



# RLC Newsletter

## November 2024

### A Message from Pastor Allman

“When God Builds the Church” Pastor Bob Russell, Principle #3; Leadership: Develop Christ-centered leaders who lead by example.

Whenever I have gone into a bookstore or perused new books on websites, many of them have been written about leadership. One Christian publishing company states that the greatest need in Christian churches in America is leadership. And, that there is a leadership void in churches across the country.

Often people think that the best leader is the one that can “Wow!” us. Humans will choose the one with charisma, decisiveness, and persuasiveness. All of those are fine qualities in a church leader, although in and of themselves they are not enough.

1 Samuel 16:10 reads, “*Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’*” When God was ready to name a new king for Israel God told Samuel, “*...the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*” God chose David, who was the youngest of Jesse’s sons and was tasked with being the shepherd of Jesse’s sheep.

Now David was to become the King; leader and shepherd of Israel.

The foundation of all of the outward characteristics of a godly leader is the integrity and commitment to do God’s Will. God does not require perfection. God looks for sincere, heart-felt effort. In fact, when church leaders pretend to be perfect they actually do more harm than good to the church body. In Matthew 23:1-3 Jesus tells the people to do as the Pharisees and Scribes teach and not as they do, because their leaders do not practice what they teach. There is a fine line between being an authentic, sinful human being and providing a godly example that will motivate others to strive toward a higher calling in their spiritual life.

Another core characteristic of a godly church leader is the humility to desire to do things that bring honor and glory to God and not for personal recognition. The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians, “*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...*” (2:3-5)

In addition to all of these core characteristics a godly church leader must also have the God-given gifts of leadership. Henry Ford is credited with saying that asking who should be a leader is like asking who should sing tenor in the choir. The tenor should sing tenor and the one with gifts for leadership should lead. 1 Corinthians 12:27-28 reads, *“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership...”*

Through it all it is essential to remember that the church is a Theocracy and not a democracy. That is hard for some in the church to grasp because we live in a society based on democracy. We expect to be able to vote on everything, and have the majority opinion rule. The church is a Theocracy because God rules (“Theos” is Greek for God) and we are God’s followers through Christ Jesus our Lord. The church is the body of Christ, with Jesus as the Head of the body. Church leaders are to make decisions through prayerful discernment of God’s Will. Church members are also responsible to use prayerful discernment in recognizing God’s Will and setting aside their personal interests when necessary.

Bob Russell writes, *“Leading a church is a heavy responsibility. Whatever your responsibility in the church, pray for the leaders of Christ’s body – that they will be anointed of God, that they will lead with the power of the Holy Spirit, that they will be guarded from temptation... and that one of these times they don’t mess up.”* All I can add to that is, Amen!

Pastor Allman 

## Redeemer on YouTube

**3 New Subscribers**

**365 total views**

**11.4k hours watched**



## News from the Office Administrator November 2024

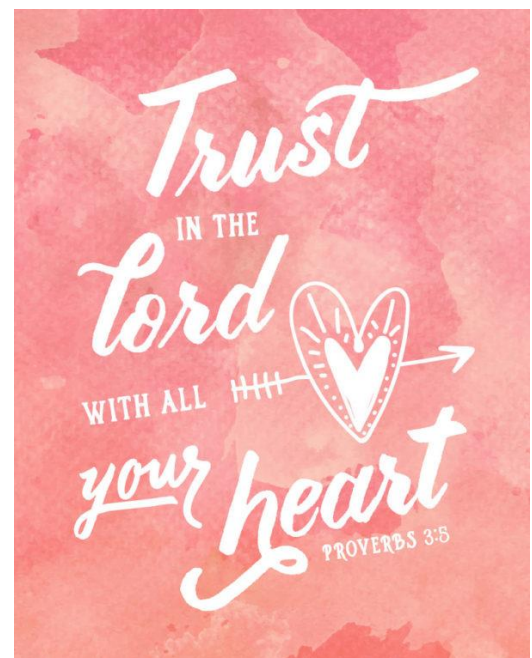
I hope everyone is doing well following Hurricanes Helene & Milton. You may notice that there are some repairs needed around the church. Please consider giving a little extra if you are able to help us with our building fund.

