Spirit of the Redeemer

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

July/August 2022

A Postmortem on *Roe*

On June 24, 2022, the feast day of The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, a majority of justices on the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of Mississippi's abortion ban after fifteen weeks in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, and they expressly overturned the previous court decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. By this action, June should be considered Life Month going forward and the Feast of St. John the Baptist has added significance for Christians. John not only leapt in the womb of Elizabeth at the greeting of Mary who was newly with child by the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk. 1:44), but in his adult ministry John called his countrymen to repent of their sins with great boldness (Lk. 3:1-18), and he reproved a civil ruler who was living an ungodly life and was promoting evil in the midst of the people (Lk. 3:19).

Roe was an evil that had to be renounced by our nation. For nearly 50 years, Christians and others who acknowledge the natural law of God have peacefully marched and demonstrated and persuaded and funded pregnancy resource centers. And now the Supreme Court has finally agreed with the sign that has been held by so many in the Life marches: "Roe has to Go!"

The syllabus (headnote) and the actual words of Justice Alito's majority opinion put it this way:

> Like the infamous decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Roe* was also egregiously wrong and on a collision course with the Constitution from the day it was decided. *Casey* perpetuated its errors, calling both sides of the national controversy to resolve their debate, but in doing so, *Casey* necessarily declared a winning side. Those on the losing side—those who sought to advance the State's interest in fetal life—could no longer seek to persuade their elected representatives to adopt policies consistent with their views. The Court short-circuited the democratic process by closing it to the large number of Americans who disagreed with Roe (Syllabus, p. 5).
>
> We hold that *Roe and Casey* must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of *Roe and Casey* now chiefly rely—the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment (Opinion, p. 5).

Now that *Roe* is overturned, the matter of abortion restrictions is given back to state legislatures to determine, and many states have "trigger laws" on the books, effectively ending abortion. Tennessee is such a state. The Human Life Protection Act of 2019 bans abortion procedures, except for life of the mother, within 30 days of *Roe* being overturned. We shall soon see how this law is enforced in our state.

But this brings up the very noticeable shortcoming of the *Dobbs* ruling. Doesn't it seem strange that the states now get to regulate murder? The federal government has returned to the states the Constitutional cover to regulate murder in the womb. This is because the Supreme Court did not take up the personhood issue of children in the womb and the question of whether they are protected under the Fourteenth Amendment which says, "Nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Perhaps the problem was with the legal tactics in bringing life cases, even if they "had" to be used to get a majority of the justices to buy in.

David Fowler, attorney and President of the Family Action Council of Tennessee, wrote, "*Dobbs* flat out punted on the truly profound moral question upon which the morality of abortion depends: 'What is a human being and are all human beings persons?'" Fowler said of Alito's draft, which has now become the court opinion, that it could go down as a decision worse than *Dred Scott*! He wrote, "Alito's *Dobbs* opinion, as of now, says the unborn are such an 'insubordinate and inferior class of beings' [quoting *Dred Scott*] as can be disclaimed as person by the federal government *and* the states!" (https://www.factennessee.org/news-views/commentary/2020/scotus-leaked-opinion-is-not-what-you-think).

It is a true blessing that many children will be saved in many states now that *Roe* is overturned (a sentiment with which David Fowler agrees). However, the Church must continue to proclaim life beginning at conception and the personhood of children in the womb. Our prayers are to continue, especially for women in states that have little or no restrictions on abortion. Now more than ever, our support and funding of pregnancy resource centers and clinics are needed. In other words, the work and the privilege of standing for God's gift of life continue. In addition, the chief task of delivering the healing balm of the Gospel to the brokenhearted remains our delight. The forgiveness of sins through Christ is what gives true restoration and wholeness.

A few other blessings and lessons are worth mentioning. *Roe* was like a Goliath that seemed invincible. I will admit that I did not think I would live to see it overturned. It was *the* court case, and perhaps the only Supreme Court ruling that most people in America could name. It was also *the* sacred text of the pro-abortion leaders in government and popular culture. I give credit to those who believed overturning it was possible, especially the youth of Students for Life who, for years, regularly declared with voice and signage, "I am the post-Roe generation." In mercy, we were all taught once again, "For nothing will be impossible with God," the very words the angel Gabriel said to Mary concerning both the conception of John in Elizabeth in her old age and the miraculous conception of the Christ in the Virgin (Lk. 1:37, Just, *Luke 1:1- 9:50 Concordia Commentary*, CPH, p. 62).

