

ELIAS COMMUNICATOR

Called by Christ, we live our faith in Word and Deed

February/March 2019



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Dear Elias Family and Friends,

Welcome to our February and March edition of the Elias Communicator. The time we're in is in between the seasons of Epiphany and Lent. It seems like these two seasons are very different from one another. We go from the Magi inquiring about the new born King whose brilliant star is shining over Bethlehem, then Jesus is coming into his ministry characterized by good deeds, then things transition to friction as Jesus speaks in parables to reveal that the Pharisees have become like wicked tenant farmers – willing to kill the owner's son to keep the harvest and land for themselves.

From peaceful inquiry to violence based in greed/power – seems our present world is not much different from the Biblical experience. I think it is increasingly comforting to know that we are in the world, but not of the world, however, this realization does not disengage us from loving our neighbor as ourselves. Through it all . . . and I mean Through It ALL, we live our faith daily in Word and Deed – with much prayer and need of encouragement.

I hope you catch my article written in the February edition of the Emmitsburg News Journal – some in-depth thoughts about love – just in time for Valentine's Day. In this writing you'll find some thought-provoking statements that have shaped our concepts of love. I hope this food for thought will aid in understanding ourselves better, our ability to love others more deeply – even as we fall more deeply into the Love that God has for us . . . “rascals” that we are at times.

Please continue to reach out – even long distance if need be. Spread the love you know that originates from God, give away the love you have – share it with everyone you know or may soon meet. Your kindness and caring are needed to counter the world's harsh tone. Don't avoid a stranger if you can touch their life with just a smile or any comforting word – people need to know they are loved and cared for, and even a small gesture might make the difference for someone who feels alone. Know that we are God's Love Letter written to a love-starved world. Too many need to know what True Love is and how to express that love in proper, responsible, and dignified ways. Every effort is needed to teach love to others, that we, by all means – might save some. If your heart well is dry, reach out to someone else who will listen compassionately.

Jesus is always available – He really is just a prayer away. If you are prompted by the Holy Spirit, invite someone you know who needs to come to Church! Spread the Good Cheer of Valentine's Day, give everyone you know a smile, a hug, a word of encouragement – together we'll keep building His kingdom of Love and sit together at the most wonderful party with Jesus at the head table.

God bless us each and every one – as we live out the special Love of God and keep on reading and sharing God's Love with everyone.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Jon and Your Family at Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church

Coming Events

Welcome to Lent at Elias

Lent begins at Elias on Ash Wednesday, March 6, with the Imposition of Ashes at the 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM services. We will follow that with a series of Lent-related Sunday themes to explore:

Lent 1 (March 10): Wilderness, Testing – “IF” questions – Luke 4:1-13

Lent 2 (March 17): No Prophet dies outside Jerusalem! – Luke 13:33b

Lent 3 (March 24): Final Warnings – Luke 13:1-9

Lent 4 (March 31): What was Lost is Found – Rejoice! – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Lent 5 (April 7): Tenant Farmers Gone Bad – Luke 20:9-20

Lent 6 (Palm Sunday): Passion Narrative – Luke 22:1-23



Stay tuned for more information: Elias Seder Meal, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Joy!

2019 Emmitsburg Council of Churches Lenten Services

† Wednesday, March 20, 12 Noon – Toms Creek United Methodist Church
Luncheon provided by TCUMC Oldie and Goodies!
Lenten Devotional by Sr. Anne Marie, Daughters of Charity

† Wednesday, March 27, 5:30 PM – Trinity United Methodist Church
Dinner hosted by Trinity UMC
Devotional by Pastor Heath Wilson of Toms Creek UMC

† Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 PM – Mother Seton Basilica/Shrine
Dinner hosted by Mother Seton Basilica/Shrine
Devotional by Rev. Chris Spruill of Incarnation UCC

Service of Healing Prayers

On Sunday, February 3, we will celebrate a service of healing prayers and anointing with oil – a non-communion service. Please come and invite a friend to receive the power of Christ’s presence. Enter his presence with your honest desire for healing, salvation, blessing. Christ will touch your life.

Healthy Living Workshops

Sandy Stillwell will present a series of three half-hour Healthy Living Workshops after select worship services in February and March. All are welcome!

Feb. 10, 11:10 -11:40 – Fantastic Fruits

March 3, 11:10 -11:40 – Fabulous Fats (oils)

March 24, 11:10 -11:40 – Perfect Proteins



Council of Churches

The next Emmitsburg Council of Churches meeting will be held at Incarnation United Church of Christ on Tuesday, March 19, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Men's Breakfast

We'll meet to eat at the Palms Restaurant on Saturday, March 30, at 8:00 AM. See you there!