In case you had not heard Mike is a Notary Public, he will be offering this service to our congregation. If you have friend in need the cost is \$10 per signature.

As usual be sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We post flyers and signup sheets there for many different activities so come and choose some fun and informative things to do!

***Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential. Only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don’t want anyone left in need, so please speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.***

***Donations to the Pastors discretionary fund can be made at any time and given in any amount. If you would like make a donation, please write Pastor’s discretionary fund on the memo line.***



# NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP

*“(John the Baptist) said, ‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said” (John 1:23, NRSV).*



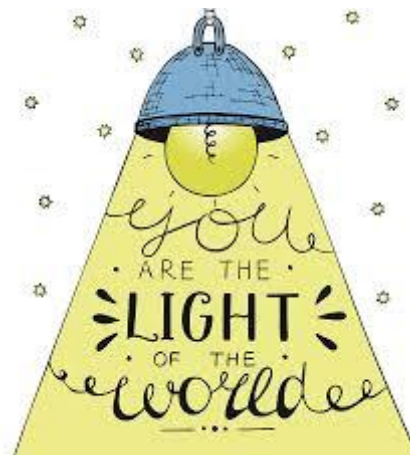
John Chrysostom (Early Church Father who served as Archbishop of Constantinople; 344-407) writes in a Homily, *“Nothing is colder than a Christian who does not care for the salvation of others... Everyone can be of profit to his neighbor, if he would fulfill his role... Do not say, ‘It is impossible for me to induce others to become Christians,’ for if you were really a Christian, it would be impossible for you not to do so. As all nature acts in accordance with its own properties, so in this case too; this is part of the very nature of being a Christian. Do not insult God. To say that the sun cannot shine would be to insult him; to say that being a Christian is useless is to insult God and call him a liar. It is easier for the sun not to give heat, not to shine, than for the Christian not to send forth light; it is easier for the light to be darkness than for this to be so.”*

*“You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14, NRSV).*

You may have noticed that Jesus, and John Chrysostom, the Early Church Leader and Archbishop, were willing to risk offending an individual if it meant furthering the Kingdom of God. In August, when we used the “Bread of Life” series from John, chapter 6, we saw that some from the crowd of 5000 were offended by Jesus’ teaching and walked away. Did it surprise you to realize that Jesus let them walk away? Jesus did not chase after them and beg them to come back. Jesus did not soften his teaching in any way. Jesus simply turned to his closest followers and asked, do you wish to walk away too?

Peter made the correct response, *“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68, NRSV).* Have you ever felt offended by something you read in the Bible; or heard in a Bible study or sermon? If so, I hope you did not decide to simply walk away without talking to someone about your feelings? In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus provides a model for how to respond in a situation where there is conflict between a brother or sister in Christ. All four steps of the process are aimed at reconciliation, not separation. I encourage you to read it and use it wisely.

I also encourage you to wisely consider the words of John Chrysostom who will not let you off the hook from sharing your faith with others; something he says real Christians must do. You do not need a Seminary degree, nor do you need to memorize the Bible, to share your faith story. You are the only one who can share your faith story. No one else can do it for you. You are a light to the world. *“It is easier for the sun not to give heat, not to shine, than for the Christian not to send forth light” (John Chrysostom).*



# GROWING IN FAITH

In August, Fr. Richard Rohr titled one of his daily devotions “Growing in Faith,” with the subtitle, “Order, Disorder, Reorder.” I was surprised, and delighted, to see Fr. Rohr using something like the second part of our Mission Statement to describe his own journey. *Richard Rohr describes his own life’s journey from Order, through Disorder, to Reorder:*

*“I began as a very conservative, pious, and law-abiding pre-Vatican II Roman Catholic, living in 1940s and 1950s Kansas, buffered and bounded by my parents’ stable marriage and many lovely liturgical traditions that sanctified my time and space. This was my first wonderful simplicity or period of Order. I was a very happy child and young man, and all who knew me then would agree.*