With *Roe* being slayed, I have now observed, anecdotally, more commentators on the conservative side being comfortable with saying things like, "It was never just a clump of cells," and, "The science is there for confirming life in the womb." The pro-life wing of the conservative movement, which used to be an embarrassment for many of the elites, now looks a little less freakish and fringy. Sadly,

Petition Following SCOTUS Ruling on Dobbs v. Jackson

Gracious Father, we solemnly thank and praise You for the judgment of the court this day in reversing decisions that have given open sanction to the destruction of human life. Curb wickedness in every heart and place. For the sake of Christ, spare us those punishments that we have deserved. Restore compassion and the desire for life among all, and lead Your Church to show Your love to the vulnerable, to the despised and to those whose hearts have turned cold. Your Son has taken up our fragile flesh to free us from the bonds of sin by His death. Draw every heart to Yourself, Holy Father, that believing in Christ Jesus, we would not perish but have everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/2E004539-DC57-4646-BA30-EF62BD086F62?

it took the imprimatur of the majority of the Supreme Court to make the pro-life movement seem somewhat legitimate and righteous, an affirmation that we, as confessional Lutherans, did not need in order to know the truth.

Roe's demise, then, is also important in that it demonstrates to those who need to be enlightened in this current generation that government and bodies of men and women are not to be worshiped (Ps. 118:8-9). They are not infallible. The Supreme Court is not our god (even when the majority rules along with what our God says in his Word). I have already mentioned the unconscionable rulings of *Dred Scott* and *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Consider also *Korematsu v. United States* among others!

Finally, I give thanks that you and I were there in the fight and are able to share in this partial victory that God has allowed. You, the people of God, the saints of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, stood up to be counted. You used your voice and your treasure for life. You acted for life. You gathered baby bottles and diapers. You denounced false doctrine in your households. You prayed in faith. You attended rallies and marches and voted for pro-life candidates. All glory to God, of course, for the good works that he prepared for us to do in faith (Eph. 2:10). But you have the joy of walking in righteousness and being part of the righteous cause. In his famous speech to the U.S. Third Army, General Patton asked his men to consider what they were going to say thirty years from now when their grandson asked them what they did in the great World War II. You will be able to say to future generations that you fought in the greatest civil rights struggle of our time! And where you and I faltered or became weak in the knees, we live in the repentance and forgiveness that we proclaim to others. We may go forward in faith, hope, and love. We go forward into this Post-*Roe* world still under the banner of Him who gives life and life to the full (Jn. 10:10).

– Pastor Young

Join us for

Redeemer Evangelical

Lutheran Church's

40th Anniversary Commemoration.

September 11, 2022

A Simple Way To Pray
Martin Luther

Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, the 10 Commandments, and the Creed.
A Letter to His Barber, Master Peter Beskendorf, Spring 1535
(Continued from June.)
https://wmpl.org/filed/resources/public/Literature/ASimpleWaytoPray.pdf
(Available for purchase at Concordia Publishing House.)

The Ten Commandments

The Seventh Commandment: "You shall not steal." First, I can learn here that I must not take my neighbor's property from him or possess it against his will, either in secret or openly. I must not be false or dishonest in business, service, or work, nor profit by fraud, but must support myself by the sweat of my brow and eat my bread in honor. Furthermore, I must see to it that in any of the abovenamed ways my neighbor is not defrauded, just as I wish for myself. I also learn in this commandment that God, in his fatherly solicitude, sets a protective hedge around my goods and solemnly prohibits anyone to steal from me. Where that is ignored, he has imposed a penalty and has placed the gallows and the rope in the hands of Jack the hangman. Where that cannot be done, God himself metes out punishment and they become beggars in the end, as the proverb says, "Who steals in his youth, goes begging in old age," or, "Stolen gain goes down the drain."

In addition I give thanks for his steadfast goodness in that he has given such excellent teachings, assurance, and protection to me and to all the world. If it were not for his protection, not a penny or a crumb of bread would be left in the house.

Third, I confess my sins and ingratitude in such instances where I have wronged, deprived, or cheated anyone in my life.

Fourth, I ask that he grant to me and all the world grace to learn from this commandment, to ponder it, and to become better people, so that there may be less theft, robbery, usury, cheating, and injustice and that the Judgment Day, for which all saints and the whole creation pray, Romans 8, shall soon bring this to an end. Amen

The Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness." This teaches us, first of all, to be truthful to each other, to shun lies and calumnies, to be glad to speak well of each other, and to delight in hearing what is good about others. Thus a wall has been built around our good reputation and integrity to protect it against malicious gossip and deceitful tongues; God will not let that go unpunished, as he has said in the other commandments.

We owe him thanks both for the teachings and the protection which he has graciously provided for us.

