
Collin Zollinger	University of Montana <i>Masters – Public Administration</i>
Paul Zollinger	University of Idaho <i>Masters – Natural Resources, Outdoor Education</i>

If we missed you or your loved one, please contact the church office. We want to include you in our blessing Sunday on June 5 and June 12 with Tri Church online.





HONORING MOTHERS AND ALL WOMEN

The children and youth at St Paul made special gifts for moms and mom-figures on Mother’s Day, while ladies enjoyed some yummy treats and time for relaxation! Thanks kids! Thanks be to God for all who participated! Thanks be to God for our moms and all women!

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!



Thank you to Jennifer Pillars, Valerie Petty, Stacey Avelar, Liz Arduini, Kelci Eakle, Susan Bartel, Lana Shore and Melissa Arians for teaching Sunday school this school year. We celebrated our faith formation team on May 22. Thank you for sharing your faith and for sharing the story of God’s love with the young people of St. Paul’s!

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION 2021-22:

TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS: The class concluded for the school year last month with a pizza party and final review trivia night. Stay tuned for plans for confirmation classes in the fall.





TRI CHURCH TEEN FUN DAY JUNE 5

All 7th grade through 12th graders (and parents/guardians)... join us for some fun to kick off the summer. Lunch is included.

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1701 16th Ave.

When: NOON – 1:30pm

What: Wiffle ball, kick ball, volleyball, bags, basketball, a group activity and some planning for our summer Courageous trip to Iowa. Please let Gerad know if you can make it so we have a head count for lunch. We hope to see you there!

SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: This summer CommUNITY VBS will be a one-day, outdoor event at Bethel Reformed Church (230 E. 23rd St., Sterling). SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 10. Dinner included. All PreK – 3-year-olds through 5th grade students are encouraged to attend. And, 6th grade and older can volunteer to be leaders. More details will be coming soon! Follow our CommUNITY VBS Facebook page for updates and the latest news. [facebook.com/SterlingRFCommunityVBS](https://www.facebook.com/SterlingRFCommunityVBS)



SAUK VALLEY UNITE 2022:

UNITE is June 22-25! Housing and camp location is at Bethel Reformed Church in Sterling. We will be painting 5 homes in Sterling and Rock Falls. Over 40 students have registered! We kickoff on Wednesday, June 22 at 5:00 PM with registration and pizza at Bethel Reformed Church in Sterling, then worship led by Dan Scharnhorst and Pete Smith. Dan and Pete will be with us throughout the week leading worship, sharing stories and hanging out with us. Painting days will be June 23-25. Please stay tuned to announcements, emails and Facebook posts for further details including the official schedule. We will be in need of snacks at the worksites again this year. And, we have need for adult volunteers in a variety of ways (painters, snack providers, evening chaperones...). Adults, please speak with Gerad or Pastor Makayla if you can help and how. And, if you'd like to support UNITE, but you're not sure how, please email saukvalleyunite@gmail.com. The theme for 2022 UNITE is **reNEW** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor 5:17, NIV)



Dan and Pete (2022 UNITE speakers & musicians)

TRI CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP JULY 24 - 26 St. Paul 7th-12th



Graders—make plans to join us for COURAGEOUS! We go courageously for God is with us! (Joshua 1:9). We will be stepping out of our comfort zones and adventuring with God and each other on this 53-hour extravaganza! We will leave at noon on July 24 and head to Des Moines to worship at Lutheran Church of Hope. After supper we'll head to Altoona and stay at an area

hotel. Following first Word, we will head to Adventureland. On Tuesday we will spend some time in Iowa City as we make our way back home. Group building games and Bible study will be woven throughout our time together. Those who sign up for the trip will help finalize the itinerary. Cost: \$50, plus 5 meals. To sign up, submit your \$25 deposit to St Paul ASAP!!!



FAITH FORMATION TEACHER GATHERING: Monday June 6 at 3pm

In collaboration with a faculty-student research team, Pastor Makayla is working on a project to "Teach the Bible Teacher" and create resources for people to lead Bible Studies and teach Sunday School. If you taught Sunday School this year, led a Bible Study, or have thought about teaching/leading but have been hesitant, we'd love to have some conversation with you! Join us Monday June 6 at St. Paul at 3pm for conversation. We will plan to meet by the playground so kiddos can join us too.

