

# St. Paul Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Diller, Nebraska

## **Our Mission**

*To open our hearts and doors to share God's promise by transforming lives  
through our commitment and discipleship to Jesus Christ.*

**October 2025**

*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## **Doubt**

One of the more unfortunate aspects of current religious life is that many people seem to believe that faith is the absence of doubt. Because faith has often been identified with accepting as true a whole host of claims made by religious authorities, doubt has not been encouraged.

But think about it. What kind of relationship would you have with another that would not allow you to doubt? What kind of relationship would insist that you not question? A relationship that is offended by our doubts is not a relationship worth having. So, if the church, or other Christians etc. are offended by doubt it only reveals their insecurity and lack of trust in the God they claim to be so certain about.

In confirmation class we are currently studying about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Luther in his life was a man who as he grew older began to have many doubts about the church. Was that a bad thing? Without Luther's doubts and questions vital reform in the church would never have happened.

I would say that today, in both our religion and our politics, it is a major problem that people have "no doubts" about what they believe. It's true, doubt can be simply cynicism or lack of trust. But the doubt I'm speaking about is just the opposite. It takes courage, and faith to ask your honest questions. I "doubt" very much that God is offended by that. In fact, it just may be the entry point to a relationship that God would love to have with us and one another.

Blessings,

*Pastor Mark*

Editor, Typist, Calendar and Assembly of the Newscaster:

Kendra K. Weers

### Newscaster Reporters

Church Council – Brian Weers      Treasurer's Report – Allen Roelfs

WELCA – Peggy Hemphill      Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson

Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

Christian Education and VBS – Elizabeth Roelfs, Sheri Schultis  
and Kristen Hennerberg

Youth News – Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers and Brennan Schultis

Worship Committee – Council      Mutual Ministry Committee – Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Jane Pretzer      Personals – Elizabeth Roelfs

WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs      Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom

Worship Assistants & Greeters Lists – Sherry Henrichs

# NEWS LET TER



*Sponsoring the October Newscaster are*

**Brian and Kendra K Weers**

**In Honor of Our Family's Many Fall Birthdays  
and in Loving Memory of Robert Weers**

**and**

**Judy Landenberger**

**In Loving Memory of Ray Landenberger**

*Happy birthday(s) and Blessings to the Memory of your loved ones  
and families. Thank You for sponsoring this Newscaster!*

*Sponsors for 2025 have been fulfilled, we thank you!*

*There is a bright green sign-up sheet on the announcements bulletin board in the back of the Narthex for 2026,  
and remember, postage is \$40/sponsor due to large postage cost increases.*

*Please consider sponsoring this important communication tool for our congregation.*

## SHARE YOUR HAUNTED TRUNK!

Join us for a fun-filled evening of  
candy, costumes and community  
featuring decorated trunks and  
indoor booths.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

St. Paul church from 4 – 6pm,  
Indoors AND Outdoors!

Set-up your Trunk or Booth  
from 3-4pm.

Food is available!

Several TRUNK AWARDS will be given.



Sunday

October 26

4:00 – 6:00pm

St. Paul Lutheran

In-church and

Parking Lot



# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for September 17, 2025

Council members present were Doug Schmidt, Gary Bergmeier, Charlie Barber, Allen Roelfs, Pastor Mark, Scott Pretzer and Brian Weers. "God Sightings" were shared and Pastor Mark offered an opening prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Gary moved to accept the minutes and Allen seconded. The minutes were approved.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that all bills have been paid. We are behind in Mission Share, the month over month balance is going down slightly. Paid \$300 to the Diller-Odell school for STRIV sponsorship which is for the year. Issued check to WELCA from Picnic Food Stand proceeds. Gary moved to accept the report and Charlie seconded. Motion passed.

## MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance of Thrivent account is \$27,062.52, Memorial account balance is \$13,307.12.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

No report.

## VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No big issues to report. Funeral for Melvin Beran is Tuesday, September 23 at 1030am. Confirmation Kickoff went great, with several parents attending and 12 girls in Confirmation! Event was held at church instead of Gary's pond because of wet conditions.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Worship and Music** – Did not meet.

**Christian Education** – committee met tonight, finalized the CrossWalk program, "A Year With Jesus". Talked about having an "adult confirmation" – type class.

**Food Stand** – No report.

**Property** – No report other than HVAC system will be installed at the Parsonage next week.

**Communication and Outreach** – Did not meet, but helped with Confirmation Kickoff. Also did a visitor/welcome packet to first person, mentioned they could check out the YouTube church services.

