

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

Service Times: Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.



the **MARTYR MONTHLY**

JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

*St. Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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Janet Snyder, Organist

**MISSIONARIES TO SENEGAL
TO VISIT SSM!**



Peter and Sarah Grow-Hanson will
be ministering to our congregation on
Saturday, July 12, 2008
at the 5 pm service

Don't Forget To Attend Church This Summer!
Please try to visit a church where you are vacationing—bring
back a bulletin to share with us!



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PASTOR GAIL'S COMPUTER NOTES...

One of the blessings of living in an area where the seasons change is having something to look forward to. For example, during the dreadful winter of 2007-08, we probably all dreamed about the coming summer: the promise of longer days, the beauty of the trees and flowers, baseball games, swimming,

Memorial Day and Fourth of July, vacations, corn on the cob, outdoor dining and outdoor concerts, and so much more..

So far, it's been a 'mixed bag' hasn't it? We know there will be all of the above and then some, but we've not had as much sunshine as we longed for, and worse, so many are suffering in the unbelievable flooding throughout the Midwest. Our Property Committee & Council must wrestle with the problem of recurring flooding in our lower level.

What do we do? We pray for guidance and courage, we hold on, and we help. We reach out to those in need, through Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Disaster Response, and we look for rays of sunshine through the rain.

One ray of sunshine here is the wonderful Vacation Bible School we have each year! This year, it was "Power Lab" and a good time of fun and learning was had by all. We give thanks for the hard work of so many and we are awed as the power of the Holy Spirit continues to fill the lives of children from SSM, Adoration, friends of members and a few children from the neighborhood!

An exciting ray of sunshine is the visit to SSM by our ELCA Missionary family, the Rev. Peter and Sarah Grow-Hanson and their sons on Saturday, July 12th. They have been serving in Senegal, west Africa for several years. Peter will preach at the 5:00 p.m. service, and the family will be available for questions and conversation at a light supper following the service. All the food will be prepared by the Human Concerns Committee and a modest donation will be requested. Please sign up on the bulletin board and plan on an exciting evening!

Another ray of sunshine is the ministry of our Human Concerns Committee. Don't forget to respond to the appeal for the food pantries we support: Bay View Community Center and Central City Food Pantry. People are as hungry in the summer as they are at Christmastime. Thank you for all your past generosity!

* * * * *

A more difficult summer event will be the departure of Music Director Christopher Owen. Since October, 2004, we have been blessed with his excellent musical skills on piano and organ, great musical sense, and fun sense of humor. Our handbell choir has been launched and our Senior Choir has grown in quality and quantity!

Please plan on attending a send-off reception for Christopher on Sunday, July 27th immediately following the 9:30 am service. Cards of thanks and expressions of gratitude will be appropriate as we wish him well in his pursuit of a PhD in conducting at the University of Minnesota beginning in the fall. Our prayers and good wishes go with him!

And I wish you a summer of rest, re-creation, and growth in faith.
See you at worship and other places where Jesus walks with us.
Your partner in the Gospel,
Pastor Gail

Stewardship

A STORY ON GIVING

Ole is drinking a cup of coffee in the Fellowship Hall after the first service with nothing on but his boxer shorts.

Sven comes up and asks him, "Well, Ole, how are tings?"

"Vell," Ole replies, "That preacher sure gave a powerful stewardship sermon."

Sven: "Oh, is that so?"

Ole: "She says, 'you need to give God ev'ryting ya got. Vell, I vas soooo mooved I wanted to do yust as she said, but... I couldn't."

Swen: "But vhy didn't ya?"

Ole: "Oh, my vife grabs me and says to me, 'that's quite enough, Ole.'"

(from luthersem.edu)

Though we certainly aren't expected to give everything but our boxers, like Ole, if we tithe 10% for God's work we still have 90% for ourselves and our family. It is the heart that matters. Honor your giving pledge as you are able, and give from a cheerful heart whether you pledged or not.

As a reminder: when you receive your economic stimulus rebate check this summer, please consider giving 10% back to your church that we may help the many important and needy charities, like area food pantries who are in great need, ELCA Hunger Appeal and Lutheran World Relief (Myanmar).