Spring Supper and Bazaar

Our Annual Spring Supper and Bazaar will be on Saturday, March 2, beginning at noon. The menu is roast beef, roast turkey, sliced ham, and apple fritters, along with filling, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, stewed tomatoes, cole slaw, applesauce and cake. Adults \$12, Children 6-12 \$4, Carryouts \$14. The yard sale (along with baked goods and crafts) will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9-4.

This is our largest fundraiser. Come help us prepare on Wednesday morning, Thursday or Friday 7:30-3. And remember to bring items for the yard sale, craft or bake table by Thursday morning.

Hope to see you there!

Vickie Smith

Paws to Pray – Elias Prayer Hotline!

Pastor Jon shares a 2-minute Bible verse. Then we do our prayer time. Prayer can be for you, your family, friends, group members on the line, world situations, or whatever the Spirit lays on your heart (2 minutes or less to pray each).

Just dial **712-451-0767**, enter Access Code **812928**, then press #

Paws to Pray takes place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM.

Feb. 12

Feb. 26

Mar. 12

Mar. 26

Apr. 9

Welcome to the Hotline . . . Let us pray!



Concert for the Hungry 2019

On Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 3:00 PM, Elias Lutheran Church will present its fourth annual program to bring awareness to the epidemic of hungry and homeless children in the Emmitsburg area. The concert, under the direction of Cheryl Carney, will feature several soloists from the Elias Church family, the Handbell and Vocal choirs from Elias Lutheran Church, as well as other local artists. In addition to the music, information will be presented about the plight of local children who are in need and ways that we can all help.

To borrow from the mission statement of the Boston-based group, Music for Food, “we believe both music and food are essential to human life and growth. Music has the power to call forth the best in us, inspiring awareness and action when artists and audiences work together to transform the ineffable into tangible and needed food resources.” We hope our concert will help raise resources and awareness in the fight against hunger in our area. Monetary donations will gladly be accepted and all proceeds will benefit our local children in need.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY— HERE ARE A FEW LOVE NOTES:

Considering Your Love: “A child needs to be loved in order that he or she may love themselves, and loving him/herself, be able to love others who also need love. Love of self here has the meaning of the Lord’s commandment – ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself’ -- and is distinguished from egocentric self-love. * Only those who have been loved and who love others are free and able to love others. The ability to love is always the result of having been loved. This is true of our relation to God. We read in the Epistle of St. John: ‘Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us’ (v.4:10). Love is always a response to being loved.” Reuel L. Howe, “Man’s Need and God’s Action.” *Illuminations from the Synoptic Gospels, An Anthology*. P. 135. Leila Whitney Galbraith C.S.S. Publishing Co. Inc. Lima OH. 1989.



Perhaps you might consider for yourself if you have felt loved? If not, please read the New Testament letter: 1 John in its entirety. John writes as a kind parent would write to his child, but also, he addresses us who are older. It is informative about how we are to love one another (anyone who hates brother or sister is not living the Christian Way—doesn’t have God living in them), but, John doesn’t want anyone to feel condemned in their old ways--but reveals the secret about receiving God’s love, for He hath loved us first! This is a life-giving message that will change your life, soften your heart, and enable you to live free of the old darkness, the haunting feeling of dread and despair, which for some among us, has lingered like a family curse. Christ has come to set us free from the old bondage to sin and death. This is nothing new, but something we need to read, hear and speak—for ourselves, our children, and others. Let this Love Letter from 1 John sink into your soul—also Luther’s Love Letters herein are short and helpful. Be renewed in your heart and mind. Be blessed by this great God of Love who longs to be in fellowship with all people. *PJ*

Love God First: “The ten commandments, although a series of negative prohibitions, set forth our duty to God and to others. This is even more clear in the positive summary of the law which Jesus made by joining a verse from Leviticus (19:18) to a verse from Deuteronomy (6:5). It is important to observe that the first commandment concerns our duty to God and not our duty to our neighbor (Matt. 22;37-40). We are to love God first; and then we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Sin is the reversal of this order. We put ourselves first, our neighbor next, and God somewhere in the background.” John Stott, “Basic Christianity” p.78, *Illuminations from the Synoptic Gospels, An Anthology*. P. 135. Leila Whitney Galbraith C.S.S. Publishing Co. Inc. Lima OH. 1989.

