

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.*

April 2020

Pastor Mark Liscom

God Knocking At Your Door

*"Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me" (Rev. 3:20)*

As I am writing this, it's hard to know what the reality of our lives will be by the time this newscaster reaches you. My guess is that the corona virus epidemic will be impacting us more than it is at the time of my writing this. From all the information I've been able to glean that seems to be the prediction.

So where is God in all of this? I think in at least a couple of simple ways. The first is that you may realize that you are being nudged to reach out and care for others. To become less preoccupied with yourself and more concerned about our neighbor. It's God, knocking at your door breathing new life.

But I think another way may be just as important. By the time you read this, you may be experiencing a kind of emptiness. Maybe there are financial losses, a down turn in your business. But as a result of our need to isolate and all of these radical changes, you may experience the "blues" settling in.

Where is God in this? During this unprecedented time I would like you to consider this, if it happens to you. I would like you to consider that this may be God's Holy Spirit knocking on your door, asking for entrance. God likes to come in disguises you know!

This empty place in us is usually covered up by all the noise and speed of our modern world. And we don't always experience it. But if these "blues" come to you during this crazy time, I'd like you to be open to this possibility. Sure, get outside if you can, call a friend; take care of your health. But also be open to this: that God's Spirit is carving a place in your own soul. A place for you to connect to the One who said he came to "prepare a place for you" (John 14:3).

God is at work encouraging us to love and care for our neighbor to be sure. But for some of us, God is knocking on our door waiting to be welcomed; and working on creating an empty place in us, so that we can. Can you hear it? God is knocking at your door, waiting to bring you new life.

Editor: Kendra K. Weers

Typists: Kendra K. Weers and Jane Pretzer Calendar: Kendra K. Weers

Assembly: Kendra K. Weers

Newscaster Reporters

Church Council – Tyler Wolken Treasurer – Gary Bergmeier

WELCA – Peggy Hemphill Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson

Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

Christian Education and VBS – Kristen Hennerberg, Kristen Heidemann
and Sheri Schultis

Youth News – Jady Schultis, Skylar Pretzer, Brianna Weers and Neleigh Weers

Worship Committee – Council Mutual Ministry Committee - Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Judy DeBoer & Jane Pretzer

WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs



Sponsors for the April Newscaster are

*Russell and Carolyn Schultis
in Honor of their 52nd Wedding Anniversary
and*

*Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of the
April 29th Birthday of Eleanora Bunting*

We thank you for your sponsorship and support.

Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2020 sponsorships is up and two sponsorships are available.

*Please consider sponsoring a Newscaster to continue providing this communication tool
to the members of the congregation.*

Holy Week Schedule



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 9

ONLINE

Worship Service

7:30pm



Good
Friday

Friday, April 10

ONLINE

Good Friday Service

7:30pm



Easter

Sunday, April 12

**ONLINE
or DRIVE-IN**

Easter Worship Service 9:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for March 17, 2020

The meeting was opened with Pastor Mark reading a letter from the Bishop addressing the Covid-19 issue and how we still need to practice safe distancing and continue praying for all things. Members present were David Henrichs, Jamie Schultis, Darin Weers, Gary Bergmeier, Pastor Mark Liscom, and Tyler Wolken (Not present Melvin Beran). The minutes from February were reviewed. David moved to accept the minutes and Darin seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Gary reported that the balance in the account was \$21,876. Still needing to be paid are Portico, Solution One, and Norris. There are still funds in the account to reimburse Schoen's for the shingle repair. Thus, leaving approximately \$9000-\$10,000 left in the account. For a more detailed balance, please check the submitted Treasurer's report below in the newsletter. David moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Jamie seconded. Treasurer's report approved.

Memorial Treasurer's Report

Darin reported that there was a balance of \$8,332.62 and had an interest of \$1.28. Gary moved to accept the Memorial Treasurer's report and David seconded. Memorial Treasurer's Report approved.

Pastor's Report

2 funerals, 2 youth meetings, 2 confirmation classes, 1 confirmation make-up, 3 worship services, 3 cluster meetings, 1 Ash Wednesday service, 1 Lenten service, 3 home visits, 1 week of vacation, 1 Cat in the hat event at the school, 1 prepared sermon for Jamie to give at Wednesday Lent service, Gave the message at World day of prayer, and stayed home for 4 days after fever symptoms.

