

Pastor's Ponderings

The numberless gifts of God's mercies my tongue cannot fathom or tell. Like dew that appears in the morning, they come to us shining and full. The numberless gifts of God's mercies my tongue cannot fathom or tell! (ELW #683, The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies)

It is that time of the year again where we begin to talk about the financial aspect of our life together at Concordia. Although we have had a decent year of offerings, we are beginning to feel the effect of increased insurance costs, a phenomenon being experienced by most churches. To avoid close calls and fulfill our obligations, we will need to continue to encourage your faithful support and creative solutions.

To get us started down that path, we will be spending some time reflecting on questions of stewardship. That begins with thinking about each of our individual gifts, skills, and passions. It continues with exploring what our own community connections are and what the wider community and world needs from us as the church. We will also hear about the various groups and teams at Concordia and how we live out the calling God has for us.

At Sunday worship, check out the insert for reflection questions that will guide you deeper into thinking through these things and into faithful acts of stewardship. God's gifts and mercies are numberless and we are recipients of so much good!



Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 5 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9

Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Holy Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, October 12 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Psalm 111

Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Holy Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 19 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 121

Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Holy Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 26 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Second Lesson: Romans 3:19-28 Holy Gospel: John 8:31-36



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, October 7 @ 6 p.m. and Tuesday, October 21 @ 6 p.m.





Worship Matters: The Halloween that Changed the World

Reformation Day is October 31, but like several other festivals throughout the Church year, our commemoration is held on a Sunday (in this case the last Sunday of October). There is, of course, another holiday that we associate with this date . . .

Halloween is a secular holiday, but it does have some Christian roots and connections, beginning with its name. The name Halloween comes from All Hallow's Eve, a reference to the vigil on the evening before All Hallow's Day, better known today as All Saints, which occurs on November 1. The word Hallow means 'holy' – blessed, consecrated, or set apart in a special way. All Hallow's or All Saints is the feast that celebrates the memory of all who have gone before us. We remember and pray for the faithful men and women of history, and for those who have recently passed away – that great 'cloud of witnesses' that surround us and are examples for us of Christian living.

All Saints was originally observed on May 13; but in the 8th century, Pope Gregory III moved it to November 1. 'Officially' the new date was chosen to mark the papal dedication of a church honoring the Saints, but most historians believe the Church moved the observance to correspond with and challenge some established pagan fall festivals such as Samhain, the ancient Celtic New Year. Whatever the reason, this date was soon observed universally, and is designated today in the calendars of Lutherans, Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians and others.

So on to the Halloween that changed the world. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, intending to stir debate, posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. This church held one of the largest collections of relics (bones from saints, locks of hair from martyrs, a twig from Moses' burnishing bush, etc.) outside of Rome, and all would be displayed on All Saints Day. The Church was teaching that by paying a fee and viewing these relics, a soul's stay in purgatory could be shortened. This was one of the teachings that Luther was challenging - gratuitous and free remission of sin was not by papal pardons, indulgences, relics, etc. but by faith in Jesus Christ.

The posting of Luther's 95 Theses was the beginning of the Reformation, the rediscovery of the Gospel, the good news of salvation by grace through faith. Most likely Luther chose this date because of the large crowds expected for this festival, but it also seems likely and fitting that he chose this date to honor the faithful saints with a call for restoration of the biblical faith held by the saints throughout the church's history.

It was a Halloween that changed the world . . .

References: Festivals, Holy Days, and Saint's Day: A Study in Origins and Survivals in Church Ceremonies and Secular Customs, Ethel Urlin; Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, F.L. Cross and E.A. Livingston



OCTOBER, 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST, 2025 FINANCIALS ACTUAL		BUDGETED	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME	\$12,570.00	\$13,696.17	\$95,303.67
EXPENSES	\$10,756.92	\$14,537.42	\$111,216.01
NET	\$1,813.08	(\$841.25)	(\$15,912.34)

Pastor Jeff will be away from October 6-19. In case of an emergency requiring pastoral care, contact Pastor Kim Sturtz at 218-393-7444.

Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Monday, Oct 6th @ 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing plans for the year. Bring \$ for CHUM. All women are welcome!

Quilters will meet on Thursday, Oct 9th from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bring your lunch, dessert is provided. Eventide Quilters will meet on Thursday, Oct 9th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments provided. Come join us in either group. Good Shepherd donated some great material to us, so new quilts need to be sewn.

There will be Sandwich & Scripture on Wednesday, October 29th.

As our Duluth area summer comes to an end, and the school year begins, we have found the shelves at the CHUM food pantry at very low stages. I hope that it is a sign that people have had a busy summer filled with other activities, and donations of foods will pick up soon. Especially lacking is the mainstay supply of boxes of macaroni & cheese, the size that serves about 4. So I have a challenge for all of us at Concordia & our friends: to help with the resupply of mac & cheese throughout the month of September. There are two large wooden drop boxes in the narthex. Let's do our best to fill them to over-flowing with mac & cheese for CHUM. Pop-top canned soups (please, not creamed soups) and other items are certainly welcomed, too. However, our focus for September should be mac & cheese. As I mentioned on Sunday September 7, at this time, mac & cheese is NOT among the items that can be purchased from CHUM sources with our financial donations, so please note that while they are still welcomed and encouraged, cash/checks will be used for other food items instead of mac & cheese. Thank you, as always, for all that everyone at Concordia does to help those in need. Whenever we are at the CHUM distribution center, we hear so many thank yous and messages from grateful families. We always come home feeling uplifted! Best Always, Jane Wedin

Two fun ways to support Laundry Love: Craft & Bake Sale, Raffle/Quilt Auction, and more! Saturday, October 11th, 9am-3pm and a Potato Bar Lunch Fundraiser! Sunday, October 19th, 10:30am-noon. Suggested Donation = Adults-\$6, Children-\$3. Both events held at:Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1325 N. 45th Avenue E, Duluth. Laundry Love is a no-cost laundry service, provided to those in need, by local churches and CHUM. Please contact Lynn Carlson at 218-341-7190 if you would like more information, would like to make a donation, or would like to buy a raffle ticket. Sponsor: Thrivent Action Team Community Project.

There will be a Sunday School during worship and a Social Justice Potluck following worship on October 26! Bring a dish to share!

Let the Prayer Chain members join with you in your prayers and supplications. They are just a phone call away. All prayers are confidential and names or details are not needed. God is aware of all circumstances and waits to hear from you.

Please contact Reba Almquist at 525-6968.

For hospital or other visitations, please contact the office at 728-4229.

Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following people who have been hospitalized, under a doctor's care, those recuperating, struggling, or those grieving since our last newsletter: The family of Demartravion Reed, The family and friends of Amanda Prema, The people of Palestine, Phillip Hedges, Those unlawfully detained, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, The families, the survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred. Patti Pearson, Shawn Jamison, Those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability, Tom Nelson, Max, Wayne Kari, the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, and Russia, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, and migrant families.

Prayer and Visitation Ministry

Please remember those in our congregation who are in nursing homes or are homebound. Please pray for them and consider stopping by for a visit. Prayer and visitation is an important ministry of the congregation.

Open Arms: Warren Roberts

Aftenro: Wayne Kari





This fall we will take an in-depth look at the Palestine Israel situation along with the world's and the Western Christian church's response to it, and how we can accompany and advocate for justice and healing there.

