

Lutheran Church  
**OUR SAVIOURS**



## Lenten Weekly Devotional & Connections

March 20, 2026

# LENT

*Spiritual Practices that Form Us*

Week Five | Waiting with Hope

LIFE TOGETHER

### A Message from the Pastors

Waiting is often the hardest spiritual practice. Lent places us in the in-between, between promise and fulfillment, loss and resurrection. Yet waiting is not empty time. God meets us in the pause, shaping patience, hope, and trust within us. As we wait together this season, we hold fast to the promise that God is still at work, even when the way forward is not yet clear.

David writes in Psalm 27:14, *"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"*

How do you hold onto hope when waiting feels like it's taking too long?

This is a season to try new or recommit to faith and spiritual practices on the journey to the cross. If you'd like to make a commitment to "Life Together" this season, join in on the "[Lenten Practice for Life Together](#)" as a commitment to pray and be prayed for by your pastors and faith community this season. You can also visit the Pastor Moments [tab](#) on our website to watch Pastor Brian's video, inviting us to share stories of times when we feel God's presence while we are serving others.

**Volunteer during Holy Week Button #1 Click [HERE](#) if you are willing to: Light candles without starting a fire!**

## Walking the Way: The Memorial Garden Labyrinth

As you know, this season, we have been trying to raise \$10,000 to complete a labyrinth in the Memorial Garden at our Celebration Campus. A generous gift from Jeff Colaianni and Alexandra Colaianni launched this project in memory of Jeff's father, Angelo Colaianni. Your gift helps bring this sacred space to completion. Watch Jeff's Impact Video [here](#).

We are beyond grateful for the generosity of everyone who has given to the Labyrinth Fund so far, and we can't wait to announce our final donation amount on Easter Sunday!

We appreciate every contribution and encourage everyone to continue spreading the word and supporting this meaningful project. Together, we can create a restorative space that will benefit our community for years to come!

**Did you know?** A gift of a \$100 or more offers the opportunity to include the name of a loved one or someone you wish to honor on a commemorative plaque displayed in the Celebration Lobby.

Click [here](#) to make a donation. (Indicate Labyrinth Fund in the memo.)

**Lent 2026 | T-shirts & Hoodies**

50% of proceeds → Labyrinth Fund

Build Cool Prayer Labyrinth



**YES, actually, I DO want a T-Shirt or Hoodie [BUTTON](#)**

# Don't Miss the Augustana Symphonic Band!

**Augustana Band Concert:** Saturday, March 21, 1 pm, Our Saviour's Campus

A promotional poster for the Augustana Symphonic Band's 2026 Midwest Tour. The background is a gradient from blue on the left to yellow on the right. A large, detailed image of a trumpet is positioned vertically in the center. The text 'Augustana Symphonic Band' is written in a large, white, serif font on the left side. Below it, 'Dr. James Lambrecht, conductor' is written in a smaller white font. On the right side, the text '2026 MIDWEST TOUR' is written in a blue, serif font. Below this, a list of tour dates and locations is provided in a smaller blue font. At the bottom right, the Augustana College logo is displayed in blue.

**Augustana  
Symphonic  
Band**  
Dr. James Lambrecht, conductor

**2026  
MIDWEST  
TOUR**

March 20 – Oregon, Illinois  
March 21 – Naperville, Illinois  
March 22 – Manlius, Illinois  
March 24 – Cambridge, Wisconsin  
March 26 – Aurora, Illinois  
April 11 – Rock Island, Illinois

**Augustana**  
COLLEGE

## Season of Lent

### IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

On Ash Wednesday, we entered a season that shapes us through the shared practices of belonging, listening, serving, and hope-filled waiting. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are invited. Know that there is a place for you in this season of grace and new life.

- **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship & Meals: Feb. 25 through March 25**
  - *Worship 12pm and 5:30 pm, Our Saviour's Campus*
- **Daily Lenten Devotional and Calendar available in print and online.**
- **Spiritual Practice Groups and Bible Study**
- **Acts of Service Throughout Lent**
- **Holy Week: March 29 through April 4**
- **Easter Sunday: April 5**

Details are available on our [website](#).