Vice Chair Report

Jamie led the Wednesday Lent service and gave the sermon that Pastor Mark had prepared due to illness. Jamie wanted to extend a big thank you to everyone who has helped set up and serve meals at the two funerals this past months. Jamie also wanted to thank the council and the women of the E.L.C.A. for their work in serving and providing the Wednesday Lent meals.

Committee Reports

Memorial- Darin reported that the new lights for the church are due to arrive around March 27th.

Property- Gary reported that Ed Hajek was the only one that gave a bid on the remodeling project for the church. Diller Electric has agreed to help with the rewiring part of this remodel. We will table the project until we have got all bids in and council has agreed on construction details.

Christian Education- Crosswalk had been postponed due to Covid-19 outbreak and with school closing. Looking to have alternative ways to still to reach out to the youth.

Community/Outreach- N/A **Music/Worship-** N/A **Food Stand-** N/A

Old Business

- Council decided to postpone the church insurance audit (TBD). Jamie moved to postpone. David seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- David brought back to council the idea to reimburse Pastor Mark for his second plane ticket purchase due to staying back for a funeral service instead of going on with his vacation plans. The cost of the second ticket was \$298.00. David moved to have the church pay for the plane ticket and Gary seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

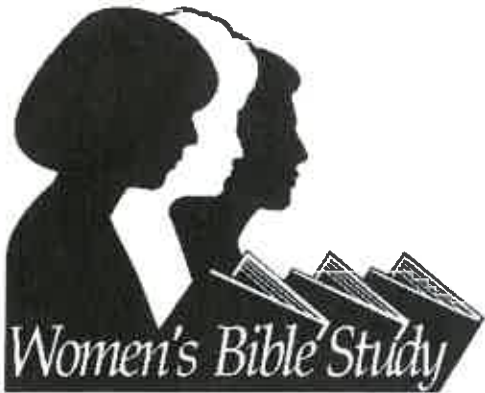
- Council is going to continue to use the Solution One services for our copier/printer, but are looking at negotiating the service/payment plan to seek a cheaper rate.
- Since we are no longer able to have in-person sermons, we are looking at having alternative options for the congregation to be able to participate in church worship. Looking to have services via Facebook, Youtube, or possibly a link to the church's website. Look for details to come out very soon! The church's Facebook will have the latest updates. Again the page is called- St. Paul's Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska.
- As we are unable to have live services, we still ask that you continue to support the church financially. You can send you donations to: St. Paul Lutheran Church PO BOX 37, Diller, NE 68342.
- Due to the Covid-19 virus, we suspending all in person gatherings at St. Paul at least until Easter. We are restricted to gatherings to 10 people or less. We are not allowing any outside gatherings/non-church group meetings at St. Paul a this time until further notice.
- Women's Bible study has been canceled until further notice.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Mark or any of the church council members for assistance. We would be glad to visit with you and help you any way we can in these uncertain times. Pastor Mark cell is 402-300-0565.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30PM. **COUNCIL ONLY. NO** Committee meetings. David moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. - Tyler Wolken, Council Secretary

| TREASURER'S REPORT | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| General Fund Balance as of 3/17/2020 | | \$ 21,876.00 | |
| Bills Due by end of March | Norris PP (est.) | \$ 275.00 | Portico (est.) \$100.00 |
| | | | Solution One 157.84 |
| | | Total Due: | \$ 532.84 |
| <u>Last Month: February</u> | | <u>Current Month: March (as of 3/17/20)</u> | |
| Current | \$ 5,775.00 | Current | \$ 6,206.65 |
| Benevolence | 791.00 | Benevolence | 464.25 |
| World Hunger | 25.00 | World Hunger | 40.00 |
| Specials | 35.00 | Specials | 107.83 |
| TOTAL | \$ 6,626.00 | TOTAL | \$ 6,818.73 |
| We need \$10,170.97 in CURRENT per month to meet the 2020 budget. | | | |



Eunice Circle



Eunice Circle met on March 9, 2020 at 1:30pm. Norma Banahan led our Bible study. We are called! – Called to serve. Jesus was clear: Our two calls, loving God and loving our neighbors, are linked. God calls us to Love our neighbors, caring for their need as if it were our own.

Our study texts from: Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-37; Romans 13:8-9; Galatians 5:14; Genesis 41:15-57; Genesis 42:1-6; Genesis 43:1-2; Genesis 45:3-11; Esther 2:1-4 and 12-14; Esther 4:8-17.

We opened with prayer. We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Services" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Four (4) members answered Roll Call. Our offering was \$20.00.