JUNE CHILDREN'S OFFERING: St. Paul's purpose statement is "Living Christ



centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word." At St. Paul, when we say "all" we mean ALL! We are dedicated to creating a world where all God's beloved children and families can live in dignity just the way

God created them. Our June Children's Offering will support PFlag Sauk Valley, a local organization supporting LGBTQIA+ persons and their families so that we can have proud people, loving families, safe communities, and a diverse and inclusive world.

GOODBYE TO ST PAUL AND ST JOHN'S

We have been partners in children, youth and family ministries for 9 years together. And I've been with St Paul since the Spring of 2011. I am humbled and honored to have served alongside the young people and adults of both congregations and with Tri Church confirmation and worship.

In January of this year, I was notified that St John's would no longer be able to financially support the position of Joint Children, Youth and Family Ministries Director. St. Paul is unable to support this position fulltime and is visioning a new direction for children, youth and family ministries. Therefore, my last day with St Paul and St John's will be June 30th.

It is with both sadness and hope that we part ways. I am sad that I'll no longer be able to continue worshipping with, learning with, serving with, praying with and celebrating with the youth and families of St Paul, St John's and Tri Church. I appreciate the memories we've built together, especially growing in faith and God's love together through event ministries like the Detroit and Houston youth gatherings, Chicago and Wisconsin Dells Youth Quakes, confirmation camp and youth retreats at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, UNITE Service Camp and CommUNITY Vacation Bible School. I particularly treasure the opportunities we've had to be the hands and feet of Christ through serving in our communities by Christmas shopping for LSSI Nachusa home kids, having fellowship with folks from Self Help, painting homes in Sterling and Rock Falls, participating in multiple service projects through God's Work, Our Hands days; outreach events like movie nights, water play days and building a neighborhood picnic table.

It's hard to say goodbye when some of us have shared tears and difficult conversations and challenging life moments. And we've shared God's kingdom moments; little glimpses of God's glory in unique places and times together – Most memorably when the Tri Church confirmation class walked the labyrinth in the fellowship hall at St John's. What a privilege it was to witness the deep connectedness our students had with the Holy Spirit through that experience.

To the children and youth, I am hopeful that God does and will provide for, guide and direct you and your families. God loves you in all places and at all times. Nothing ever changes that. During the past 11 years I have had a blast spending time with you and watching you grow in your faith. You have taught me what it means to truly BE the church. Please know that pastors and youth leaders come and go – and sometimes that is hard. Also, know that God is always with you and loves you, and pastors and other adult leaders are here to support you and your parents or guardians to continue to grow in God's love by being present with you, listening to you, through worship, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth events and activities, praying for you, and so much more.



Finally, thank you for allowing me to express my faith through music leadership in children and youth ministry, through worship in both congregations, and through our Tri Church online worship services. It is a joy for me to lead worship. I agree wholeheartedly with the words of Martin Luther, “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” I have enjoyed working with so much talent in our congregations.

So, goodbye and God bless all. Please know it is my hope and prayer that God will continue to sustain, guide, and direct you on the journey. And, as people of the resurrection, we know this is really only goodbye, for now.

God’s blessings,
Gerad



A CELEBRATION OF
JUNE
TEENTH

PRESENTED BY:



JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT
Saturday, June 18th
10am-2pm
Grandon Civic Center
Sterling, IL

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

TOUCH A TRUCK

FOOD

FITNESS DEMOS

VENDORS & MORE

A special thank you to event sponsors: Church Women United



SUMMER CAMP 2022

Overnight and Day Camps



LOMC

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center

Puzzle!

Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



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

Ruth George – Apt. 124
Heritage Woods
2205 Oak Grove Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081

Katherine Janssen – Rm. B104
Resthave 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

Florence Pfundstein
29020 Penrose Road, Sterling, IL 61081

Burt Severson
5147 Edgewood Circle, Mesa AZ 85206

Gladys Stern – Rm. 205A
Allure of Sterling
612 W. 23rd Street, 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

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

(815) 590-0006, cell – gerad@stpaulsterling.com

Sue Dirks, Parish Secretary

(815) 535-3574 – sue@stpaulsterling.com



2022 Congregation Council

President – Jim Gorman

Vice President – Andy Beswick

Treasurer – Chrissy Zollinger

Secretary – Jennifer Pillars

Christian Education/Youth

Andy Beswick ('23) 785-202-0636

Jennifer Pillars ('24) 716-0311

Stewardship

Bev Julien ('23) 716-8797

Jim Gorman ('23) 716-7043

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

Andy Beswick ('23) 785-202-0636

Dan Bartel ('24) 441-1574

Treasurer & Capitol Campaign

Chrissy Zollinger ('24) 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.

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Pastor Makayla Dahleen

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