**Memorial** – in Memorial Treasurer's Report above.

## OLD BUSINESS

Parking lot discussion was tabled until likely after harvest. For Portico benefits, Allen moved to go with the Bronze plan for Pastor replacement, seconded by Scott, motion passed. Attending a Council Retreat would possibly be a good bridge during Council changeover for new year, would need to develop agenda items. Pastor wants a spiritual aspect to be included. Gary suggested the Wayne Linewebber Cabin to be used as the location for the retreat, February time frame, maybe we can extend the good times. Projector for CrossWalk room was discussed – retractable screen toward the west wall with a projector about 10 feet from the wall.

## NEW BUSINESS

Gary was asked if Pastor could give private communion at the church, Pastor said yes, he could. Discussed the speakers outside the Sanctuary. Discussed overflow seating for funerals.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 7pm. Gary moved to adjourn the meeting and Allen seconded, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 9/16/2025



### Current Balances

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| General Fund | \$ 5,828.29 |
| Benevolence  | \$ 533.57   |
| Designations | \$ 3,505.08 |
| Total        | \$ 9,866.94 |

### Operating Expenses

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Available Cash  | \$ 5,828.29  |
| Remaining Bills | \$ 0.00 none |
| Remaining Bal   | \$ 5,828.29  |

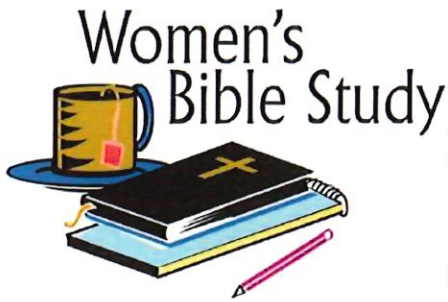
### Offering Summary

|                  | July        | August       | September   |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Current          | \$ 8,728.80 | \$ 11,562.80 | \$ 3,666.68 |
| Benevolence      | \$ 136.20   | \$ 216.95    | \$ 180.42   |
| Designated Funds | \$ 200.00   | \$ 65.00     | \$ 25.00    |
| Totals           | \$ 9,065.00 | \$ 11,844.75 | \$ 3,872.10 |

(partial month)

We need to receive **\$10,920.36** in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2025.

## September Eunice Circle



Eunice Circle met on September 8, 2025 at 1:30pm. Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson. Where two or more are gathered: Flourishing in relationships. Relationships that sustain us. Relationships that push us to grow.

The Bible texts were from Esther 4:1-11, 12-17; Esther 7:1 through 8:2.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "All Are Welcome", verse 5. We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Seven (7) members answered Roll Call. Minutes were read and approved. Our Offering was \$49.00.

Old Business: Work Day August 26<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: Work Days September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

After Grace, Jane Pretzer served refreshments. October hostess – Carolyn Schultis.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be October 13, 2025. Norma Banahan will lead the Bible study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

### Mission Work Day

The quilters met on August 26.

We will meet on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> to tie quilts and in October to pack and label boxes for shipping to LWR.

Boxes will be delivered to Omaha by Kendra K Weers.

Please come and join us!

**SPREADING GOD'S GRACE**



**We pray for our congregational members who are injured and/or are in the hospital:**



We pray for a quick and successful recovery for **Xavier Zabokrtsky** who sustained a shoulder injury that brought an end to his football season. Caring thoughts are sent your way.

Please remember in your prayers all of our members and extended church family who are not able to be with us, those that are in assisted living and care centers and those who may be in need of God's comfort, healing and peace:

Norris Gold, Ervin Hennerberg, Mike Balderson, Norman Balderson and Tyler Wolken

### CARING THOUGHTS

Prayers of comfort go out to Beth Lee Beran, Scott, Michelle and their families as they mourn the passing of Melvin Beran. His funeral was held on September 23 at St. Paul. Melvin was a friendly and familiar face within the church and community and his absence will be felt by many. We hold your sadness in our hearts.





## Women of the ELCA

Unit Meeting  
September 7, 2025



A Unit Meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held following the church service on Sunday, September 7, 2025, with 16 members present.

President Ardith Barber opened the meeting by reading the Purpose Statement of the Women of the ELCA.

**Minutes** of the February 9, 2025, unit meeting were read by Secretary, Peggy Hemphill. Seeing no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer**, Diane Wellsandt reported a balance on hand of \$3,081.76. The Treasurer's report was approved.

**Correspondence** – Ardith read a Thank You from the Nebraska Synod for five consecutive years of support. She also read a Thank You from Lutheran World Relief for our continued support of their projects.