Old Business: World Day of Prayer at St. Paul, Diller NE on March 6, 2020 at 6:30pm. WELCA Spring Gathering is March 21, 2020 at 8:30am in DeWitt, NE (Bring your own coffee cup) and there is an \$18 charge. St. Paul Spring Salad Supper is April 19, 2020. We will give a program for WELCA Meeting in August, 2020. Work Day is Tuesday, February 25th.

New Business: Reminder – WELCA Spring Gathering is March 21, 2020 at 8:30am in DeWitt, NE. Bring your own coffee cup. There is an \$18.00 charge. Work Days will be March 24th and 31st.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be April 13, 2020 at 1:30pm, April book. Irene Gibson will lead Bible Study.

- Irene Gibson, Recorder

St. Paul Lutheran Church

WELCA Spring Salad Super

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Starting at 6:00pm

**Come and enjoy fellowship, wonderful food,
and a fun program.**

We are planning on having this special event, but it will be decided on a day-by-day basis in these uncertain and unsettling times.

Please check the church website, Facebook page or contact WELCA officers closer to the salad supper for the latest up-to-date information.



Mission Work Day

Seven quilts were tied and clipped at the February 25 workday. Quilts were taken home to be hemmed, fabrics and blankets are also taken home to be sized and sewn.

Next month we will have two workdays, March 24 and 31.

All workers and donations are greatly appreciated.

*(This was submitted before the outbreak.
There will be NO workdays in March.)*

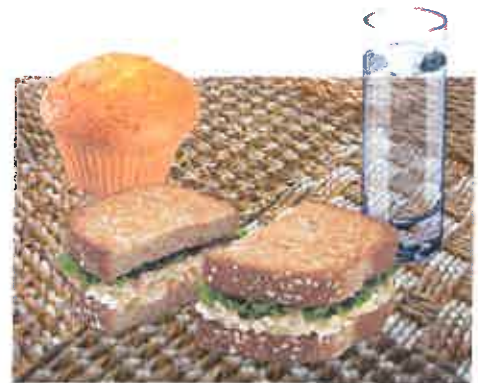
God's Work. Our Hands.



“Rise! Take your Mat and Walk!”

World Day of Prayer was observed around the world on Friday, March 6th 2020. Our own WELCA at St. Paul was the host congregation for our local area churches.

Ladies were greeted at the door by Jane Pretzer offering a cool glass of water as a symbol of welcome from the people of Zimbabwe. Colorful African table decorations consisting of musical instruments and baskets filled with corn, sweet potatoes and peanuts placed on sisal mats were arranged and explained by Beth Roelfs.



Following a welcome by WELCA President Ardith Barber, a tasty light meal of chicken salad sandwiches, corn muffins, corn chips, relishes and pumpkin dessert, arranged on a beautiful table setting, was enjoyed by 32 ladies and Pastor Mark, with Peggy Hemphill, Linda Behrends, Leatha Christ and Radene Beran managing the kitchen.

The country for this year’s focus was Zimbabwe, with the theme “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk!”

Samantha Clifford, Mallory Denner and Jady Schultis passed out programs and commitment cards as the ladies entered the sanctuary. The program began with them carrying in a Bible, a sisel mat and three candles that they lit. They shared that the red candle represented love, the white candle peace and the yellow candle reconciliation.

Sherry Henrichs, Beth Roelfs and Carolyn Schultis led the ladies in responsive readings, while several beautiful familiar hymns were sang throughout the program accompanied by Jeanette Bures. Diane Wellsandt read a very honest letter from the women of Zimbabwe, expressing their pride in their country and also their pain.

A very informative video describing the country of Zimbabwe, the challenges of political violence, unemployment, poverty and the lack of gender equality that they struggle with every day was viewed.

Pastor Mark’s message focused on the question, “Do you want to be made well?” “Can we leave behind our old selves and be open to the new that Jesus has made available to us?” “Are we ready to be healed?”

A prayer was offered in support of the Odell Methodist Church who will host the 2021 World Day of Prayer.

The service ended with a Benediction, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year’s World Day of Prayer a success. ~Submitted by Ardith Barber

We remember two former members of our church and community.

Marilyn Guenther, sister of the late Edwin Schmidt, passed away on March 7, 2020 at the Good Samaritan Center in Beatrice and her funeral was at St. John Lutheran in Beatrice on March 12. For all of her youth years, she was a member of St. Paul Lutheran, and she was interred at Prairie Home Cemetery by Diller. Marilyn's family is in our prayers, and will be missed by many school children in Beatrice where she gave so much of her time and love.



