

Warm Greetings in the Name of our Savior and People of First Immanuel,

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming marriage. Whether you are a long time member of our fellowship or new friend we are honored to serve you in Christ's name.

I believe it is also a blessing that you have chosen to be married in a Christian service in a Christian sanctuary. Marriage is a gift from God and a covenant of life-long faithfulness.

As a pastor, a shepherd, it is my calling to care about your marriage, your relationship as a couple. To that end you will be asked to take an on line professionally prepared survey that will be the basis of our time we spend together investing in your relationship and life together.

The heart of the wedding service is the exchange of vows of commitment between the bride and groom (and signified in the exchange of rings) before the congregation and God.

Ideally, a marriage relationship reflects the love that God has shown through the ages and uniquely revealed in Jesus. Martin Luther called marriage "a school for character"; Scripture also states , a marriage calls forth such virtues as integrity, justice, tenderness, and love—through the joys and sorrows of whatever life may bring.

At a Christian wedding service, the couple is not left to their own efforts to fulfill these promises, but is publicly receiving God's blessing and support, as well as the affirmation of family, friends, and the Holy Christian Church.

So the wedding is not only a glad occasion—over-flowing with joy, celebrating the Creator's gifts of life, health love, sexuality, the family—is it a holy moment calling on Christ and the Holy Spirit to bless, strengthen and renew this union day by day.

We believe that the Christian wedding is a sacred service of worship. To clearly express this, First Immanuel has established the following guidelines.

Pastor Harold Therwanger

PASTORAL & WEDDING STAFF

THE SENIOR PASTOR

Harold L. Therwanger

pastorfilc@gmail.com

(312) 733-6886 Church Office Phone

(773) 357-5305 Cell Phone

PASTOR EMERITUS

Donald V. Becker

(312)733-6886 Church Office Phone

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Yvonne Tabb

filc-events@att.net

(312)733-6886 Church Office Phone

(773)391-2178 Cell Phone

ORGANIST

George E. Manning-Minister of Music

(312)733-6886 Church Office Phone

FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1124 South Ashland Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60607

(312)773-6886 Office – (312)226-9098 Hall Phone/FAX

1stimmanuelchicago@sbcglobal.net - Email Address

www1stimmanuelchicago.org – Web Address

GENERAL INFORMATION

WEDDINGS

If you wish to plan a wedding service at First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago (members and non-members) are asked to leave your name, email address, or phone number with our office secretary at (312)733-6886, your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Weddings are often booked far in advanced, and it is First Immanuel's policy to schedule only one major event per week. First Immanuel does not schedule weddings during Holy Week. No date can be confirmed earlier than 12 months before the requested date.

FEES

The wedding fee is \$1700.00 for members and \$2100.00 for non-members. Included in this fee is a \$300.00 refundable late fee should your event start on time. The member wedding fee, will apply when one or both parties getting married are First Immanuel Lutheran Church members, that are supportive and have had communion in the past year, at the time the date/deposit have been confirmed.

A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit is required to secure the wedding date. Make all checks payable to First Immanuel Lutheran Church. The balance of your fees is due 30 days prior to your wedding service date.

The wedding fee covers an honorarium to the pastor, the organist, and the sound technician. It also covers the cost of work done by our building staff, church representative, and parking.

Your wedding fees cover the use of the sanctuary and narthex only. A fee schedule for the use of the parish hall is available upon request.

The organist provides a music planning consultation, and a brief rehearsal with a soloist (if necessary) on the day of the wedding rehearsal. Any additional requirements of the organist (or the involvement of in house musician may incur additional fees.) Outside instruments are not allowed. However, the use of First Immanuel's piano, electric keyboard and drums will also incur additional fees.

Music on a CD may be used during your service however; the CD must be reviewed by the pastor and a member of First Immanuel's sound system staff at least two week prior to your service.

Our pastor requires premarital counseling sessions for you and your fiancée, and the taking of the PREPARE ENRICH assessment.

To include visiting clergy in your service, our pastor must approve their participation. You will want to discuss appropriate additional compensation for visiting clergy (which will not be taken from the church fee) independently with them.

WEDDING VOWS RENEWAL

If you wish to plan a wedding vow renewal service at First Immanuel Lutheran Church, Chicago (members and non-members) are asked to leave your name, email address, or phone number with our office secretary at (312)733-6886, your call will be returned as soon as possible.