Third, we confess and ask forgiveness that we have spent our lives in ingratitude and sin and have maligned our neighbor with false and wicked talk, though we owe him the

These Are the Holy Ten Commands

LSB 581 (1, 11, 12)

These are the holy Ten Commands
God gave to us
by Moses' hands
When high on Sinai's
mount he stood,
Receiving them for our good.
Have mercy, Lord!

You have this Law
to see therein
That you have
not been free from sin
But also that you clearly see
How pure toward
God life should be.
Have mercy, Lord!

Our works cannot
salvation gain;
They merit only
endless pain.
Forgive us, Lord!
To Christ we flee,
Who pleads for us endlessly.
Have mercy, Lord!

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same preservation of honor and integrity which we desire for ourselves.

Fourth, we ask for help from now on to keep the commandment and for a healing tongue, etc. The Ninth and Tenth Commandments: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house." Similarly, "his wife," etc.

This teaches us first that we shall not dispossess our neighbor of his goods under pretense of legal claims, or lure away, alienate, or extort what is his, but help him to keep what is his, just as we wish to be done for ourselves. It is also a protection against the subtleties and chicaneries of shrewd manipulators who will receive their punishment in the end. Second, we should render thanks to him. Third, we should repentantly and sorrowfully confess our sins. Fourth, we should ask for help and strength devoutly to keep such divine commandments

These are the Ten Commandments in their fourfold aspect, namely, as a school text, song book, penitential book, and prayer book. They are intended to help the heart come to itself and grow zealous in prayer. Take care, however, not to undertake all of this or so much that one becomes weary in spirit. Likewise, a good prayer should not be lengthy or drawn out, but frequent and ardent. It is enough to consider one section or half a section which kindles a fire in the heart. This the Spirit will grant us and continually instruct us in when, by God's word, our hearts have been cleared and freed of outside thoughts and concerns.

Nothing can be said here about the part of faith and Holy Scriptures because there would be no end to what could be said. With practice one can take the Ten Commandments on one day, a psalm or chapter of Holy Scripture the next day, and use them as flint and steel to kindle a flame in the heart.

(Continued in Sep.)

Kroger Community Rewards Program

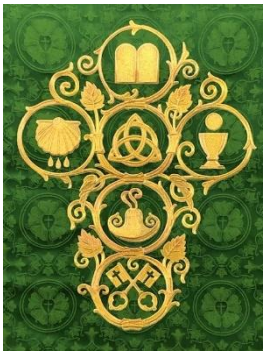
Are you a Kroger shopper? If so, you can link your Kroger Plus Card to their Community Rewards Program online and Redeemer will receive a quarterly check. Redeemer has elected to place these dollars in the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. In fact, we just received a check for $54.58. Simple, easy stewardship! Contact Redeemer's office for details on how to participate.

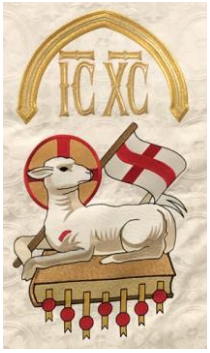
Dear Friends,

Thank you for the recognition and gift for fifteen years of service at Redeemer. Christ's peace to each of you and to all who enter this, the Lord's house,

Jim M

Some of Our New Paraments





MAY 2022 MONTHLY KUSAAL LUTHERAN MISSION NEWS AND PRAYER NEEDS

May 2022 No. 140

"As long as it is day, we must work the works of Him who sent me, night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4).

Greetings: Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Ghana. We are in the rainy season but not much rainfall has come except severe rainstorms that have destroyed houses. We praise God we have not experienced any casualties. We are hopeful the rains will come soon. There is tremendous growth in the church as many people are involved in the church's weekly activities. Most of the members can explain why they are Lutheran and why they will not like to be a member of another church- they believe and confess Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide and above all Solus Christus.

Baptism: There were nine baptisms at Hope, St. Luke and Immanuel. I was blessed to baptize Jacob Asambo, his wife and two children at Hope Lutheran Church. I thank and praise the Lord for the pastors who have joined me in the pastoral office. They are involved in all church pr ograms and activities. This has given me time to have some rest and also be involved in the translation work and teaching in the seminary, deaconess program and weekly leadership class.

BAPTIZING WHOLE FAMILY

Confirmation: Rev. Maslin Atubiga confirmed 2 young men in St. Matthew, while Rev. Mark Awidaan confirmed one woman who joined the church from another church.