**Committee reports** were given: *Work Group* – Ardith thanked Jane Pretzer for her years of dedication in chairing the Work Group. Sherry Henrichs will take over that position. The calling committee still consists of Judy Landenberger, Linda Behrends and Jan Gold. We thanked them for their continued service. *Monthly Card Project* – Peggy handed out the Card Service Project volunteer sign-up sheet to obtain volunteers for the remaining months of 2025 together with an updated list of names and addresses of recipients. The volunteer and address lists will be posted on the WELCA bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Volunteers for the next several months are: September – Jane Pretzer; October – Carolyn Schultis; November – Kendra K. Weers; and December – Judy Landenberger. *Quilters Work Day* – Carolyn reported that they have had two new workers. Quilters Work Day meets on the 4th and 5th Tuesdays of each month from 9 a.m. until noon and any help is always appreciated. *Baby Care Kits* – Ardie purchased diapers and they are also in need of 4 oz. bars of soap. *School Kits* – Irene Gibson is still in charge of the kits and the kits will be assembled at CrossWalk. *College Students* – Sheri Schultis graciously volunteered to continue with this project. *Eunice Circle* – meets on the second Monday of each month. Norma indicated that she would like to step down as Chairperson of this Circle if anyone else would like to take that position. She will continue on for the present time. *Kitchen* – there are quite a few bowls that need to be picked up.

**Old Business:** Our group hosted the World Day of Prayer in March. The theme was "I Made You Wonderful." Thank you to all who helped with planning, decorating and food. Spring Gathering was held April 5 at St. John Lutheran in Beatrice but no one from our group was able to attend this year. We will not be purchasing any new hymnals at this time as the Church Council purchased some already.

**New Business:** The Biennial Convention will be held September 26-28, 2025, at Camp Carol Joy Holling. See Ardie for information if you are interested in attending. The Diller Picnic food stand money was discussed. This discussion was tabled for the present time. Kendra K. Weers will again deliver the quilts and care kits to Omaha. Volunteers were solicited for bringing treats for the CrossWalk Kickoff with parents. We will again hold the annual coat drive and the annual food drive. The food drive will be divided between Blue Valley Community Action in Fairbury and the Gage County Food Pantry in Wymore. Kendra K. Weers will deliver the coats and Sherry Henrichs will be in charge of the food drive.

Offering for the day was \$136.00. The date of our next meeting is currently scheduled for November 9, 2025, but subject to change.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~ Respectfully submitted, Peggy Hemphill, Secretary

**Mary Sasse** is residing at Gardenside Care Center in Fairbury. Please remember Mary with your cards and visits.

Her address is at Gardenside Care Center, 2200 H St., Room 107, Fairbury, NE 68352



### **Gratitude Thought by Women of the ELCA**

The Women of our church are invited to reflect and act in gratitude for the many large and small blessings that make up our days through the Thank Offering Mission. Some women may give regularly, others occasionally, some may have not started. It is never too late to begin practicing gratitude. A few coins in a cup, an appreciative heart and a breath prayer of thanks is all it takes. ALL women of St. Paul will be invited to share their Thank Offerings during the worship service the Sunday before Thanksgiving in November. Watch the November Newscaster for details.

*Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure you are. Let me learn from you, love you, savor you, bless you before you depart. Let me not pass you by in quest of some rare and perfect tomorrow.*

### **CrossWalk Is Growing In Faith**

The new CrossWalk year started on September 10 with more that 40 students and helpers filling the church with excitement. During the Kick Off Day, kids packed School Kits for Lutheran World Relief under the guidance of Irene Gibson and learned about the Impact Of A Pop Tab with Sheri Schultis. The day also included a September birthday celebration, songs, a review of program routines and an introduction to the Growing in Faith Tree. Everyone filled the tree with heart shaped leaves, each carrying a name. Weekly the group discusses ways we Grow in Faith and these are added to the tree.

The first day ended with ice cream and cookies sponsored by the Communications and Outreach Committee for the children and their families. The open house allowed families to connect with the CrossWalk team and gather for fellowship in the church.

The weekly lessons are focusing on the growth of the church through the work of leaders like Paul, Silas and Timothy. We are learning that God can change our lives, he is in control and that young Christians can be leaders and teachers in God's church. The learning focus for the year is the Apostle's Creed. During each opening, the group prays the Lord's Prayer and shares an abbreviated creed with actions. Students are also touching on the books of the Bible, how to use the Bible and God's Good Rules (the 12 Commandments).