More about Love

Love is the greatest virtue, placed above all; every benevolent act filters through love's gold standard:

"Love is patient...kind... (Does) not envy)... boast, it is not proud... dishonor others, (or) self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects . . . trusts . . . hopes . . . perseveres. Love never fails . . ."
(I Cor. 13: 68)

Love begins with . . . how we think. When we culture our heart in God's love, we naturally express the golden rule by acts of kindness. As these rich hues emerge in us, our love for God and humanity blossom into greater dimensions and intensity. We pray for our enemy; we reach out to our brethren; we esteem ourselves as God's royalty, and we lavish our precious Lord with our gifts.

Sandy Stillwell

Thoughts to Ponder—from: The Talmudic Anthology

TORAH: NEGLECT OR STUDY!

As is well known, our Lord Jesus grew up in the deep contemplation and study of the Jewish scriptures--the Torah. The Hebrew Bible is made up of the Law, the Prophets and the Wisdom writings. Here's some admonishments to study Torah, however, we, as Christians, should always be diligent in our study of the whole Bible, Old and New Testaments.

"The Torah says: 'If thou forsakest me a single day I shall forsake thee two days.'" Y. Berekot, end. Friedman edition 169a; Talmudic Anthology. p. 503. BEHRMAN Publishing. 1966

"He who does not study Torah lives in a world of darkness and his soul is drawn to the bright flame of Gehenna (Hell)." Zohar, i. 185a p503. The Talmudic Anthology, 1966.

No one is so poor as he who is ignorant of the Torah and its commandments, for this is all that can be considered as wealth." Zohar, ii. 93a, p503. The Talmudic Anthology, 1966.

In olden times a man was willing to pay a manah of silver in order to receive instruction in a new theme of the Torah. Nowadays, if people are willing to give a young man a manah of silver to learn Torah, no youth is interested or inclines his ear to the suggestion." Zohar, ii. 176a p503. The Talmudic Anthology, 1966.

The Function of Biblical Stories:

The Torah consists of a body, namely, the commandments, and of a garment, namely the stories. The Torah is like wine and requires a vessel [such as a glass to contain]. For this reason there are stories in the Torah. The Sages search out both the wine and the body; they are not satisfied either with the vessel or the garment alone." Zohar, iv. 152a p504. The Talmudic Anthology, 1966.

Let's Read

By Linda Knox



Maybe it's just because I've always been intrigued with books – or maybe it's because many years ago the stories read by teachers, and then those tales and true adventures I learned to read myself, fascinated me – but I can always find a number of volumes in any collection that seem to call out to me.

Beginning with the children's collection, there are a few recently-added stories in the Angelina Ballerina group that could make any little girl squeal with great delight. Recommended for ages three and up, **Angelina's Ballet Class** and **The Costume Ball**, by Katharine Holabird, are published by Pleasant Company Publications; the same company produces the American Girl series which delves into historical facts as they relate the stories of fictitious girls in American History.

For a small child, **Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep: Action Prayers, Poems and Songs for Bedtime** can calm little children and offers old and new finger plays. Accompanying each are enchanting illustrations by Nancy Munger. Children will recognize the subjects on each of the 32 pages in Debbie Trafton O'Neal's paperback.

From the favorite "Pooh" stories of many years ago, a "**Look and Find**" book written by Colette Moran gives preschoolers ten chances to find the items shown in double-page spreads of the Walt Disney production. Each is a memorable game to play.

Recently-acquired **In the Presence of God: Devotions for the Newly Married** by Otto W. Toelke offers down-to-earth advice. The situations that arise in the creation of a home by a husband and a wife will sometimes require guided thought and prayer. This small volume provides a wealth of information for those learning important new roles.

A paperback, **Miracles in the Middle**, focuses on Men Who Live the Promise in Midlife. Rich Bimler, author of six books, and Ted Schroeder, pastor and author, write "to encourage men and those who love them." The book declares that it will help transform anxiety into action, and points to the comfort of the Cross of Christ.

From children to adults, anyone may make their own discoveries in our Reading Corner. Keep reading!

Love Letters from The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther



GOD IS LOVE: “God Himself is Love, and His Being is nothing but pure Love. Therefore if anyone wanted to draw and picture God in a telling way, he would have to draw a picture that shared nothing but Love, as though the divine Nature were nothing but the intense fire and fervor of a love that has filled heaven and earth. #2540 *What Luther Says, A Practical, In-Home Anthology* p.819. Ewald M. Plass, Concordia Publishing House, Saint Lois, MS. 1959.