We will be using Munther Isaac's new book, **Christ in the Rubble: Faith, the Bible, and the Genocide in Gaza** to structure our study as well as relevant videos of major voices for a better understanding of and solutions for ending the catastrophe there. Munther Isaac is a Palestinian theologian who serves as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church of Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour. We will be meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (219 N. 6th Avenue East, Duluth MN) as well as being available virtually at the Zoom link below on the following dates:

- Sunday, September 21 at 1:30 pm. Chapter 1 A Genocide in Gaza
- Sunday, October 19th at 1:30 pm. Chapter 2 The War Did Not Start on October 7
- Sunday November 16th at 1:30 pm. Chapter 3 The Relevant Context of Gaza
- Saturday, December 20th at 8:45 am to watch the 19th Annual Simulcast of Christmas Lessons and Carols from Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral and Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.
- **Sunday, January 18th** at 1:30 pm. Chapter 4 Coloniality, Racism and Empire Theology

A number of copies of the book are available for purchase at Gloria Dei for \$20. We encourage you to get the book and join us this fall.

Sumud Northland seeks to raise awareness, encourage advocacy, and provide opportunities for *accompaniment* in grappling with the realities of the Palestine/Israel conflict.

October Birthdays

- 9 Janice Danielson Chandni Katoch
- 10 William Carlson
- 11 James Gaffey
- 12 Donna Stabs
- 13 Macie Bergman Carter Wedin
- 17 Rachelle Anderson
- 18 Sandra Mass Sue Peterson
- 21 Karin Cummings Melissa King
- 22 Lynda Glibbery Patti Martenson
- 27 Aaron Roeser
- 28 Beverly Anderson Marcia DeMeo-Morse

If your birthday isn't listed or has the wrong date, please let the office know.





Flower and Sanctuary Candle Sign-up

A nice way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion is to have altar flowers or the sanctuary candle on Sunday morning. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for both. Cost for flowers is \$22 and the candle is \$8. Contact the office with any questions.

Please note that when you have altar flowes for worship, you may take them home following worship. The glass vases must stay at church, however.



Equal Exchange Coffee Donations

Equal Exchange coffee donations needed for church coffee supply. Coffee funds are running low. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex information rack. Place an envelope with any donation amount in the offering plate with note "Equal Exchange coffee fund."





A New Space for Chum Operations

Chum is pleased to announce the purchase of a building located at 25 West 1st Street (formerly Joseph Nease Gallery) to provide office space for administrative, finance, and development staff, plus a new, grantfunded, HUB program that will be announced in early October.

Before making the decision to purchase a building, Chum explored all options for leasing space from local churches and partnering organizations. We needed about 7,000 sq. ft. of office space for 20 staff, plus enough storage for items that were not going to the Damiano Center during construction. Our new admin building will house staff and be a location to receive donations of winter gear, coats/jackets, etc. Chum will not provide direct services from this location.

Chum prudently financed the purchase of this building, for these reasons:

- The location is ideal around the corner from our current building.
- Monthly mortgage payments are much less than the cost of leasing commercial space, which could have cost Chum between \$6,000 to \$10,000 per month.
- The building provides more than ample office space for staff, storage, and potential retail space for rent on the first floor; this would bring in revenue to offset payments.
- Our Mission Advancement Team has been renting office space at First Lutheran Church for the past 18 months. The rent we paid there will help cover monthly building payments.
- Chum's HUB Team is a grant-funded program, and a small portion of this grant is allocated for office rent at the new building.
- The building is an asset that can be sold or used for another purpose once Chum's Shelter Expansion Project is complete.

For the first time, all of Chum's operating staff will be in one location!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In August, a Safe Bay client had an issue with the brakes on their vehicle and were scared to drive due to not knowing if they might go out. Not only is the vehicle their mode of transportation, but it is their house as well. One of our outreach workers informed Safe Bay staff about this issue. With staff having developed relationships with several auto repair places around Duluth, many of them are offering discounted repairs for clients. Arrangements were made for the client's vehicle to go to Kenwood Muffler to get the work done. Kenwood Muffler got the brakes working again and the vehicle back to the client. When we went to pay the bill, Kenwood Muffler told us they wanted to donate to the repair. What a blessing to have people in our community who will step up and help a stranger.