As the new learning year began, the St. Paul faith family awarded a Youth Bible to the five 2nd grade students and a Beginners Bible Story book to five families who are new to CrossWalk.



*Our new CrossWalk students with their new Student Bibles*



We have received a \$250 Action Team Grant from Thrivent that was used to purchase curriculum and snack supplies.

*~ Photos by Sheri Schultis and article by Beth Roelfs*

### **MANY SMALL ACTIONS COMBINED CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE**



The 2025/26 CrossWalk Caring Project is collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha. WE INVITE ALL OF YOU TO HELP US ACHIEVE OUR POP TAB GOAL. Leave bags of pop tabs on the table near the mailboxes and the kids will be sure they are added to 'The Jar'. Our goal is to earn a celebration by filling the jar 5 times (10 gallons total).

This project also helps the CrossWalk kids see that showing God's love to others doesn't have to be something big or complicated. It can be as small and simple as a smile, one kind word OR a pop tab.



## GET READY TO DANCE!

The Confirmation students started off their year on September 3 with a special evening at the church (instead of Gary Bergmeier's farm due to wet weather) with lots of fun, fellowship and great cookout food.

October will be busy with Bingo Night at Gardenside Care Center on October 1, classes on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and a Halloween Dance at MOSAIC in Beatrice on the 15<sup>th</sup>. For the dance, *please wear some kind of costume*, and we will leave the church at 6pm and return to the church at 8pm. The residents and students always enjoy a fun party to celebrate Halloween.

On Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be the First Communion Class (6<sup>th</sup> graders) from 10:00 to 11:30am to learn about Communion and being an Acolyte. *First Communion will take place the next day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

## YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF THEIR YEAR WITH A FUN OUTING AND FELLOWSHIP

Our Youth Group started their year on Sunday, September 21 at Gary's Pond with food, games, and a great lesson and message about love – the difference between love and desire.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, October 12, meeting at the church at 6:30pm.

Please see upcoming bulletins, church website, or Facebook page for the most current updates to meeting dates and times.

~ Photo by Sheri Schultis



## GOLDEN GRIFFINS

Fall MAP Growth Testing took place in September at Diller-Odell schools, and we have MANY smart members of our church. These "Golden Griffins" scored at the top of their class, and we are so proud of all of you! Keep it up, Griffins! Pictures are of all our CrossWalk kids, Confirmation and Youth members that are Golden Griffins. Congratulations!



First Graders  
Kashtyn and Timmy



Third  
Grader  
Paden



Fourth  
Grader  
Tynleigh



Seventh  
Grader  
Layni



Eighth  
Graders  
Lucy and  
Aubrey



Ninth  
Grader  
Libby



Tenth  
Grader  
Josie

## JOYFUL NEWS

*We celebrate the birth of Noah Christopher Meyer, son of Shane and Sarah Meyer. Noah was born on September 14. As Mom and Dad stated, they are enjoying their SONshine. We also congratulate grandparents, Doug and Julie Schmidt and uncle Spencer Schmidt. What a joyful blessing.*



*The impromptu choir sang "Spirit of the Living God" from the OSB during our September 7<sup>th</sup> Worship service.*

*Thank you to those that come and share their music gifts. It truly makes our worship special!*



## HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY URGENT NEED!



The Blue Valley Community Action is currently in GREAT need of non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, rice, peanut butter and cereal. They rely on the generosity of our community to help those facing food insecurity and every donation – big or small – truly makes a difference in helping make sure no one in our community goes hungry.

If you can help with donations and cannot take them directly to Blue Valley Community Action, please bring them to the church, and we can make sure your donations are taken to them. Thanks!

## COAT DRIVE is HAPPENING NOW

October is the time to clean out those closets and share any cold weather gear that may not be needed by your family. Items being collected include: coats, snow boots, gloves, mittens, snow pants, coveralls, and scarves for children, men and women. Donations can be hung on the hallway coat rack or in the collection basket. **ONLY SHARE GOOD QUALITY, CLEAN ITEMS PLEASE.** The campaign concludes on the 1st Sunday of November.



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## October Wedding Anniversary

October 10, 1998

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Stacy Schlichtman



## October Birthdays



1 Jeremy Meyer  
1 Corina Lottman  
2 Jill Scheele  
2 Jill Holliger  
2 Lance Lawton  
4 Pastor Mark Liscom  
4 Steve Fugett  
6 Megan Langenberg  
6 Griffin Zabokrtsky  
7 Jill Lottman  
7 Cale Clifford  
9 John Denner, Jr.