Leadership Training Class: The weekly leadership training will continue to stay since the church cannot have enough pastors for all the congregations. The weekly leadership training class prepares lay leaders to lead the liturgy, discuss prepared sermon outlines, study the doctrine of the Church (Book of Concord), etc. The class has completed studying the Augsburg Confession, and the Smalcald Articles. We are hopeful that the translated Apology of the Augsburg Confession would be printed by Lutheran Heritage Foundation so that members of the class would have copies in Kusaal (Mother tongue) to use.

Evangelism/Outreach: The two seminarians (John and Michael) organized the youth and embarked on weekly evangelism and outreach programs in Ziako, Bansi, Baakanga, Nyorig etc.

Radio broadcast programs: The weekly radio programs at Source FM and Maxx Empire FM continue to reach and touch people's heart with the true Word of God. While at Source, the message is based on the weekly periscope, at Maxx, the program is based on discussion on social and current issues where the Word of God is the main source of the discussion.

Chapel buildings:

1. Hope Lutheran Church has started plastering their chapel having gathered sand and cash for cement.

NEW STRUCTURE FOR DESTROYED ROOF

2. Repair works on the roofs of St. Mark, St. Paul have been completed.

FINISHED ROOF RELACEMENT

3. Reroofing of Faith Lutheran Church is completed.
4. Bethel Lutheran Church chapel had part of the roof and walls damaged by severe rainstorm. Not long after that another storm completely damaged the rest of the roof and the two geebuls [gables]. Parts of the remaining walls have been affected and would need reinforcement before roofing. This is a major repair work.

BLOCKS FOR WALL DAMAGE

Concordia Preparatory School (CPS): CPS would be 10 years old in September, having begun with 13 students and now over 1,000. In November, the pioneers of the school would be writing the national examination (Basic Education Certificate Examination). There are 22 students who would be writing the examination. A lot of preparations are made to keep them confident in the Lord and their studies. The school is organizing several mock examinations (five) for them before their November examinations. The school is organizing to provide camping facility for the students and also providing them special tuitions. Past BECE questions have been purchased for the candidates to enable them prepare adequately for the upcoming exams. Please remember to pray for the teachers who have been hired to provide additional tuition and preparing the mock and grading. Also pray for the students to study hard and allow Christ to be the center of their lives. Because CPS is a private school, all its students have to pay registration and examination fees before they write the BECE in November. This is a challenge to most parents.

Multi-Purpose Building Project for the Church: The Lord is blessing the project. The concrete work and walls for the one story building are completed. Our next target is the framework of the roof before roofing.

PASTOR OFFICIATING AT FUNERAL

Burial: One burial took place in Kpalugu of late Madam Veronica Alem. The Lord had blessed her with many years and children. Veronica had great-great grandchildren. Nearly half of her extended families are Christians and very few Muslims and pagans.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Needs:

1. Praise the Lord for the support Ghana Harvest provides for the weekly radio program, evangelism, leadership training, text books for CPS, construction of classrooms for CPS, reroofing of Faith Lutheran Church chapel etc.
2. We thank and praise God for allowing Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) to assist six (6) language groups in Ghana to translate, print, publish and distribute to readers in Ghana. Kusaal has almost completed translating the entire Book of Concord with the help of LHF.
3. Pray for the weekly leadership training class that meets on Saturdays.
4. Pray for the seminarians who are on holidays. They are working very hard, visiting, teaching, encouraging and organizing the youth.
5. Pray for the construction of additional classrooms for Concordia Preparatory School.
6. Pray that Concordia Preparatory gets more textbooks for the students.
7. Pray for final year students of CPS who would be writing their final exams in November.
8. Pray that CPS is able to support the final year students by paying their registration and examination fees to the government.
9. We praise the Lord for allowing the school to provide excellent Christian Education to the students.
10. Pray for more support for the construction of the multi-purpose building for the church. The project has reached the roofing framework level. The church is growing and the need for such a building is important.
11. Pray that we get funds to work on the damaged Bethel Church chapel building and roofing.
12. We thank and praise the Lord for your active participation and support in the Ghana mission and ministry.