GOD LOVES THE UNLOVELY INTO LOVELINESS: “Sinners are lovely because they are loved; they are not loved because they are lovely. That is why the love of man avoids sinners and evil persons. But Christ says: ‘I came not to call the righteous, but sinners!’ (Matt 9:13). And this is the love of the cross, born of the cross, which betakes itself, not where it may find something good to enjoy but where it may confer good upon the poor and the needy; for it is more blessed to give than to receive, says the apostle (Acts 20:35). #2542 *What Luther Says, A Practical, In-Home Anthology* p.819. Ewald M. Plass, Concordia Publishing House, Saint Lois, MS. 1959.

And last but not least:

April 7, 1532 – HOW GOOD GOD MUST BE!

“Our Lord God must be a pious Man to be able to love rascals. I cannot do it, and yet I am a rascal myself!” 2548 *What Luther Says, A Practical, In-Home Anthology* p.821. Ewald M. Plass, Concordia Publishing House, Saint Lois, MS. 1959.

Emmitsburg Food Bank

The Emmitsburg Food Bank needs the following items:

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Beets | Jelly | Sauerkraut |
| Carrots | Juice | Shampoo |
| Cereal | Laundry detergent | Shaving cream |
| Coffee | Mixed vegetables | Spaghetti |
| Deodorant | Pasta | Spaghetti sauce |
| Diced tomatoes | Pork & beans | Toilet paper |
| Dish detergent | Potatoes | Toothpaste |
| Fruit | Rice | |

We do NOT need green beans, soup, or Ramen noodles at the present time.



HEAD DEACONS:

- ✚ February – TBA
- ✚ March – TBA

WELCOMERS:

- Feb. 3 – Bryant Hoffman
- Feb. 10 – Erma and Neil Bechtol
- Feb. 17 – Julia and Sandy Hartle
- Feb. 24 – Marta Hillis

- Mar. 3 – Bryant Hoffman
- Mar. 10 – Nita Shank
- Mar. 17 – Linda and Ernie Shriver
- Mar. 24 – Vickie and Jerry Smith
- Mar. 31 – Linda and Steve Wantz
- Apr. 7 – Sharon and Roger Adams

ACOLYTES:

- Feb. 3 – Adele and Molly Hess
- Feb. 10 – Natalie Hess and Kevin Shank
- Feb. 17 – Dennis and Kevin Shank
- Feb. 24 – Molly and Natalie Hess

- Mar. 3 – Adele Hess and Gretal Shank
- Mar. 10 – Dennis Shank and Bryant Hoffman
- Mar. 17 – Kevin Shank and Natalie Hess
- Mar. 24 – Adele Hess and Gretal Shank
- Mar. 31 – Molly Hess and Bryant Hoffman
- Apr. 7 – Dennis and Kevin Shank

LECTORS:

- Feb. 3 – Sharon Adams
- Feb. 10 – Paul Harner
- Feb. 17 – Annie Hess
- Feb. 24 – Linda Knox

- Mar. 3 – Matt Provance
- Mar. 10 – Renata Provance
- Mar. 17 – Frank Schmursal
- Mar. 24 – Gretal Shank
- Mar. 31 – Kevin Shank
- Apr. 7 – Linda Shank

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

- Feb. 3 – Annie Hess
- Feb. 10 – Frank Schmursal
- Feb. 17 – Gretal Shank
- Feb. 24 – Nita Shank

- Mar. 3 – Annie Hess
- Mar. 10 – Frank Schmursal
- Mar. 17 – Gretal Shank
- Mar. 24 – Nita Shank
- Mar. 31 – Annie Hess
- Apr. 7 – Frank Schmursal

February Altar Chairpersons: Harriet Buhrman and Judy Manahan

March Altar Chairpersons: Marta Hillis and Peggy Stitely

Elias Lutheran Church Stewardship Report



| Attendance | 2019 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|
| Total Sunday attendance through January 20, 2019 | 101 |
| Average Sunday attendance | 51 |
| Total Wednesday attendance through January 23, 2019 | 23 |
| Average Wednesday attendance | 12 |
| Average weekly attendance | 63 |

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Jon's schedule varies according to emergencies, visitations, and unforeseen circumstances. The pastor can be reached by the church phone at 301-447-6239, by cell phone at 240-422-2193, or by email at jsgreenstone@verizon.net.

Monday: off, unless emergency.

Tuesday: visitations, meetings

Wednesday: 9:30 am service, office 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, visitations, evening music and service rehearsals

Thursday: visitations, church office 2-4 pm

Friday: service/sermon preparation, evening programs

Elias Communicator

is a bi-monthly newsletter of
Elias Lutheran Church.