Randy Behrends passed away after a short battle with cancer on March 31, 2020 at his home in Washington OH, Ohio. His cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later time.

Randy was the son of Bill Behrends.

Sympathy cards can be sent to: Bill and Becky Behrends, 3964 W Pine Rd, Wymore, NE 68466.

Our Deepest Sympathy goes to these families at this time of loss.

May you always feel God's presence and love as you mourn.



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:

Betty and Franklin Damrow, Margery Keefover, Cindy Bartlett, Skylar Folkers and Eden Lottman.

WORSHIP RESOURCES FROM NEBRASKA SYNOD



The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on our everyday way of life and routines, and worship, for me anyway, was always a steady constant that I could count on. Now even that is upended. I found several resources on the Nebraska Synod ELCA website that deal directly with the changes in our lives due to the pandemic and the response we are supposed to be taking to care for each other.

Please visit <https://nebraskasynod.org> and click on the link for the COVID-19 Updates and Resources.

Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Christian church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer – pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy – on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.” (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

“The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant.” (*Life Together*) ~The Newsletter Newsletter, April 2020

CROSS WALK NEWS



Starting Wednesday March 25, the weekly CROSS WALK youth program of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Diller will be coming to children throughout the community on Facebook. Until we are able to celebrate together in person, students will be receiving a weekly packet of activities that are related to the week's lesson and a new Cross Walk session will be posted each Wednesday at 4. For the weeks before Easter children will get a card to finish and are being encouraged to consider making it and giving it to someone who needs a smile.

A total of 34 homes and 58 children will be receiving packets. Twenty-four of these kids have celebrated with us weekly since the program started in October. This is an opportunity for us to reach out to all the families in our community to provide caring and support during a challenging time. We hope that the children new to the program will try us out and enjoy it enough that they choose to join in over and over again. We hope this gesture helps children and parents feel the love of Christ. ~Submitted by Beth Roelfs



The Confirmation classes will be on Sunday, April 5th at 7pm via Zoom for Parents' Night and likely Final Class will be on Wednesday, April 22, at 7pm – possibly via Zoom.

Please watch for updates or contact Pastor Mark.

CONFIRMATION IS PLANNED to be on Sunday, April 26. Again, this may change due to the fluid situation we are in. **Please see the church website, www.stpauldiller.com for all updates and/or class schedule changes, or contact Pastor Mark.**

"Homework" is also available on the website.

If you have pictures and/or information about Confirmation students/activities, PLEASE email them to Kendra K Weers.



APRIL 26, 2020

The only pastor from our cluster that was able to participate in our "round robin" before the COVID-19 shutdown was Pr. Ernesto Medina of St. John Lutheran in Beatrice who had a lively message about Melchizedek.

THANK YOU to Pr. Medina and especially Pr. Mark for stepping up and changing the entire structure of the "normal" Lenten service and creating a new normal where we used technology to reach as many as we could through Facebook live.



At Top, Pastor Mark gives the message at our Ash Wednesday service. Above, members receive the imposition of ashes.

At Top, Pastor Medina delivers his message about Melchizedek. Above, congregants enjoy a meal provided by the Women of the ELCA.

ATTENTION 2020 GRADUATES!!!!

Are You, your Child, or Grandchild graduating this Year? We want to honor them by having them on our Graduation Board! Times like these make it very important to honor the efforts and milestones by our youth and advanced degree achievers, and they deserve the recognition.



Pictures and information for the board are being accepted until **May 31** (if you want your picture and info in the June-July Newscaster), and the information needed is: Name (First, Middle, Last) of the graduate, parents' or grandparents' names, name of school, school colors, degree earned and future plans. Please submit wallet-sized pictures in the Newscaster mailbox at church or email to kweers10@gmail.com. Thanks!!

SCHOOL KITS

This year, rather than item donations, we would appreciate cash donations in order to purchase the needed items in order to help prevent duplication.



Donations can be given to Irene Gibson or mailed to the church.

Your support of this project is greatly appreciated!

Volunteers Needed



We Need You!!

We are in need for two volunteers to go to Synod Assembly in Kearney on May 28-30 and represent our congregation.

At press time, this event is still on the calendar. Please watch for updates.

Please let Pastor Mark know if you would like to help.