Kenwood has been an excellent place for Safe Bay this season. The quiet and peaceful nature of the back parking lot of the Vineyard Church has been such a blessing. Many clients say it is the best night's rest they have gotten in a long time. The business and many neighbors have seen Safe Bay's tremendous impact on the lives of those who need it and have found ways to participate. We have seen neighbors helping neighbors and generosity inspiring generosity. Thank you to our wonderful community for all of the support and love this Safe Bay season.

How can I help?

DONATE \$. Financial support is desperately needed to help Safe Bay operate in 2025. Donations cover the cost of overnight staff, direct support to program guests, and supplies like coffee and printing. Donate online here, checks can made out to Chum with "Safe Bay" in the memo and mailed or delivered to 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802

DONATE SUPPLIES. The following donations are also needed and can be delivered in person or shipped to the Chum office at 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802. Please do not bring donations to our host site.

- Car sunshades (simple, accordion style shades help protect people from streetlights and heat in the summer)
- Coffee
- Coffee creamer
- Granola bars
- Gas cards (\$20, for fuel only)







Our Shared Responsibility To Protect What We Love-Habitats & Watersheds by Laura Raedeke, EcoFaith Network NE MN Team, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, MN

- 1. Minnesota has warmed 3 degrees between 1895 and 2020, according to DNR recordkeeping, largely from the releasing of 2.5 to 3 trillion tons of planet-warming chemicals into the atmosphere since the burning of fossil fuels in 1750. Meteorologist Paul Douglas writes that a warmer atmosphere is also wetter, triggering more frequent and extreme flooding events, while a longer growing season, fuel buildup, and increasing periods of drought are creating supersized wildfires over Canada and the western U.S. According to Climate Central, 80% of power outages are weather-related (storms, heat, wildfires), which have doubled since the early 2000s. Paul Douglas warns that staffing cuts at NOAA and FEMA are coming at a time when billion-dollar weather disasters are increasing nationwide due to "wetter wets and drier dries" driving more extreme flooding, hurricanes intensifying before landfall, and the warming of oceans from a warmer and more volatile climate. The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act sought to fight climate change with tax breaks to nudge the country toward clean energy and away from fossil fuels, paired with strict limits on pollution from smokestacks and tailpipes, but recent rollbacks of the 1970s-era Clean Air Act endanger the more than \$500 billion in planned investment in manufacturing of solar panels, electric vehicles, and batteries, as well as putting more than 400,000 jobs at risk. Electricity is expected to become much more expensive as a result. The U.S. is the country that has pumped the most carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution, and is currently the second-biggest emitter of GHGs, behind China, so be an advocate of policies that protect the planet we call home.
- 2. In the face of warmer temperatures, longer droughts, higher-intensity rainfall, and unchecked development, there is hope in the vast potential of forests to be our ally in protecting ecosystems and people by storing massive amounts of carbon and cleaning our air. Our efforts to protect and preserve them are crucial, while at home in our own yards, we can grow the kinds of trees and plants needed to reverse the plummeting numbers of biodiverse wildlife across the nation and the globe, according to entomologist Doug Tallamy at the University of Delaware. In particular, the 3 billion birds that have vanished from North America since 1970 would benefit from planting the mighty oak, which produces the most caterpillars, birds' most necessary food. In addition to oaks, which flourish throughout the state, foresters at the University of Minnesota Extension also include wild cherries and plums and willows, with aspen and willows becoming more important north of Duluth and cottonwoods becoming more important further west. Get a complete guide at Tallamy's Homegrown National Park, searchable county by county throughout the U.S.
- 3. Biodiverse forests are indispensable to human health and can filter or block diseases. For example, in the U.S., the incidence of Lyme disease has increased alongside suburban development that encroaches on forests. Since approximately 75% of all new human diseases come from our interactions with animals, internationally renowned scientist Dr. Jane Goodall urges us to listen to the world's scientists who have long warned that a pandemic such as COVID-19 was inevitable as we destroy habitats, forcing animals into closer contact with people. Dr. Goodall warns that humans and their livestock and their pets far outnumber all other animal life, and have already wiped out 60% of all mammals, birds, fish and reptiles around the world. While populations of beneficial species that we rely on are dwindling, other species such as mosquitoes, ticks, bacteria, algae, and fungi are expanding their historical ranges to adapt to rapid climate change, spreading diseases. U of M epidemiologist Michael Osterholm, in his new book *The Big One*, warns that far deadlier diseases are already forming. We will need an informed public to work together with governments, NGOs, and medical providers on a plan of action.
- 4. The World Wildlife Fund's new The Living Planet Report finds dramatic declines (83%) in the abundance of species that rely on freshwater, with similar declines in oceans, where warming temperatures introduce new predators, cause species to shift to more northern habitats, or make it harder for them to grow to maturity. Another recent study by the University of Minnesota shows that the 40,000 lakes across the Upper Midwest are at risk of losing oxygen-rich coldwater habitat due to climate change and nutrient pollution. The study predicts that lakes with suitable coldwater habitat will decline by 67% by mid-century, the result of forests or prairies being converted into farms or urban development that increase algae blooms from phosphorus and nitrogen runoff, as well as the effects of climate change. Yet the study, published in the journal Ecosphere, concludes that protecting or restoring forested lands within lakes' watersheds, changing farming practices, and practicing shoreline vegetation restoration could help conserve critical habitat, even amid warming temperatures.

