

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

January 2022

Volume 74, Number 1

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There had been stars year after desert year,
a cold and distant light, for stars are never near.
Until the light that lighted all the world consented to be born.
The night He came the stars swung low and sang
as morning stars had sung Creations' morn.
So sing we now, star-crossed,
we sing the bright and morning star shining among us, banishing our night.
Star Song by Elizabeth Rooney

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

During Epiphany we remember the arrival of the magi who came from afar to pay homage to the Christ child. These magi followed the light of a star, the brilliant light that led them to the infant Jesus. The season of Epiphany is a season of light - starlight, moonlight, sunlight, lamplight, firelight, candlelight, even leftover Christmas lights. It's a season to banish the darkness, the sometimes cloudy, gloomy, lonely, frigid cold darkness of winter. Every light - no matter how small - reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. During these days of Epiphany winter, we constantly need this reminder. When the brokenness of the world and the brokenness of our lives with our sickness, grief, isolation, and suffering become overwhelming, we need the light of Christ, the light shining in the darkness.

I plan to continue enjoying the light of our family's Christmas tree for as long as my family will allow. I plan to spend as many evenings as possible sitting in our den by the cozy light of the fire. A few strands of white Christmas lights may not be packed away with the decorations. They will likely remain in our home, bringing light to a dark corner, bringing light to the darkness of winter. In these days of Epiphany, I will cherish the sunlight and the moonlight, the lamplight and the firelight. In an effort to banish the darkness, I will light lots and lots of candles...in the kitchen, in the den, in the family room, on the dinner table, even in the bathroom. Light some candles and as you light each one, remember that Jesus is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. May the Christ child born for you at Christmas bring love and light into our lives during this Epiphany season.

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At their December meeting the Congregation Council...

- welcomed newly elected members Calvin Harmon, Amy Hegarty, John Otten, Jimmy Reynolds, Peggy Schotsch, and Roger Brown;
- celebrated the strong financial year that 2021 has been thus far and noted that expenses for November were \$22,052 less than projected;
- received a report from Trinity's COVID19 Transition Team;
- voted to register Patrick Preacher for candidacy in the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA and to partner with him as he plans to begin his seminary education in the fall of 2022;
- designated housing allowances for both Pastor Parham and Pastor Crowell;
- authorized the Executive Committee with support from staff to appoint 2022 Committees and Lay Assistants (which will happen in mid-January);
- appointed Richard Moose to serve as the Treasurer and elected Donna Potts to serve as the Vice-President and Heather Kleckley to serve as the Secretary in 2022;
- noted that the next council meeting will take place on Sunday, January 9 at 1:30 pm and that council members will be installed during worship at 10:00 am that morning; and
- expressed gratitude to outgoing council members for their faithful service and leadership to include Valerie Hollinger, Ryan Koon, Angie McCormack, Merry Mulcahy, Franklin Sease, and Campbell Balck.

JANUARY WORSHIP

On Sundays January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, an in-person worship service will be held in the Sanctuary as well as live-streamed at 10:00 am. Trinity's Covid-19 Transition Team is recommending and requesting that masks be worn by all during worship. Refreshments will be served on the front lawn following worship each Sunday, weather permitting.

GIVING TO TRINITY



Please help us to continue to shine the love and light of Christ into our community and world by supporting Trinity's ministry through your regular giving and special offerings. Online giving is available by texting TLGGIVE to 73256 or by following the *Online Giving* link on the homepage of our website, www.trinitylutheran.ws. Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main Street, Greenville, SC 29601. Please contact Kay Cook in the Church Office if interested in signing up for automatic bank draft.

8:30 AM WORSHIP EXPERIMENT

As the worship needs of the congregation continue to be evaluated, the Trinity family will experiment with a second service at 8:30 am on January 9, the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. This 8:30 service will be very similar to the 10:00 service and will include Holy Communion, but will likely be a smaller, more intimate service and might be much more comfortable for those who have been hesitant to return to in person worship due to the ongoing risk of COVID. The Trinity family will also gather in the Sanctuary for worship at 10:00 am. The 10:00 am service will be livestreamed. This 8:30 service will only occur on January 9 as the expectation is to explore and evaluate several worship times before a more permanent Sunday morning worship schedule is set.