It is First Immanuel's policy to schedule only one major event per week. First Immanuel does not schedule renewals during Holy Week. No date can be confirmed earlier than 12 months before the requested date.

FEES

The wedding vow renewal fee is \$800.00 for members and \$1000.00 for non-members. A \$300.00 non-refundable deposit is required to secure the date. The member wedding vow renewal fee, will apply when one or both parties getting married are First Immanuel Lutheran Church members at the time the date/deposit have been confirmed. If fees present a financial hardship, you may discuss options for lowering costs with the church council.

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO:

First Immanuel Lutheran Church
1124 South Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60612

- From the North/Northern Suburbs

Take I-90/94 East to the I-290 West (Eisenhower) exit #51H. Remain in right lane.
Exit at Ashland/ Paulina Avenue #28B.
Turn left at the first light (Ashland Avenue).
Pass Taylor Street.
Church is on the southwest corner (right hand side) of Roosevelt & Ashland Avenue.

- From the South/Southern Suburbs

Take I-57 North to I-94 West (Dan Ryan) to Roosevelt Road.
Exit at Roosevelt Road #52B and turn left
Follow Roosevelt Road to Ashland Avenue and turn right.
Church is on the southwest corner (left hand side) of Roosevelt & Ashland Avenue.

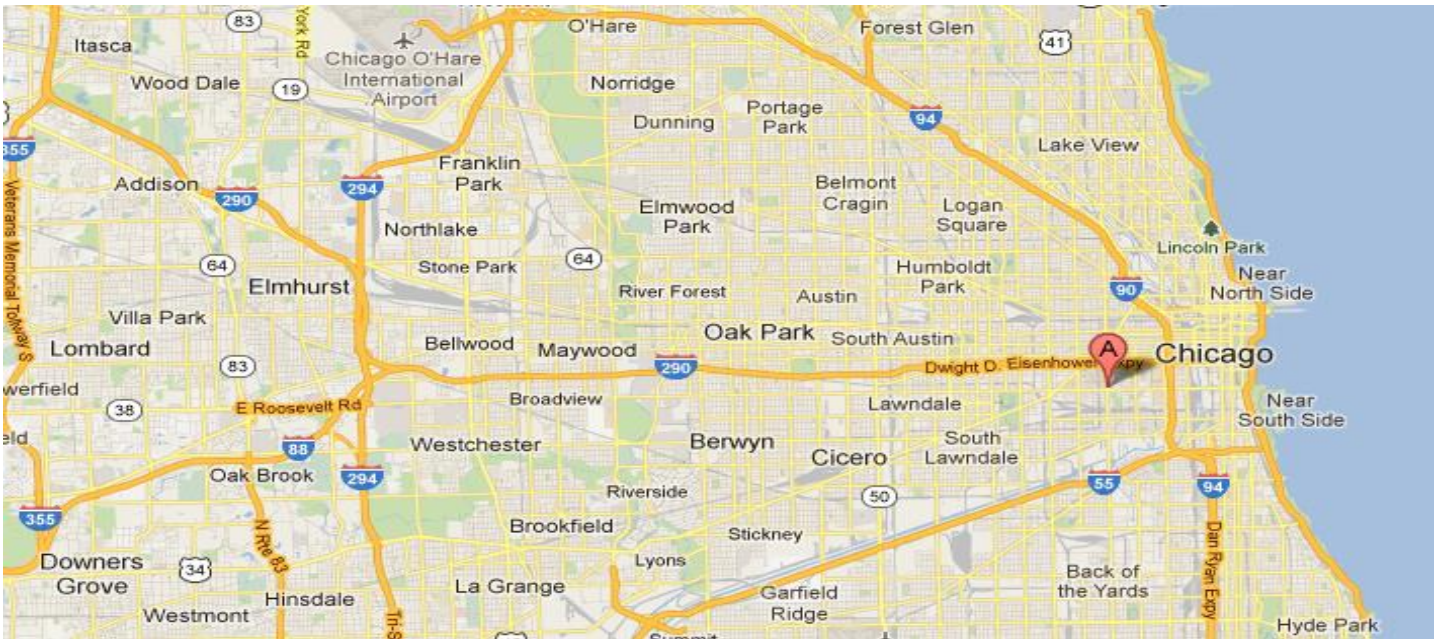
- From the West/Western Suburbs

Take I-55 North to Ashland Avenue.
Turn left onto Ashland Avenue.
Follow Ashland (approximately 6 lights) to Roosevelt Road.
Church is on the southwest corner (left hand side) of Roosevelt & Ashland Avenue.