Services: **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Worship – 9:30 a.m.

All are welcome to attend
and share God's word.

We are located at
100 North Ave.,
Emmitsburg, MD
(301) 447 – 6239

E-mail: eliasluth@gmail.com
Website: www.eliaslutheranchurch.org
Pastor: Rev. Jon R. Greenstone

Deadline for the February/March issue
is **Sunday, March 24**



ELIAS LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A PRAYING CONGREGATION. WE HOLD IN COMMUNAL PRAYER THE PEOPLE LISTED HERE AND THOSE IN OUR HOMES, WORKPLACES, AND COMMUNITIES.

Prayers for Healing:

Melissa Bishop, Bill Boyd, Dixie Confer, Kris Eckhoff, Charles Eyler, Fred Fisher, Tammie Fisher, Jim Galanie, Lea Geist, Edward Hines, Bob Hixon, Jimmy Jones, Sarah Keith, Rick Kemenyas, Joani Kramer, Don Leatherman, Pam Lippy, Bonnie Miller, Rick Plunkard, Brian Reed, Helen Rodgers, Bonnie Royer, Gail Shaker, "Smitty" and Barb Smith, Betty Stambaugh, Richard Stambaugh, Sam Valentine, and Janet Andrew Wallace

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Steve Adams, Nancy Andrew, Florence Bassler, Charles Bechtol, Ruth Clark, LeeAnn Delgar, Kathy Givler, Richard Herring, Rita Hinchey, Jill Hooper, Mary Johnson, Linda Knox, Barbara Lipps, Sherry Ott, Wanda Schuler, Ruth Slonaker, Betty Smith, Joan Smith, Betty Valentine, Dottie Wagerman, Ginny (Crum) Welk, Dolores Wivell, and Virginia Wright.

For those serving in the Military:

Logan Councillor, Jacob Fannin, Nathan Jeffcoat, Noretta Kime, Sean Reaver, Ashley Shank, Tommy Shultz, and Jacob Whitney



Prayer shawls are available!

If you know anyone, on this prayer list or not, who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please see Betty Valentine (301-447-2507).

February 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 8:00 pm – AA | 2 8:00 pm – AA |
| 3 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion (Healing Prayers) Lector: Sharon Adams | 4 | 5 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm | 6 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA | 7 | 8 8:00 pm – AA | 9 8:00 pm – AA |
| 10 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Paul Harner 11:10 – Healthy Living Workshop | 11 | 12 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 13 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA | 14 | 15 8:00 pm – AA | 16 8:00 pm – AA |
| 17 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Annie Hess | 18 | 19 11:30 am – Ladies Day Out at the Carriage House | 20 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA | 21 | 22 8:00 pm – AA | 23 8:00 pm – AA |
| 24 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Linda Knox | 25 | 26 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 27 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA | 28 Yard sale 9-4 | | |

March 2019

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 Yard Sale 9-4 8:00 pm – AA | 2 Yard Sale 9-4 Noon - Spring Supper & Bazaar 8:00 pm – AA |
| 3 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Matt Provance 11:10 – Healthy Living Workshop | 4 | 5 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00 pm | 6 (ASH WED.) 9:30 am - Holy Communion 7:00 pm – Imposition of Ashes 8:00 pm AA | 7 | 8 8:00 pm – AA | 9 8:00 pm – AA |
| 10 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Renata Provance | 11 | 12 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 13 9:30 am - Holy Communion 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA | 14 | 15 8:00 pm – AA | 16 8:00 pm – AA |
| 17 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Frank Schmersal | 18 | 19 11:30 am – Ladies Day Out at the Ott House 7:00 pm – Council of Churches | 20 9:30 am - Holy Communion Noon – ECC Lenten Service 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA | 21 | 22 8:00 pm – AA | 23 8:00 pm – AA |
| 24 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Gretal Shank 11:10 – Healthy Living Workshop | 25 | 26 7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 27 9:30 am - Holy Communion 5:30 pm – ECC Lenten Service 6:30 pm – choir rehearsal 8:00 pm AA | 28 | 29 8:00 pm – AA | 30 8:00 am - Men’s Breakfast 8:00 pm – AA |
| 31 9:00 – Sunday School 10:00 – Holy Communion Lector: Kevin Shank | | | | | | |



SEE YOU AT ELIAS...IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE UNITED IN CHRIST OUR LORD

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Elías Communicator

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