NURSERY FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

A nursery is available during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday morning. Practices and protocols follow all DHEC recommendations for daycare centers. All staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated and wear masks at all times. A copy of the updated guidelines can be obtained through the Church Office. The age requirements for children in the nursery are flexible and fluid during this time of transition.

FAITH FORMATION

TLC KIDS, a learning program for preschoolers and elementary schoolers, meets in person from 9:15 to 9:45 am in the Multipurpose Room. Parents can attend with their children, and those K5 and above, including all adults, will be masked. This time together includes singing and dancing (with our Bible School video), Bible stories and videos, and crafts. We end in time for families to attend in-person worship at 10:00 am.

YOUTH FAITH FORUM will meet on Sundays, January 9, 16, and 23, at 9:00 am in Room 14 of the Activities Building. This gathering for youth in Grades 6 through 12 will include time for sharing and fellowship, as well as discussion of current events and Bible Study. It will end in time for participants to attend worship at 10:00 am.

PARENTS FAITH FORUM will meet on Sundays at 9:00 am on January 9, 16, and 23 in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. This group is intended for parents of our middle and high school youth to have a time to enjoy fellowship and topical based discussions. It will end in time for participants to attend worship at 10:00 am.

ADULT FAITH FORUM is a group that meets on Zoom on Sunday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00 am. Conversation begins at 8:00 am, with the discussion beginning at 8:15 am. All adults are welcome to participate. This group discusses current events in light of our faith as Christians. The Zoom link is emailed out on Fridays to those interested by Deacon Amy Brown, and is also included in the Friday worship email everyone receives. Ending at 9:00 am allows those worshipping in person time to drive to the church, and those worshipping at home time to prepare for at home worship.

LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH

LCY 5:00 - 7:00 pm in the Youth Center. Masks are required except when the group is eating.

January 2 - no LCY

January 9 - LCY families are encouraged to gather in the Multipurpose Room at 4:00 pm for the *Epiphany Extravaganza*, a family event to learn about the season of Epiphany. Families will receive supplies to prepare a dinner together at home. In order to make preparations, registration is needed by Wednesday, January 5.

January 16 - no LCY

January 23 - The group will eat dinner and then play bingo for prizes. All attending are asked to bring at least one small prize.

January 30 - The group will eat dinner and enjoy a movie and popcorn in the Multipurpose Room.



Lutheran Church Youth

EPIPHANY CANDLE-MAKING EVENT

Please join Pastor Crowell and Vicar Ian Boden for an Epiphany Candle Making event on Thursday, January 20 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Children, youth, and adults are welcome to attend. Children may require assistance pouring the hot wax. Participants will choose from a selection of scents and pour their own candle. The registration fee is \$25.00. Please call the Church Office by Friday, January 14 to register for this event.

NEW GREENVILLE JUSTICE MINISTRY

Trinity continues to be involved with a grass roots effort to form a justice organization in Greenville that is both ecumenical and interfaith as well as ethnically and racially diverse. The purpose of this new ministry is to organize large numbers of people from various faith communities to work for specific social changes in our community that will benefit those whose needs and desires are often ignored and pushed to the margins. The next meeting of this group will take place in the Multi-purpose Room at Trinity on Monday, January 10 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. If you are passionate about social justice and are eager to work for positive change for all people in our community, please make plans to attend this gathering. To register, call the Church Office by Friday, January 7. Questions may be addressed to Pastor Crowell, Melanie Wessinger, or Patrick Preacher.

QUEER LED WORSHIP: TAIZÉ AROUND THE CROSS



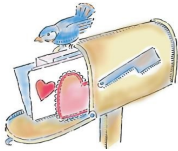
Gather in the gym on Thursday evening, January 6 at 6:30 pm to celebrate Epiphany together by candlelight. Our first service was a great success! Please don't miss the opportunity to show your support for this brand new and important ministry of our church. If you are a member of the LGBTQIA+ community who is interested in assisting as a worship leader, please email Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws. There is a place for you! This worship service will be held on the first Thursday of each month throughout 2022.