BOOK DRIVE

Big Red Bookshelf

Donate new or gently used children's books to the Big Red Bookshelf, a program of Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative.

The mission of the Big Red Bookshelf is to give children of Duluth access to free, age-appropriate books that will encourage a love for reading and learning. Bright red bookshelves stocked with these children's books are located across Duluth in locations available to families and now Big Red Donation Bins are also available!

For more info call 218-464-0588 or email rachel.lpcfc@qmail.com.

Donation Locations:

- Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative
 - 2424 W 5th St, Duluth MN 55806 Suite 108
- Whole Foods Co-op Denfeld
 - 4436 Grand Ave, Duluth, MN 55807
- Whole Foods Co-op Hillside
 - 610 E 4th St, Duluth, MN 55805
- Duluth Area Family YMCA
 - 302 W 1st St, Duluth, MN 55802
- Duluth Children's Museum
 - 2125 W Superior St, Duluth, MN 55806

- Lake Superior Community Health Center
 - 4325 Grand Ave, Duluth, MN 55807
- Lake Superior Zoo
 - 7210 Fremont St, Duluth, MN 55807
- St. Louis County Probation Office
 - 100 N 5th Ave W. rm 319, Duluth, MN 55802
- Proctor Area Community Center
 - 100 Plonk Dr, Proctor, MN 55810
- St. Luke's Pediatric Associates
 1012 E 2nd St 4th Floor,
 Duluth, MN 55805



YOU MAY ALSO BRING GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO CHURCH AND PLACE THEM IN THE BASKET IN THE NARTHEX.



Come build community and learn something new!

(Re)skilling is the process of learning practical skills we never learned or have forgotten – skills useful for our everyday lives and ones necessary for developing safe, sustainable, resilient communities.

As we've seen in the wake of the pandemic, inflation, and climate change - our modern systems are not always dependable or affordable. Instead of having to rely on experts, fallible supply chains, and expensive ready-made products we can build personal agency and learn useful skills to offer to family, friends, and the community.

This free day long event will offer space to meet your neighbors, rebuild community networks, and learn practical (& fun) skills like the ones our grandparents (or great grandparents) used to know.