9 Sarah Meyer  
9 Jarod Gold  
9 Madeline Lottman  
9 Valerie Lottman  
10 Jeanette Bures  
14 Jonathan Schmidt  
15 Zachary Warren  
15 Tynleigh Sasse  
16 Kendra K Weers  
17 David Duis  
18 Phyllis Wiemers

18 Kevin Banahan  
19 Shane Meyer  
19 Josie Hennerberg  
20 Marla Weichel  
20 Bradley Hawkins  
21 Scott Pretzer  
25 Janet Whitehead  
26 Patrick Hemphill  
27 Linda Beran  
29 Dylan Nippert  
31 Sheri Schultis  
31 Samantha Clifford

**VOLUNTEERS:** If you are unable to serve on the Sunday(s) you are assigned, PLEASE arrange with someone else to fill in and notify others in the assigned Sunday of the change. Thank You!



### **October 5 Sunday Worship Service**

**with Holy Communion**

**World Communion Sunday**

*Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt*

*Acolyte – Aubrey Roelfs*

*Greeter – Gary Bergmeier*

*Coffee Service – Ardith Barber, Kristen Heidemann*



### **October 12 Sunday Worship Service**

**Pastor Appreciation Day**

*Worship Assistant – Kendra K Weers*

*Greeter – Dennis Nippert*

*Coffee Service – Jeanette Bures, Jill Scheele,*

*Kaitlyn Scheele*



### **October 19 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant – Diane Wellsandt*

*Greeter – Dean Pretzer*

*Coffee Service – Robbyn Roelfs, Stacy Roelfs*

### **October 26 Sunday Worship Service**

**Reformation Sunday**

*Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier*

*Greeter – Charles Barber*

*Coffee Service – Jane Pretzer, Jill Zabokrtsky*



**REFORMATION  
Sunday**



### **November 2 Sunday Worship Service**

**With Holy Communion**

**First Communion**

**All Saints Sunday and Memorial Dedication**

*Worship Assistant – Gary Bergmeier*

*Acolyte – Aubrey Roelfs*

*Greeter – Jim Bures*

*Coffee Service – Radene Beran, Sue Meyer*



# October 2025



[www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com)

\* Facebook – St. Paul's Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

| SUN                                                                                                                                                                        | MON                                                                                                                        | TUE                                                | WED                                                                                                                                             | THU       | FRI                                                                                                               | SAT                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                            |                                                    | <b>1</b><br>CROSS WALK<br>Christian Ed<br>4pm<br><br>Confirmation<br>Bingo Night<br>@ Gardenside                                                | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>                                                                                                          | <b>4</b>                                                                                                                                          |
| Red Hymnal<br>Worship Service <b>5</b><br>Holy Communion<br>9:30 AM<br>                    | <b>6</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>7</b>                                           | <b>8</b><br>CROSS WALK<br>Christian Ed<br>4pm<br><br>Confirmation<br>7pm                                                                        | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>                                                                                                         | <b>11</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| Blue Hymnal<br>Worship Service <b>12</b><br>9:30 AM<br><b>Pastor APPRECIATION DAY</b><br>YOUTH GROUP<br>Meet @ Church                                                      | Eunice<br>Circle <b>13</b><br>1:30pm<br> | <b>14</b>                                          | <b>15</b><br>CROSS WALK<br>Christian Ed<br>4pm<br><br>Confirmation<br>Halloween Party<br>@ Mosaic<br>Committees/Council<br>Meetings<br>6:30/7pm | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>                                                                                                         | <b>18</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| Red Hymnal<br>Worship Service <b>19</b><br>9:30 AM                                                                                                                         | <b>20</b><br>Fall<br>Leadership<br>Conference<br>Through<br>22nd                                                           | <b>21</b><br>Quilters<br>Work<br>Day<br>9am - Noon | <b>22</b><br>CROSS WALK<br>Christian Ed<br>4pm<br><br>Confirmation<br>7pm                                                                       | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>                                                                                                         | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| Blue Hymnal<br>Worship Service <b>26</b><br>9:30 AM<br> <b>Trunk OR Treat</b><br>4 - 6pm | <b>27</b><br>Newscaster<br>Items Due                                                                                       | <b>28</b><br>Quilters<br>Work<br>Day<br>9am - Noon | <b>29</b><br>CROSS WALK<br>Christian Ed<br>4pm<br><br>Confirmation<br>7pm                                                                       | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b><br>Reformation<br> | <b>1</b><br>November<br><br>First<br>Communion<br>November 2 |



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
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