QUEER FAITH BOOK DISCUSSION

The first Queer Faith Book Discussion is meeting this month and will be discussing the book *Unclobber* by Colby Martin. In this witty and heartfelt read, Colby tells the story of how he became an affirming pastor while also dissecting the "clobber" verses historically used as a Biblical basis for rejecting the queer community. The group will meet on Mondays, January 10, 17, and 24 at 6:30 pm. In an effort to reach those who are uncomfortable in church spaces, the group will meet at the new Queer Wellness Center at 30 Pointe Circle, Greenville. Books will be provided for those who are unable to or wish not to purchase their own. This book discussion is only open to those who identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Space is limited so please email Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws soon to reserve your spot! A study for TLC members who are allies will take place at a later date.

TLC4TLC

On Wednesday, January 12th TLC4TLC will meet in person at 11:30 am in the Parlor following the meeting of the Trinity Prayer Group. The group will gather regularly on the second Wednesday of the month. Anyone who would like to write notes and cards for members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend worship, as well as for those who are celebrating joys, is welcome to attend. There is also a choice to send notes from home for those who are unable to meet in person but would still like to be involved in this ministry. If you would like to participate in this group please contact Debbie Farstad at debfars@att.net.



MAMA ZOOM

Mothers of young children ages birth through elementary school meet once a month on Thursday mornings via Zoom for fellowship and a brief devotion. Contact Deacon Mandi Whitley to be included on the email list or for more information. The group will meet on Thursday, January 13 at 9:00 am.

GUITAR SMALL GROUP

The group will gather in the Multipurpose Room on Tuesday, January 18 at 4:00 pm. Newcomers are always welcome. Please contact Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws or Penny Bostain at 864-630-8798 for more information about this group for beginner level adults interested in improving skills and playing with a group.

Anyone who plays an Auto Harp, Ukulele, Brass instrument, percussion instrument or most importantly simply enjoys singing, please consider joining the Guitar Group from 4:45-5:30 pm. Songs will be provided that will be played and sung each month.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARAL 7:00 ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>6:30 QUEER LED WORSHIP</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>10:00 BIBLE STUDY IN PERSON 11:00 PRAYER GROUP IN PERSON 11:30 TLC4TLC IN PERSON</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARAL 7:00 LAUNCH IN PERSON 7:00 ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>9:00 MAMA ZOOM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>10:00 BIBLE STUDY IN PERSON 12:30 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00 ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>6:00 EPIPHANY CANDLE-MAKING EVENT</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>10:00 BIBLE STUDY IN PERSON</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARAL 7:00 ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir meets for rehearsal in the gym at 7:00 pm each Wednesday of January. Access to the gym is through the glass doors of the Activity Building near the playground.

Handbell Choir rehearses in the gym each Wednesday of January at 6:00 pm. Access to the gym is through the glass doors of the Activity Building near the playground.

Youth and Children's Choir rehearsal schedule for January will be planned in consultation with choir families during the first week of January.

Questions about Trinity's music ministry may be directed to Pastor Parham at 242-5702 or icparham@trinitylutheran.ws.

PRAYER GROUP

The Trinity Prayer Group will meet in person on January 12 at 11:00 am in the Parlor. Anyone who would like to spend some time in prayer for our church, nation, family, friends, and those in need are welcome to attend. Anyone with a prayer request may complete a prayer card during Sunday worship or email a request to Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com or Merry Mulcahy at marmulcahy@icloud.com.



JANUARY FOOD COLLECTION FOR TOWERS EAST

During January Trinity is collecting non-perishable food items to provide pantry staples for our neighbors at Towers East.

Towers East - dried beans (16oz), peanut butter (16 oz), canned fruit, rice (2 lb bag) pasta, pasta sauce, individually packaged snack items, toilet paper

Items may be brought to the breezeway, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or to worship on Sunday morning.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Women's Bible Study



and Fellowship Group

The Women's Bible Study Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. After many years of meeting in the evening, the group will begin meeting in the morning on the first Tuesday of the month. All women of the church are invited to attend.

The group will meet on Tuesday, January 4 at 10:30 am in Rooms 12 and 13. The group will continue the study of Women in the Bible utilizing the book "Fierce" by Alice Connor. This month's topic is Asherah. If you need a copy of the book or have any other questions, please contact Terry Morgan at fmorgan101@gmail.com for additional information.

QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group meets in the Gym on Mondays at 9:30 am to make quilts which are distributed by Lutheran World Relief. Participants do not need to know how to sew in order to assemble quilts. Willing volunteers who can cut fabric, iron, thread a needle, or tie knots are welcome. Work is usually finished around noon, and participants can work as little or as long as they would like. There are also at-home sewing opportunities for those who cannot make it to the gatherings.



QUILTING GROUP

The group will resume on Monday, January 10 and meet every Monday in 2022 except on holidays when the Church Office is closed. If you plan to attend please contact Sarah Weeks at sweeks14@charter.net or 864-787-1160.

ITEMS NEEDED for the quilt ministry include cotton or mostly cotton fabric and sheets. Colored sheets are used for the backing on the quilts. Sheets can be new or very gently used. The preferred size is twin flat, in all colors except white or cream. Larger sheets are acceptable and can be cut down to size. Donations for this ministry can be brought to the Church Office.

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 2</p> <p>8:00 ADULT FAITH FORUM ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS IN PERSON 10:00 WORSHIP IN PERSON AND LIVE STREAM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP IN PERSON</p>
<p>THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9</p> <p>8:00 ADULT FAITH FORUM ZOOM 8:30 WORSHIP IN PERSON 9:00 YOUTH FAITH FORUM IN PERSON 9:00 PARENTS FAITH FORUM 9:15 TLC KIDS IN PERSON 10:00 WORSHIP IN PERSON AND LIVE STREAM</p> <p>1:30 CONGREGATION COUNCIL 4:00 EPIPHAY EXTRAVAGANZA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 QUILTING GROUP</p> <p>3:30 JUSTICE MINISTRY</p> <p>6:30 QUEER BOOK DISCUSSION (OFFSITE)</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 16</p> <p>8:00 ADULT FAITH FORUM ZOOM 9:00 YOUTH FAITH FORUM IN PERSON 9:00 PARENTS FAITH FORUM 9:15 TLC KIDS IN PERSON 10:00 WORSHIP IN PERSON AND LIVE STREAM 11:10 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL</p>	<p>17</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:00 GUITAR SMALL GROUP</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 23</p> <p>8:00 ADULT FAITH FORUM ZOOM 9:00 YOUTH FAITH FORUM IN PERSON 9:00 PARENTS FAITH FORUM 9:15 TLC KIDS IN PERSON 10:00 WORSHIP IN PERSON AND LIVE STREAM 11:10 CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL</p> <p>1:30 OUTREACH COMMITTEE VIA ZOOM 5:00 - 7:00 LCY YOUTH CENTER</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 QUILTING GROUP</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 30</p> <p>8:00 ADULT FAITH FORUM ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS IN PERSON 10:00 WORSHIP IN PERSON AND LIVE STREAM</p> <p>5:00 - 7:00 LCY YOUTH CENTER</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 QUILTING GROUP</p>	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greetings to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Greg Alley - January 12
Craig Anderson - January 8
Danny Baker - January 19
Chuck Ballew - January 11
Kris Ballew - January 12
John Beckford - January 21
Vicar Ian Boden - January 11
Maggie Boliek - January 10
Rowan Brown - January 2
Blake Buehler - January 31
Joe Campbell - January 9
Hillari Cantrell - January 13
Mary Cantrell - January 5
Claudia Clements - January 21
James Crawford- January 11
Pastor Susan Crowell - January 19
Richard Delap - January 10
Paul Dillon - January 16
Diane Drummond - January 19
Brad Fanning - January 1
Della Finnern - January 29
Dave Fisher - January 29
McKenzie Fletcher - January 4
Fiona Forde - January 18
Liam Forde - January 12
Rachel Haltiwanger - January 22

Anne Harmon - January 27
Amy Hegarty - January 21
Stephen Henderson - January 5
Ray Huber - January 8
Jackie Jowers - January 23
Leila James Kolb - January 23
Bob Kressler - January 26
Lewis Larson - January 20
Lani Ludian - January 27
Ann Malphrus - January 16
Kylee Mast - January 17
Adaline McCormack - January 7
Ben McCormack - January 7
Ava McNeice - January 9
Norris Morgan - January 13
Samantha Mosher - January 31
Hannah Raynes - January 10
Anna Havens Rice - January 20
Jeff Roth - January 25
Peyton Roth - January 24
Kerry Sease - January 28
David Troutman - January 4
Delaney Wannemacher - January 17
Stan Wingard - January 11
Chloe Wood - January 29
Leigh Wood - January 10