**Volunteer During Holy Week Button #2 Click [HERE](#) if : You are excited to smile AND hand out bulletins!**

## Midweek Meetup Lent Edition

### ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS BIBLE STUDY

One reason the Gospels are so full of energy is that Jesus never stood still. He was on the move (on foot!) throughout his entire ministry, at least several thousand miles. Everywhere he went, Jesus impacted the lives of a stunningly broad range of people: from a socially outcast woman to a wealthy prince to a Gentile woman to leprous outcasts to mourning travelers.

These encounters on the road resonate today because Jesus so clearly understood and responded to the needs, motivations, and desires of the person(s) with whom he interacted. We 21st-century Christians are no different from them.

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for an open discussion Bible study of five of Jesus's encounters on the road and how each one impacts our lives. Bible Study [Sign-Up](#).

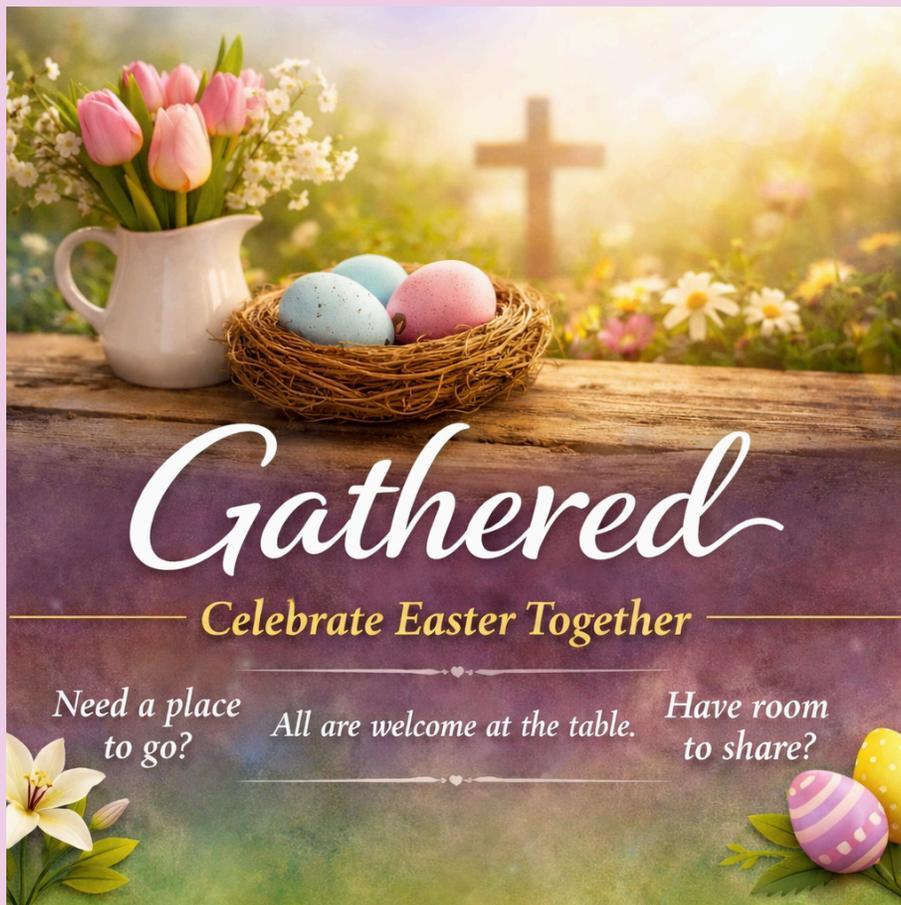
DATE	WHO	THEME
MARCH 25	TWO TRAVELERS ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS	WALKING WITH JESUS

## Order Easter Lilies and Pies

**Easter Lilies:** Help us fill our Sanctuary and the Celebration Stage with the beauty and fragrance of Easter lilies as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection. Each plant is \$25 and may be dedicated in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special. Let's adorn our worship spaces with signs of new life and hope this Easter Season. Order your lilies [here](#).