OR

Take I-355 North to I-88 East to I-290 East to Ashland Avenue.
Turn right at the second light onto Ashland Avenue.
Pass Taylor Street.
Church is on the southwest corner (right hand side) of Roosevelt & Ashland Avenue.

Maps



- Enter UIC parking lot G from Ashland Ave. near Roosevelt Rd.
- Enter UIC parking lot K from Taylor Street near Ashland Ave.
- Parking lots are only available on Saturdays and Sundays.

ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED

Our sanctuary and ground floor restrooms are accessible to persons in wheelchairs. If you know of any wedding party members or guests with special needs, please notify us as soon as possible. We will work to make sure that everyone is able to participate fully in the service. Disabled guests should access our sanctuary through the parish hall entrance.

DRUG, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

The use of alcohol or any illegal drugs anywhere on the church property is prohibited. The First Immanuel staff reserves the right to postpone or cancel the service if drugs or alcohol use by any guest or member of the wedding party is discovered. Smoking is also prohibited in the church building, or parish hall.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/mariagelicense/pages/default.aspx>

Couples must appear together at one of the [Cook County Clerk's six locations](#). They must:

- Fill out and sign a marriage license application.
- Present [valid identification](#) with proof of age.
- The marriage license fee is \$60.

Applicants who have divorced within the last six months must provide a certified copy of their divorce decree upon applying for a marriage license.

Timelines and restrictions

Marriage licenses are:

- issued while you wait
- effective the following calendar day after they are issued
- valid for 60 days
- effective only in Chicago and suburban Cook County

VISITING GUEST CLERGY

The participation of visiting clergy is allowed at First Immanuel at the discretion of our senior pastor. If you have a pastor from a home church, or an ordained member of your family who you want to involve in the marriage service, please let the event coordinator know as soon as possible. **First Immanuel does not pay your guest clergy.** It is your responsibility to arrange an appropriate honorarium with the guest clergy independently.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

A minimum of four premarital counseling sessions with the pastor is our standard expectation. Meetings last about one hour, and we try to set them up at your convenience. Your first step in preparing for counseling is to take the PREPARE ENRICH, which is required for all couples married at First Immanuel. PREPARE ENRICH is a relationship discovery tool which will offer insights into various similarities and differences between you and your partner and your relationship expectations.

EVENT COORDINATOR

The event coordinator will guide you through the planning process outlined in this booklet, and be your primary resource for questions you may have. They will meet with you individually to answer questions regarding your rehearsal and payment schedule.

WEDDING REHEARSALS

Rehearsals normally take place the day before the wedding between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. **It is very important all members of your wedding party be present and on time.** If any attendant is more than 15 minutes late the rehearsal will start without them.

SANCTUARY

First Immanuel sanctuary seats approx. 350 people. Items used to enhance our worship service will not be moved or altered for wedding services. Tape or glue is not allowed to be used on our pews to attach flowers or ribbons. Lit candles are used on the altar only. You are responsible for providing candles that will last the entire service. Self-contained flower vases may be placed on either sides of the altar. If you would like for any of your flowers to remain in the sanctuary for Sunday service please let the event coordinator know.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Photographers and videographers are welcome to take pictures. They should speak with the pastor before the wedding. The one hard rule is that they may not intrude into the wedding service nor detract from its solemn significance.

No flash pictures are to be taken between the invocation and the benediction.

Couples are encouraged to pose after the service for pictures of the vows, the ring ceremony, the kneeling and the like.

MISCELLANEOUS CONCERNS

A runner is not to be used during the wedding service, as it poses a significant safety hazard.

First Immanuel does not permit the throwing of rice, confetti, birdseeds, or blowing bubbles inside or outside the church building. Also not permitted is having live animals (like doves) anywhere in the church, or to be released on the premises.