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Adults are invited to a Winter Wednesdays Bible Study beginning at 10:00 am on January 12 in the Multipurpose Room. Entitled *Suspended between God and Humankind, a Study of the Prophets*, Vicar Ian will lead the group in a 6-week study of the Prophets of Israel to engage and wrestle with the prophets, those who hear things we don't hear, see things we don't see, and know things we don't know. This course will look at individual prophets, prophetic themes, and voices, as well as what it means to be a prophet of God. Please call the Church Office to register.



**Bible
Study**

EPIPHANY EXTRAVAGANZA

Adults and families are invited to an *Epiphany Extravaganza* on Sunday afternoon, January 9 at 4:00 pm. Participants will learn about the story and church season of Epiphany, make some fun crafts and learn about house blessings. Those who register by Wednesday, January 5 will receive a “take home meal kit” to prepare dinner at home. Call the Church Office to register.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a program offered by Trinity to help eighth and ninth graders explore their faith before they choose to affirm their baptism and become an adult member of the congregation. Students and their parents attend classes and workshops over the two years where they participate in study and discussion of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian.

Our eighth grade class will continue their confirmation journey with the *Bible Event* on Sunday, January 23. Eighth graders and their families should plan to attend in-person worship at 10:00 that morning, and then stay after worship for the event. Other upcoming events include the *Catechism Event* on February 27, the *Worship Event* on March 13, and the *We Are Lutheran Event* on April 3.

Parents of ninth graders can be in contact with Deacon Amy Brown to see what requirements their youth still need to finish the program.

BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets regularly to discuss books of all genres. The next meeting will be at the Church at 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 17 to discuss *The Liar's Dictionary* by Eley Williams. Other upcoming selections include;

April 21, 7:00 pm - *The Overstory* by Richard Powers

June 16, 7:00 pm - *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende

August 18, 7:00 pm - *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr

October 20, 7:00 pm - *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

December 15, 7:00 pm - *As the Wicked Watch* by Tamron Hall.

This is a very casual group, and new participants are welcome at any time. Email Deacon Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws for more information.



HOMEBOUND COMMUNION AND VISITS

As life with COVID continues and the Trinity family strives to live into this new reality, efforts are being made to reinstitute Trinity's Lay Communion Ministry and the Lay Visitation Ministry. Please call the Church Office at 242-5702 if you or someone in your family would like to receive communion at home, a visit from a member of the Trinity family, or need assistance viewing online worship.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY

Lay Assistants

January 2

Calvin Harmon

January 9

Bob Thompson

January 16

Chris Sorenson

January 23

David Troutman

January 30

Lisa Rehm

NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

Trinity will host our neighbors at Towers East for Nourishing Neighbors, a monthly event held on the front lawn that includes a bagged lunch, fresh produce, pantry staples, and fellowship on Wednesday, January 19 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Questions may be directed to Anne Harmon at annerharmon1956@gmail.com or Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws

LAUNCH GROUP

LAUNCH is Trinity's Young Adults Group. The group will meet on Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building for fellowship. Masks are required by all. Those attending are welcome to bring dinner with them. Contact Deacon Mandi Whitley at mtwhitley@trinitylutheran.ws with questions.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Beth Batts - Discharged

DEATHS

Ben Cline on December 24
Kelly Crowe on December 7

ATTENDANCE FOR DECEMBER

	12/5	12/12	12/19	12/24	12/26
Online devices	263	257	230	534	211
In Person	<u>154</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>55</u>
TOTAL	417	377	407	735	266

World AIDS Service on 12/1 - 63 in person, 79 online devices

Blue Christmas Service on 12/19 - 25 in person

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 86,990	\$ 1,043,874
Given to Budget	<u>\$ 88,087</u>	<u>\$ 1,119,401</u>
Difference	\$ 1,098	\$75,527
Given to World Hunger	\$ 3,358	\$ 25,520

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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