**Easter Pies for Mozambique:** Crafted with love and just the right touch of sweetness. These pies are perfect for sharing; they come in an assortment of flavors to satisfy every taste bud and dietary need (all pies are available gluten-free). A beloved staple at Our Saviour's, these pies shine throughout the year. There's truly no better way to conclude your Easter meal than with a warm slice of homemade pie, infused with God's Love and made especially for you. All proceeds are directed to food, health, and education initiatives in Mozambique.

- Pick up is from 10-11:00 am on Saturday, April 4, at Celebration Campus. Cost is \$30. Last day to order is Monday, March 30.
- Coconut cream with meringue, Apple, Cherry, Triple Berry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Lemon Meringue, Key Lime
- Order on the Mozambique Mission page or by clicking [here](#).



**Gathered: Easter Hospitality:** At Easter, we celebrate the hope and new life found in Jesus' resurrection. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus often gathered people around a table, welcoming those who might otherwise feel alone or overlooked. Again and again, he showed us that hospitality is a powerful way we reflect God's love.

*Gathered is a simple way our congregation lives out that spirit.*

***And we are so excited to share that families are already reaching out to host!***

For Easter, members of our church are invited to open their homes to share a meal and celebrate with others in our congregation. Whether you are far from family, new to the area, navigating a difficult season, or simply hoping to spend the holiday with others, there is a place for you.

*This isn't about hosting a perfect gathering. It's about making room at the table and living into our OSLC Welcome Statement.*

If you would enjoy joining someone for Easter or feel called to open your home to others, we would love to help you be **Gathered** together.

To become a host, please complete this [volunteer form](#).  
To request hosting, please complete this [form](#).

## | Lent Spiritual Practice |

<service to others>

## | Loaves and Fishes Protein Collection |

**Week of March 16 | Canned Fruit/Veggie**

**Week of March 23 | Canned Protein**

**Bring to:**

**Our Saviour's Campus Mission Corner | Celebration Mission Bin**

## BRING YOUR OWN MUG (BYOM)

Caring for God's creation can start with small, everyday choices, and we are making it easier to do just that. New recycling bins are now available year-round at both campuses for items that are often difficult to recycle, such as crayons, bread tags, old keys, pop tabs, ink cartridges, and eyeglasses. And during Lent, we're bringing back **BYOM** (Bring Your Own Mug), a simple invitation to skip the disposable coffee cups and bring a reusable mug from home. Together, these small actions add up to a meaningful way we can care for the world God has entrusted to us.



## CARING FOR CREATION

**Please Recycle  
the Following Items  
In the Containers**



**Bread Tags**



**Pop Tabs**



No cases please!

**Eyeglasses**



No fobs or chains, please!

**Keys**



**Crayons**



**Ink Cartridges**

# Volunteer

## HELP DURING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Every Sunday, friendly volunteers help make worship run smoothly:**

- Handing out bulletins • Reading scripture • Running the slides
- Making the coffee appear like a small miracle

**Kind volunteers. Faithful helpers. People just like you.**

Help make Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter welcoming for everyone.

- ✓ Choose the roles that interest you ✓ Pick the service you attend
- ✓ Training provided (even for tech!)

**Click on the link below and we'll follow up with details.**

**We are grateful for you!**

**Volunteer During Holy Week Button #3: Click Here If: You are really good at nodding like you know what you are doing!**

*\*Note: All of those "super fancy" volunteer buttons lead to the same place-- warming Jesus's heart AND the sign-up page, where you'll find more ways to help than flavors in a jar full of jellybeans!*

## This Weekend's Gospel Reading

John 11:1-45

### The Death of Lazarus

**11** Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, [a] "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." **5** Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister

and Lazarus, **6** after having heard that Lazarus[**b**] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

**7** Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. **10** But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." **11** After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."<sup>[c]</sup> **13** Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. **15** For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** Thomas, who was called the Twin,<sup>[d]</sup> said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

### **Jesus the Resurrection and the Life**

**17** When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus<sup>[e]</sup> had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. <sup>[f]</sup> Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,<sup>[g]</sup> the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

### **Jesus Weeps**

**28** When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31** The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. **32** When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. **34** He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus began to weep. **36** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

**38** Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." **43** When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" **44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

### **The Plot to Kill Jesus**

**45** Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

## **Worship this Weekend**

### **Choirs and Ensembles**

- **Sanctuary Choir**, 9:00 am, Our Saviour's Campus
- **The Celebration Children's School Preschoolers** will be singing at 10:00 am at the Celebration Campus.