WEDDING SERVICE

- The worship of God is always primary in a wedding service at First Immanuel.
- While much flexibility is allowed, the pastor has the final control of the service.
- The pastor and music director have final control of the music in the service
- We dedicate ourselves to give you a beautiful and dignified Christian wedding service.
- A \$100.00 fee will be assessed from your late fee deposit for every 15 minutes your wedding is late.
- First Immanuel's senior pastor reserves the right to cancel weddings that are more than one hour late.

MUSIC

Music in a church wedding is always for the worship of God. Such music will lift our hearts to God in songs and hymns of joy, prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. There is a great deal of music from which to choose.

Music that detracts from worship is not appropriate at First Immanuel and not allowed. Love songs, movies and TV themes are more properly sung at the wedding receptions.

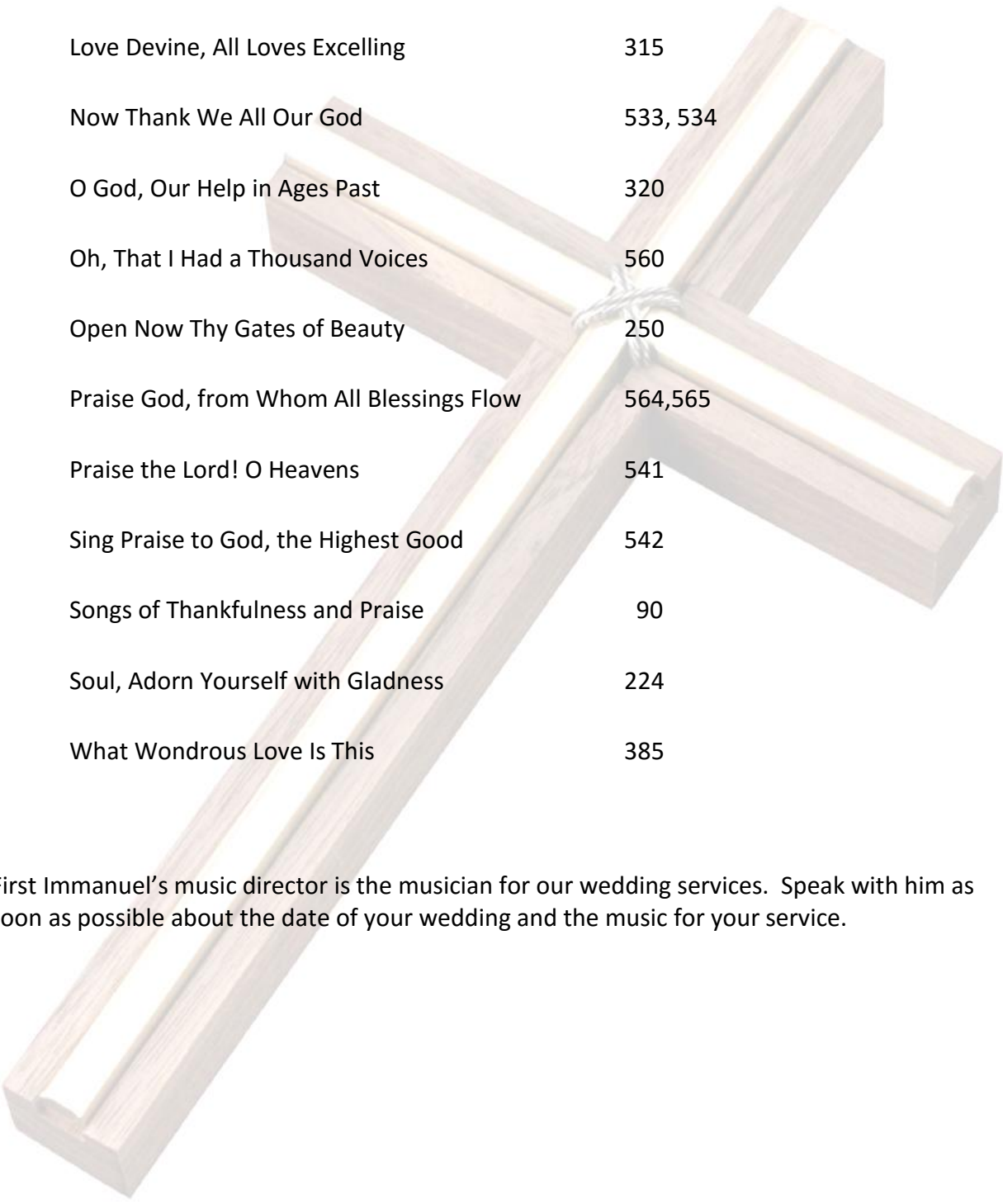
MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Music is chosen on the basis of Christian themes of faithfulness