*“Yet, I grew in my experience and was gradually educated in a much larger world of the 1960s and 1970s, with degrees in philosophy and theology, and a broad liberal arts education given to me by the Franciscans. That education was the second journey into rational complexity and critical thinking...some lovely innocence dies in this time of Disorder. Many will not go there, precisely because it is a loss of seeming “innocence”—things learned at our “mother’s knee,” as it were.*

*“As time passed, I became simultaneously very traditional and very progressive, and I have probably continued to be so to this day...I no longer fit in with either staunch liberals or strict conservatives. This was my first strong introduction to paradox, and it honed my ability to hold two seemingly opposite positions at the same time. It took most of midlife to figure out what had happened—and how and why it had to happen” (Reorder).*

As we mature our priorities tend to change from vocation, a house, providing for a family, security, and other resources – what some call the first half of life values and priorities; then evolve into what some call the second half of life values and

priorities – relationships with family and friends, time for interests outside of vocation, a closer relationship with God/Jesus, etc. The second half of life values and priorities fit nicely with the second part of Redeemer’s Mission Statement: Grow in Faith.

Chronological maturity is not the same as spiritual maturity. One can be considered “elderly” in years, yet still want to hold on to a more simplistic faith – “things learned at our “mother’s knee,” as it were” or in our Sunday school classes. Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be reborn from above. This was confusing to Nicodemus because he could not imagine going through another physical birth. Yet Jesus was talking about a rebirth by God’s Holy Spirit. Nicodemus was still focused on his career as a Pharisee and his place in the Sanhedrin – Israel’s version of our Federal Congress and US Supreme Court, if you will – the first half of life values and priorities.

I wonder if Nicodemus continued coming to Jesus to learn more, even though that is not mentioned again, or if Nicodemus took Jesus’ initial teaching to heart and opened himself further to God’s Holy Spirit. Something changed between that original conversation and Jesus’ Crucifixion, because Nicodemus was one of the men who helped prepare Jesus’ body for burial and place Jesus’ body in the tomb.

What is your story of spiritual maturity or Growing in Faith? Can you identify a change from first half of life values and priorities to second half of life values and priorities? How are you presently developing a closer relationship with God/Jesus? How are your outside practices changing what is inside your heart, where God sees?





*After storm flooding, one of the most common health and safety concerns is the growth of mold in our homes. Below is information and resources about mold.*

## **MOLD**

Mold thrives in damp, humid environments, making flood-affected areas particularly vulnerable. When floodwaters recede, moisture remains in the walls, floors and other surfaces, creating ideal conditions for mold growth within just 24 to 48 hours. Mold can cause significant structural damage to buildings, in addition to potential health risks associated with prolonged exposure.

**Why Mold Matters:** Mold releases microscopic spores into the air, which can be inhaled and lead to health problems. Common symptoms of mold exposure include nasal congestion, throat irritation, coughing, wheezing and eye irritation. For people with asthma, allergies or other underlying respiratory issues, mold exposure can trigger more severe reactions, including asthma attacks or worsen chronic lung conditions. Prolonged exposure to mold can also lead to more serious health problems such as infections, especially in people with weakened immune systems.

**How to Prevent Mold Growth After a Flood:** To minimize the risk of mold growth after flooding, it's essential to act quickly. Start by thoroughly drying out your home within the first 24 to 48 hours after floodwaters have subsided. Remove wet carpets, furniture and other porous materials that can harbor mold. Once you are sure that the electrical system in the home is safe, use dehumidifiers, fans and ventilation to accelerate the drying process. Additionally, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces with mold-killing solutions, such as bleach or commercially available mold removers, can help prevent mold from taking root. It's also advisable to seek professional help if mold has already taken hold or if you are unsure about the extent of contamination.

**When to Get Help:** If you notice significant mold growth or experience persistent health issues, it may be time to consult a professional mold remediation service. These experts can assess the extent of the mold problem and ensure that it is removed safely and thoroughly, reducing the health risks associated with exposure. It's also important to wear protective gear, such as gloves and masks, when handling mold to prevent inhalation or contact with spores.