# Upcoming Events

## Don't Miss...

- **Make a Garden Stepping Stone:** Friday, March 20, 7-9 pm, Celebration Campus. Fee \$20. Limited to 20 participants. Contact: Susan Szymanski 630-605-5119 or [Swan716@comcast.net](mailto:Swan716@comcast.net)
- **Dialogues in Faith:** Sunday, March 22, 10:15 am. This week concludes our series, "The Cartoonist's Guide to Acts." For more information, visit the DIF ministry [page](#). Starting on April 12, DIF will start a four-week book series on "Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus," by Elaine Pagels.
- **Caregiver's Journey:** Friday, March 27, 9 am -11 am, Our Saviour's Campus. A supportive group for caregivers to share, learn, and renew—whether caring for a spouse, child, parent, or loved one. If interested, please contact Laura Weren (former Healthcare/Nursing Home Administrator), Barb Paccione (former Director of Nursing), or Lin Schollmeyer for more information.
- **Easter Garden:** Saturday, April 4, 9 am. Help to fill the Our Saviour's Campus Sanctuary with beautiful spring flowers.
- **OSLC Plant Sale:** Saturday, May 9, from 10 am-2 pm, but orders are due on Thursday, April 9. These beautiful plants come fully grown and ready for your garden. All proceeds support our mission partners in Mozambique. Order here. [Silly Plant Sale Video](#)
- **"Cape"-able for Christ: Heroic Acts that Empower," Variety Show:** Sunday, April 12, 4 pm, Celebration Campus. Have a gift to share? OSLC members of ALL ages are invited to perform and share their Variety Show act! Sign up [here](#). All tickets sold at the event. Come ready for fun, raffle prizes, and a showcase of the variety of gifts God has given us! All proceeds will support our summer youth mission trips to Slovakia and Milwaukee, WI. More details [here](#). Ignition Promo [Video](#)
- **Senior Lunch:** Monday, April 13, Noon, Fellowship Hall, Our Saviour's Campus, RSVP to the front office.
- **Family Fun Hot Wheels Event:** Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am, Celebration Campus. Games and activities! Fun for the whole family!
- **Holden Village Evening Prayer Event:** Tuesday, April 28, 7 pm, Our Saviour's Campus virtual event. Join congregations worldwide for a special celebration of the Holden Evening Prayer. Together, we'll share in this beloved service, uniting in prayer, music, and reflection. Come be a part of this meaningful evening and experience the beauty of a shared tradition.

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## Community Connections

- **Hygiene Kits for West Side Heroin and Opioid Task Force, Pastor Fanya Burford Berry, Director:** Help provide items to assemble 25+ hygiene kits for our neighbors on Chicago's West Side. Donations due by April 19 and may be dropped off in the Celebration Campus Lobby Bins or the Our Saviour's Campus Mission Corner starting April 11. For the full list of products, click [here](#).
- **Author Event:** Monday, April 20, at 7 pm. The Unity in Diversity Team at River Glen Presbyterian Church in Naperville invites you to a special evening of reading and conversation in their sanctuary, as they welcome award-winning nonbinary journalist and author of *American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era* for a reading and Q&A. In preparation for the event, you are also invited to take part in a book discussion on Wednesday, April 8, and Thursday, April 16, at 7 pm in Room 108 (lower level). No registration is required for either of these gatherings.
- **Naper Settlement Exhibit, We the People: Naperville and the American Story:** The curator of this exhibit is our very own, Dr. Andrea Field. As curator, she researched and wrote content for the exhibit and its interactives, and selected artifacts for display. Head on over to Naper Settlement to learn more about our Nation's and our communities' history, and to support Andrea's diligence and gifts. On display through December. More information can be found on the Naper Settlement [website](#).