SEMINARY STUDENTS STUDYING

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? (*1 John 3:16-17)

Pastor Nicholas Salifu

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Door Offering Sunday School	4 8 AA	5	6 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	7	8 6:30pm LWML	9
10 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School	11 8 AA	12	13 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	14	15	16 8:30 Men's Breakfast
17 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School	18 8 AA	19 6:30 Council	20 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	21	22	23 8:30 Work Day
24 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School	25 8 AA	26	27 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	28	29	30 VBS
31 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Voters' Assembly Sunday School VBS						

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm AA	2	3 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	4	5	6
7 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Door Offering Sunday School	8 6:30 pm AA	9	10 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	11	12 6:30pm LWML	13
14 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School	15 6:30 pm AA	16 6:30 Council	17 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	18	19	20 8:30 Men's Breakfast
21 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service Sunday School	22 6:30 pm AA Henkel Conference promoted in place of Summer Reading Group.	23 Henkel Conference promoted in place of Summer Reading Group.	24 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study	25	26	27
28 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Sunday School	29 6:30 pm AA	30	31 9:45 Matins 10 Bible Study			

The Henkel Conference

"Mankind thus unacquainted with God cannot love him; neither can they love one another: 'He that loveth not knoweth not God'"

Ryan T. Anderson
President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center
"Gender Identity and Religious Liberty"

Brent P. Waters
Director of the Stead Center for Ethics and Values
"Solving the Problem of the Body: Christian Bioethics, Embodiment, and Technological Enhancement"

Leonydus Johnson
Host of Informed Dissent
Presentation Title TBA

Doug Mainwaring
U. S. Bureau Chief for LifeSiteNews
"The Quiet Rise of LGBT Influence in Christian & Conservative Circles"

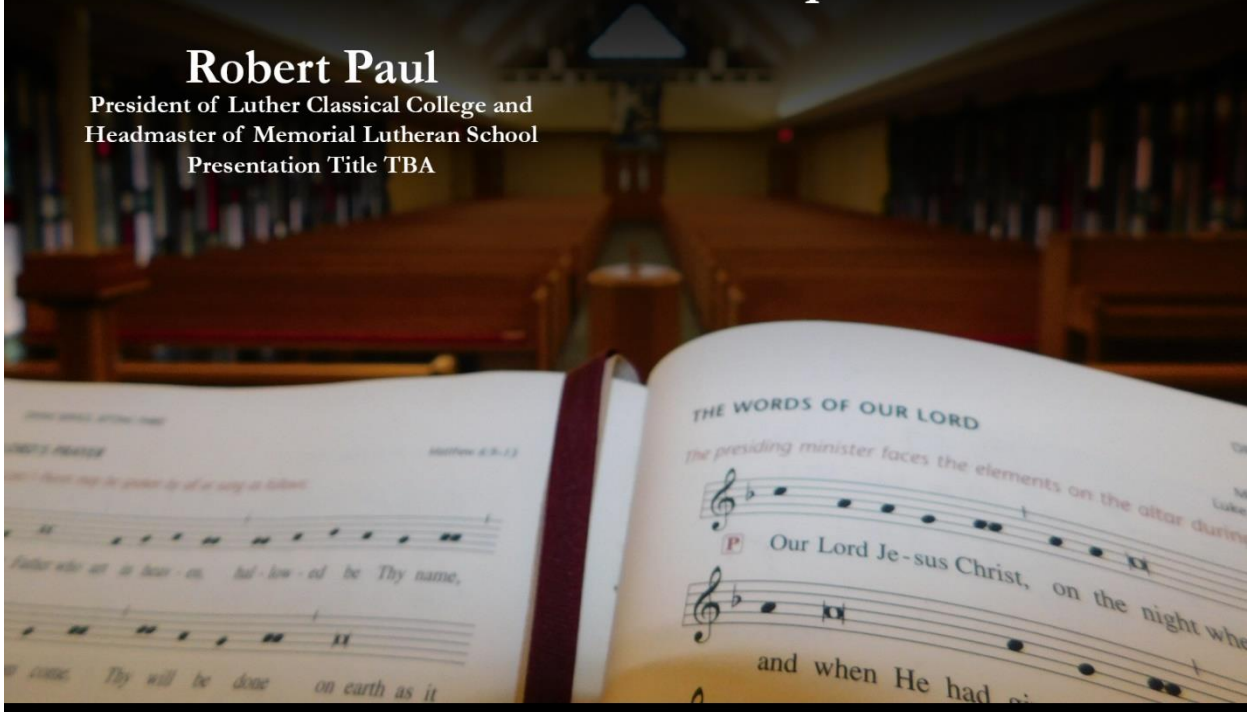
Robert Paul
President of Luther Classical College and Headmaster of Memorial Lutheran School
Presentation Title TBA

Thomas M. Winger
President of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary
"Worship: It's All about Justification; It's *Not* All about Justification"

Gifford Grobien
Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary
"Baptism and Mystical Union"

Willie Grills
Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church
Presentation Title TBA

Plus two other speakers TBA



August 22-23, 2022

610 W Old Hickory Blvd, Madison TN 37115

Registration and info: www.ascensionmadison.com/henkel

Sponsored by:
Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison TN and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Paducah KY

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