## **MOLD AND FLOODING RESOURCES**

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/mold/index.html>

[https://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/publications/fact\\_sheets\\_0307/postfloodingandmold061105revised.pdf](https://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/publications/fact_sheets_0307/postfloodingandmold061105revised.pdf)

[https://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/recover/fema\\_mold\\_brochure\\_english.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/pdf/rebuild/recover/fema_mold_brochure_english.pdf)

<https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home>

<https://redcrosschat.org/2012/12/12/dealing-with-mold-disaster-recovery-tips/>

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bob Casper, Vern Loepp**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> – Kurt Hetler, Jane Trefren**  
**7<sup>th</sup> – Peggy Collins**  
**8<sup>th</sup> – Sue Smeltzer**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – Verbal Loepp**  
**11<sup>th</sup> – Kay Lyndahl, Jeanne Pruett**  
**13<sup>th</sup> – Dick Ihrke**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – Pam Vogelsong**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Konain**  
**19<sup>th</sup> – Arlene Hansen**  
**20<sup>th</sup> – Vlado Michna, John Whitman**  
**21<sup>st</sup> – Jim Glass, Helen Schaefer**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – Diane Brace, Justin Hill**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> – Tim McKee**  
**25<sup>th</sup> – Deya Schierenbeck**  
**26<sup>th</sup> – Betty Schuppert**  
**27<sup>th</sup> – George Grosskopf,  
Dietrich Schaefer**  
**28<sup>th</sup> – Doreen McKibben**  
**30<sup>th</sup> – Sylvia Nachbor**



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Karl & Joan Wessinger**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – Hans & Erika Barfels**  
**6<sup>th</sup> – Steven & Karin Hagg**  
**8<sup>th</sup> – Kadie & Jon Dehne**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – Barry & Joan Matchette**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> – Fred & Kathie Bastion**



**We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!**



# November



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Nov 3 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Arlene Hansen, David Lickfeldt	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Nov 10 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz
Sun. Nov 17 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Mary Ann Sigler, Jenise German, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Nov 24 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Chuck Buskirk

Nov. Usher Team	Nov. Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Dan Pollert Team		Volunteers

# DECEMBER



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Dec 1 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Joyce Kuzmick, Chris Zewin, Kathy Schwartz	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Dec 8 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. Dec 15 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Sharon & Bill Horiszny	Dan Pollert
Sun. Dec 22 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick		Sherri Knaub
Tue. Dec 24 7:00 PM	David Lickfeldt	Judy Buskirk, David Lickfeldt, Wendy Kitzman	Chuck Buskirk
Wed. Dec 25 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Jenise German, Wendy Kitzman	Jim Schwartz
Sun. Dec 29 10:00 AM	<small>Acolyte only</small> David Lickfeldt		

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions about being an acolyte, lector, or communion assistant or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.





**Oktoberfest**

Many of us enjoyed brats/side dishes, music, and some good jokes at the Oktoberfest on October 16th. Thanks to Sandy Gundacker for organizing and leading it, and to all those who helped to make it possible. A good time was had by all.



**Arts & Crafts Fair**

Redeemer Lutheran Church will hold its fifth annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, November 2 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. With over 40 vendors present. It is a great opportunity to find unique gifts just in time for the holidays. A wide variety of items crafted by local artists and crafters will be available: fine art paintings, jewelry, hand sewn and crocheted, pottery, leatherwork, glassware, ceramics, wooden products, wreaths, holiday gifts, books by Southshore authors, a painting demonstration, and much more. There will also be a bake sale, food truck, and some awesome raffle baskets. This is an event that you won't want to miss.



**Bakers Needed**

We will be selling baked goods at this year's Arts & Crafts Fair, just like we have done in the past. We are looking for our bakers to help us raise money by making their baked treats and bringing them to the church on Friday, November 1st between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon. Please label the item, and if it contains nuts, please be sure to note it.