From the Lutheran Book of Worship



<u>HYMN</u>	<u>HYMN NUMBER</u>
Abide with Us, Our Savior	272
All People that on Earth Do Dwell	245
Beautiful Savior	518
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life	513
For the Beauty of the Earth	561
For the fruit of All Creation	563
Give to Our God Immortal Praise!	520
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father	288
In Thee Is Gladness	552
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	551
Let All Things Now Living	557



Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	487
Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me	333
Love Devine, All Loves Excelling	315
Now Thank We All Our God	533, 534
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	320
Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices	560
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty	250
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	564,565
Praise the Lord! O Heavens	541
Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good	542
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise	90
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness	224
What Wondrous Love Is This	385

First Immanuel’s music director is the musician for our wedding services. Speak with him as soon as possible about the date of your wedding and the music for your service.

SCRIPTURE

Below are suggested scripture readings:

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31

Humankind is created by God

Genesis 2:18-24

Created for relationship

Proverbs 3:3-6

Loyalty and faithfulness written on the heart

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The value of two together

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

The voice of the beloved; Song of two lovers

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Many waters cannot quench love

Isaiah 63:7-9

God's steadfast loves lifts up the people

Psalms

Psalms 33:20

The Lord is our help and shield

Psalms 33:22

Let your lovingkindness be upon us,
as we have put our trust in you

Psalms 67:1

May God be merciful to us and bless us

Psalms 100:2

We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture

Psalms 117:2

For great is His love toward us

Psalms 121:5

The Lord keeps watch over you

Psalms 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house

Psalms 127:4

Children are a heritage from the Lord

Psalms 128:1

Happy are they who follow the ways of the Lord

Psalms 136:1

God's mercy endures forever

Psalms 150:6

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord

New Testament Letters

Romans 12:1-2, 9-8

A living sacrifice and genuine love

1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

The greatest gift is love

Ephesians 3:14-19

The breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love

Ephesians 5:21-33

Walk in love, as Christ loved us

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always

Colossians 3:12-17

Clothed in compassion, kindness meekness and patience

1 John 3:18-23

Let us love in truth and action

1 John 4:7-12

Let us love one another for love is of God

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light, let your light shine

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

A wise person builds upon the rock

Matthew 19:4-6

What God has united must not be divided

Matthew 22:35-40

Love, the greatest commandment

Mark 10:6-9

They are no longer two but one

John 2:1-10

The wedding at Cana

John 15:9-12

Love one another as I have loved you

VOWS

The customary vows used in our church which are the vows used in the English language since the Reformation but adapted to our modern English are:

- I, _____(name) _____, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, _____(name)_____, to be my wife/husband to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

If however, you would like to use different wording these may be ones you could use or guide you in writing your own. Should you wish to use vows other than the one above please be sure to discuss this with pastor.

- I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful husband/wife, to share with you in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health to forgive and strengthen you, and to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
- _____, I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all circumstances of our life together to be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being until death parts us.
- I, _____ take you _____, for my lawful wife/husband; to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.
- I _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband; and I promise, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful wife/husband; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live
- I take you, _____ to be my wife/Husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will respect, trust, help and care for you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will share my life with you, through the best and worst of all that is to come, until death parts us.

VOWS Continued

- I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, I promise before God and before this community to be faithful to you and to share all that is to come. In times of happiness I will share your joy and laughter. In times of sorrow, I will share your tears of pain. I will forgive as I have been forgiven. I will love as I have been loved. I will join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.

- I take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, and these things I promise you: I will be faithful to you and honest with you; I will (obey,) respect, trust, help and care for you; I will share my life with you; I will forgive you as we have been forgiven; and I will try with you better to understand ourselves, the world and God; through the best and worst of what is to come until death parts us.