Easter Lilies

Due to the extraordinary times we are living in, there will not be an Easter Lily insert this year. We plan on having a Drive-In and Online Worship for Easter service, and would love to have you join us.



April Birthdays

- 3 Tyler Wolken
- 5 Bob Wellsandt
- 5 Larry Lawton
- 5 Scott Beran
- 7 Kalli Roelfs
- 12 Jeff Barber
- 17 Neleigh Weers
- 18 Judy DeBoer
- 18 Shawna Barnts
- 24 Larry Germer
- 26 Daniel Beran
- 26 Kendall Graves
- 27 Mykal Folkers
- 27 Madeline Parde
- 29 David Henrichs



- April 6, 2001
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Kendra K Weers
- April 12, 2014
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Tyler & Crystal Snyder
- April 16, 1994
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Chad & Courtney Lottman
- April 18, 1998
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Jamie & Sheri Schultis
- April 20, 1968
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Russell & Carolyn Schultis
- April 21, 1979
☞ Mr. & Mrs. David & Sherry Henrichs
- April 26, 2008
☞ Mr. & Mrs. Brad & Megan Langenberg



April 3 Lenten Service
ONLINE

April 5 Palm Sunday Worship Service
ONLINE



April 9 Maundy Thursday Service
ONLINE

April 10 Good Friday Service
ONLINE



April 12 Easter Sunday Worship Service
Easter Sunrise 6:30am
Online Worship



Easter Service 9:30am
Online Worship

April 19 Sunday Worship Service**
Worship Assistant, Jim Damrow
Greeter, Dennis Nippert

April 26 Sunday Worship Service**
Confirmation Sunday**
Worship Assistant, Cheryl Denner
Greeter, Jim Bures



May 3 Sunday Worship Service**
With Holy Communion**
Worship Assistant, Jamie Schultis
Greeter, Dean Pretzer

May 10 Sunday Worship Service**
Happy Mother's Day**
Worship Assistant, David Henrichs
Greeter, Charles Barber



Gary Bergmeier Jim Bures
Chris Clifford

John Denner Larry Germer
Jarrod Heidemann Steve Hemphill

Dennis Hennerberg
Jamie Hennerberg
David Henrichs Joe Henrichs

Brett Landenberger Chad Lottman
Doug Lottman Don Meyer



Kellan Schlichtman

Morgan Kapke

Madeline Parde

Joely Weers



Children's
Sermon

Sheri
Schultis

Kristen
Heidemann

Pastor Mark

Cheryl
Denner



Please furnish your own Styrofoam cups or use the cups in the kitchen cupboard.

Susan Lawton
Tara Sasse

Kendra S Weers
Phyllis Wiemers



Barb Sasse
Kendra K Weers

Jane Pretzer
Cleo Perkins

April 2020



www.stpauldiller.com

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|------------------|
| <p>PLEASE NOTE: Everything from Easter on is marked with two red asterisks (**). This means this is PLANNED, but the situation may change. PLEASE check the church website (above), Facebook Page, call, text or email Pastor Mark or a member of the Council for more information. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during these uncertain times. God is with us!</p> | | | <p>1</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed On Facebook Live</p> <p>Lenten Meal Canceled Online Lenten Service 7:30PM</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>Red Hymnal Drive-In or Online Worship Worship Service 9:30 AM CONFIRMATION 7:00pm Online Class</p> <p>5</p>  | <p>Eunice Circle Postponed Until Further Notice</p> <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed On Facebook Live</p> | <p>9</p>  <p>MAUNDY Thursday Online Worship 7:30 pm</p> | <p>10</p>  <p>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE Online Worship 7:30 pm</p> | <p>11</p> |
| <p>Red Hymnal Drive-In or Online Worship Easter Worship Service 9:30 AM Youth Meeting 6:30 Online</p> <p>12</p> | <p>Women's Bible Study Canceled Until Further Notice</p> <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm**</p> <p>Council Meeting 7:30pm</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>Red Hymnal Worship Service** 9:30 AM WELCA Spring Salad Supper 6:00pm**</p> <p>19</p> | <p>Newscaster items due</p> <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm**</p> <p>CONFIRMATION 7:00pm**</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>Blue Hymnal Worship Service** 9:30 AM Confirmation Youth Meeting 6:30 at Parsonage**</p> <p>26</p>  | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Work Day** All Day</p> | <p>29</p> <p>CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm**</p> | <p>30</p> | | |



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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