**Volunteers Needed to Reset Tables**

The rectangular tables in Buhr Hall that were used for the Arts & Crafts Fair will need to be changed back to the round ones. This will be done on Sunday, November 3 following Fellowship. Part of the job is moving tables and chairs, but there are other jobs such as replacing the tablecloths, centerpieces, etc. that don't require lifting. If you can help, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex. Hopefully there will be enough help to make this a quick easy job.



## The Geography of Pasta

Food preferences are a basic cultural trait and vary across the world. Most of us are aware of the health benefits of the Mediterranean diet. Is this why Italian has become the favorite ethnic food in the US? What are the basics of the diet? While touring Italy, many Americans are surprised that Italian food varies from place to place. You will see some of the differences in the "Geography of Pasta." The presenter will be a member of Redeemer, Dr. Chuck Kovacik, who was a professor of Geography and also worked with the education program of the National Geographic Society. Join us in Buhr Hall on Tuesday, November 12 at 10:30 AM. A light lunch will follow. If you will be attending, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter by November 10th. Everyone attending is asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry.



## WELCA Christmas Luncheon

The WELCA Board is planning a Christmas luncheon for Redeemer women and friends on December 10th. Since we immensely enjoyed the flower arranging presentation last year, we have invited Jo back for a similar program this year. We will also be assembling gift bags for homebound members. Save the date.



WELCA is hosting a free  
Christmas Luncheon

## WELCA Book Club News

The WELCA Book Club is meeting on Thursday, November 21 at 1:00 PM in Buhr Hall to discuss **The First Ladies** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Please join us!



Diane



## Choir Members needed

Now is the time to join in singing with our choir. If you have previously sung in a choir, or you read music, or just love to sing we welcome you! Please join us every Thursday at 6:30 PM for Choir practice. Call Sandy Gundacker at 813-335-4969 for more information.



## Rummage Sale

The Fundraising Team is in the process of planning our annual rummage sale for Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8, 2025. Additional details will be announced in the upcoming months.



## Toy Collection

WELCA is organizing a toy collection for Beth-El Mission during the month of November. We will be collecting gifts for boys and girls ages 8 to 12. Requested items are books, arts and crafts, board games, and sports related toys. Toys not accepted are any that mimic weapons, plush toys (allergens), and used books or toys. Toys can be left on the table in the narthex. If you wish for us to do the shopping for you, please write "Toy Collection" on your envelope and place it in the offering plate. This should help brighten some children's Christmas.



## Christmas Sale

Collection for Christmas items to use in our Christmas sale will start on November 4th. Items can be dropped off in Buhr Hall week days between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon. Do not leave items outside. The Christmas Sale will run on Sundays from November 10th through December 15th in Buhr Hall. If you would like to come during the week, please come during office hours.



## Bible Study

Pastor Allman is discussing Prayer in his newest Online Bible Study. Videos will be available every Thursday. They will remain online along with Acts of the Apostles videos for you to view at your convenience. A list of the many bible verses is also available for you to read if you wish.

Our YouTube channel is:

## Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida



## My Warriors Place

Thank you so much to all that donated funds to help My Warriors place rebuild following hurricanes Helene and Milton. Redeemer was able to send them a check for \$1,454.



## Riverside JukeBox Swing Band

The Riverside Jukebox Swing Band will be having a concert at Redeemer on Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 PM. Please bring an item for donation to the local food pantry. During the intermission a free will offering will be taken up for the band.

# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM-Arts & Crafts Fair
<b>3</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>4</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>5</b> 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 01:00 PM- Barbershop 1:30 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 7:00 PM- Riverside Jukebox Band	<b>7</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>10</b> 10:00 AM-Worship Christmas Sale	<b>11</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 5:00 PM-Leeland Management 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>12</b> 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 10:30 AM-Geography of Pasta 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>15</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>17</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship Christmas Sale	<b>18</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM- Council Mtg 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM- Coalition of Mental Health & Aging 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>21</b> 1:00 PM-Book Club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>22</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>24</b> 10:00 AM-Worship Christmas Sale	<b>25</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>26</b> 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice

*God bless our country, our first responders,  
and our military men and women.*

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