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## Caring for Creation

## Take Action this Earth Day

- **An Evening with Urban Canopy:** Tuesday, April 14, 7pm, Adam Schwartz Compost Club Engagement Coordinator, will be speaking about food composting at home and at church. The congregation is invited to attend. This special event will be held in the Surge Room, located in the basement of Our Saviour's Campus.
- **Caring for Creation: Earth Day Event with Diane Osgood:** Thursday, April 16, 7 pm, Celebration Campus Conference Room. In celebration of Earth Day, OSLC Caring for Creation is partnering with Naperville Bonfire to host author and sustainability expert Diane Osgood. Osgood will share insights from her book, *Your Shopping Superpower: Follow Your Values and Better Your World One Purchase at a Time*, offering practical ways to align everyday purchases with your values and make a positive impact on the environment. The evening includes a short presentation, Q&A, and book signing. A limited number of books will be available, or you can purchase one in advance at Anderson's Bookshop. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!
- **DuPage River Cleanup:** Saturday, April 18, 9 am- 12 pm, Knoch Knolls Park Nature Center. Join OSLC Caring for Creation as we participate in the annual DuPage River cleanup in partnership with The Conservation Foundation. This community-wide event helps remove trash from the DuPage River and Salt Creek, improving local ecosystems for wildlife and recreation. There is no cost to participate. Join our group. Please [register](#) with us by April 4.

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## Held by Grace

Saturday, May 9, 2 pm - 5 pm, Our Saviour's Campus. You are warmly invited to **Held by Grace**, a restorative and meaningful gathering created to support and care for you in your motherhood journey, whatever that looks like in this season. Together, we will share time for restorative yoga, meaningful conversation, small-group connection, a creative craft to take home, quiet reflection, and other moments of renewal.

This event is for all seasons and forms of motherhood, whether you are raising young children, navigating teenage years, supporting adult children, mothering in non-traditional ways, or carrying the heart of a mother in other meaningful roles. This is a space to pause, breathe, and be reminded that you do not need to carry everything alone. Join mothers of all types (just as you are) to be reminded that you are held by grace, too. Register [here](#).

## Listening for the Spirit

As the Metro Chicago Synod prepares to elect our next bishop at our Synod Assembly on June 5-6, we are listening together to how the Holy Spirit is guiding our church in this next season. Members of ELCA congregations across the Synod are invited to share their insight about the leadership gifts our Synod needs now. Your reflections will help shape the Synod's discernment, guide those considering a call to serve as bishop, and support voting members as they prayerfully prepare for the election. For more information and information about upcoming listening sessions, visit <https://mcselca.org/bishop-election/>.

# Discerning Our Next Bishop

Take the Survey (scan QR code)

Survey opens: March 7

Responses due: April 10



Open to all members of ELCA congregations in the Metro Chicago Synod.

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## VBS 2026

**JUST LIKE ME:** An inclusive, 5-day experience for pre-K through 5th grade! Will take place June 22-26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS will be held on Sunday during the 11 a.m. service on June 28. Picnic lunch and games to follow! Register a participant [here](#). Register to volunteer [here](#).



## Highlights Gallery Tab

Not on Social Media? No problem!

Come here to find the latest photo and video recaps.

- **NEW [Life Together Videos](#):** Resistance Singing, Ignition Talent Show Promo, Plant Sale Shenanigans
- **NEW [Pastor Moments Videos](#):** Words, reflections, and conversations with our Pastors. Pastor Brian Rocks, Pastor Ben gets Jazzy, and we couldn't see Pastor Brian's Sermon Clip about Jesus healing the Blind Man, so we improvised!
- **NEW [Impact Video](#) page:** Watch the Pastors' impact video...What would it be like if no one volunteered?

## Weekend Worship

### Our Saviour's Campus

- Saturday: 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 9 & 11 a.m.

### Celebration Campus

- Sunday: 10 a.m

For livestreamed and recorded worship services, click [HERE](#).

\*All Worship information, including the weekend bulletin, is now located on the OSLC [HOME](#) page.

Looking to make your 2026 financial pledge to Our Saviour's? You can do so securely online through Realm [HERE](#).

[Welcome Statement](#)

[Council Minutes](#)

[Online Giving](#)

## Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus Known

Two campuses - one mission

815 S. Washington St  
919 S. Washington St.  
Church office: 630-355-2522

[oursaviours.com](http://oursaviours.com)



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church | 815 South Washington | Naperville, IL 60540 US

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