The event plans to offer classes like:

Art on a Budget
Basic Car Repair
Bike Repair
Budgeting 101
Drywall Repair Basics
Fermentation Basics:
Sauerkraut + Kombucha
Granola 101

Granola 101
How to DM a DnD Campaign
How (& Why) to Read Aloud to Children
Infant Potty Training
Mozzarella Making
Needle Felting 101
Stone Soup
Wild Foods
Yogurt/Kefir/Butter 101

And more!

(We will update this list as we go, if you have any questions feel free to email reskillingfest@twinportsdsa.org)



Please join the City of Duluth celebration in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day 2025

October 13, 2025 at 10:00am - 12:30pm - Duluth City Hall, Duluth Minnesota
In honor and recognition of sovereignty, rich history, culture, traditional & contemporary knowledge, art, music, countless contributions and service past and present Indigenous Peoples make to the world. Please join us - everyone welcome in celebration of Indigenous Peoples and their rich, vibrant and thriving diverse contributions.

Traditional Opening Ceremony: Community Leaders - Speakers - Presentations - Honoring - Drum and Singers - Youth Leaders - Community Round Dance

Twin Ports City Proclamations: City of Duluth MN & Superior WI

City of Duluth Lighting Enger Tower and Aerial Bridge Orange in Recognition

Land & Water Acknowledgement & Honoring Community & Youth Led Art Projects: Celebrating Resilience

Public Art Displays: No More MMIWR Great Lakes, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, 2 Spirit, Relatives and Every Child Matters

Facilitated by event organizers: Duluth Indigenous Commission Members

9:00 Community & Youth Led Art Projects, Organizations Tabling

10:00 Opening Ceremony

11:10 Staff Flag Song, and Drum Honor Song

11:15 Twin Ports City Proclamations; City of Duluth MN & Superior WI Community Leaders & Speakers, Duluth Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag

12:00 Honoring Indigenous Contributions, Land & Water Acknowledgement

12:30 Closing: Community Round Dance

"Indigenous Peoples Day" is recognized as an official Minnesota State holiday. The City of Duluth will be kicking off the celebrations for Indigenous People Day in Duluth with a city proclamation, lighting Enger Tower and the Aerial Lift Bridge orange in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day 2025.

Event hosted by Indigenous Commission of Duluth

Pastor: Rev. Jeffery Davis **Cantor:** Jennifer Dums

Joyful Voices Pianist: Patti Martenson

Sunday School Teachers: Rachelle Anderson, Bryan Anderson, Bridget Bohn, and Marcia

DeMeo-Morse.

Office Duties: Carmen Norlien
Custodial Duties: David Haavik

Treasurer: Mark Morse

Church Council Members

Rachelle Anderson Trevor Christensen, President Bridget Bohn, Vice-President Ashley Hoppe Makenzie Morse Mark Morse, Treasurer Dan Norlien

Committees

Building & Grounds: Trevor Christensen

Social Justice: Pastor Jeff **Stewardship:** Pastor Jeff

Worship & Music: Lynne Erickson, Mary Johnson,

and Patti Martenson

Ministries

Altar Guild: Reba Almquist
Bridges To Christ: Ann Edwards
Caring Ministry: Jane Wedin

Quilters: Lynn Carlson and Ann Edwards

Contact information

Email: duluthconcordia@gmail.com Phone Number: (218)728-4229 Website: www.duluthconcordia.org

Facebook: Concordia Lutheran Church of

Duluth

Address: 2501 Woodland Avenue Duluth, MN 55803

Office Hours: Please call first, as circumstances

vary from week to week.

CHUM

David and Jane Wedin

Conference and Synod Assemblies

Carmen Norlien

Lutheran Campus Ministry Duluth Board

Patti Martenson

NE Minnesota Synod Youth Board

Margaret Roeser

Union Gospel Mission

Lois Witchall

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

Bridget Bohn



The Messenger is a monthly publication of Concordia Lutheran Church. Items for the November newsletter are due by Tuesday, October 21st. Please email your items, corrections, questions, or comments to duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items. This newsletter was produced using Canva.

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