Thank you again for your commitment of time, talent and resources to the ministries of St. Stephen the Martyr. You are a blessing!

A certain minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to, after the worship service, ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had

been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And that, is how the substitute became the regular organist!



COMING EVENTS

July 8-13 2008 Triennial Convention and Gathering-Salt Lake City Utah

July 9 - Bible Study at 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

July 9 - Loose Ends Luncheon at 11:45 a.m.

July 21 -Piece Markers Quilting

August 13 - Bible Study at 10:15 a.m.

August 13 - Loose Ends Luncheon at 11:45 - Location to be announced

August 15-17 - Pine Lake Women's Retreat, Waupaca Wisconsin

August 18 - Piece Markers Quilting

August 20 - Sewing of School Bags - 9 a.m.

September 27-28 - ThankOffering Services - Women of the ELCA

October 3-4 - Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Convention @ St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa

Women's Bible Study/Loose Ends Lunch

We will then be meeting for lunch at That's Amoré, 5080 S. 108th St. (Hwy 100 & Edgerton). We will leave church at 11:30 a.m. for those carpooling, and meet at the restaurant at 11:45 a.m. Please sign up on the kiosk and indicate if you will need a ride from your home or if you want to car-pool from church. Any questions, call Diana Gastrau, 304-8284.

JOIN US AT THE PINE LAKE WOMEN'S RETREAT

WAUPACA WI

AUGUST 15-17, 2008

Enjoy a weekend away with a caring community of friends and be part of the Pine Lake experience.

We invite you to join us at Pine Lake Camp, located in the northern woods near Waupaca Wisconsin. The weekend starts with a light supper on Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$80. There is a \$5 late fee assessment after August 5th. Registration forms are posted on the kiosk under Women of the ELCA. Scholarships are available to help defray the cost to you. Any questions?

Call the Camp Dean, Sue Jarchow at 414-421-9031 or Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130.

WHY A THANKOFFERING SERVICE?

Our worship on the weekend of September 27-28, will involve the Women of the ELCA at St. Stephen the Martyr. We will all participate with you in a Thankoffering service. Why a Thankoffering service? Thankofferings, a long-standing tradition, shows our gratitude for God's blessings. We are called to offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given to us. Thankofferings help Women of the ELCA provide resources, events, programs and much more. Thankofferings also support the organization's crucial annual gift to the ELCA, which, in turn, supports global mission, the ELCA's World Hunger program and much more. Although we receive no money from the ELCA, our annual gift recognizes our partnership with ELCA ministries as a whole and recognizes that the Women of the ELCA do receive in-kind support from the churchwide office: For example, the ELCA does provide us with office space and services, gift processing and technical support for our Website. Thankofferings are usually received during a Thankoffering service held at the local church site of Women of the ELCA .

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 2008 CONVENTION OF THE GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

...being held on October 3-4 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Shirley Lieske will represent you as this year's delegate from St. Stephen the Martyr. The theme is "Here I am Lord - Send Me". Workshop presenters will be from Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Lutheran Social Services, Interfaith, Youth and Family Ministry and Next Door Foundation. In-Kind gifts will be collected and distributed to Lutheran Social Services Foster Care Kids. Worship Offerings will be divided between the Women of the ELCA, Churchwide and Habitat for Humanity. Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, October 3rd followed by the evening banquet at 6 p.m. The evening closes with a Taize service. Morning worship followed by workshops, a luncheon and business sessions will take place on Saturday.

Take advantage of the "Early Bird" Registration price of \$65, if you register by July 31st. Forms are posted on the kiosk along with Scholarship forms that may help you defray the cost associated with the Convention.



SOFTBALL POTLUCK

Remember to sign up for the potluck picnic at Pastor Gail's house on Monday, July 28th @ 6:30 p.m. Hamburgers, brats and cold beverages will be provided. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please indicate the number of people attending and what dish you will be bringing. The SSM Men's Softball team plays at Juneau Field—6500 W. Mt. Vernon Ave. Milwaukee at 8:15 p.m.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SSM's ice cream social will be held Saturday, August 2 from 2-4 p.m. Invite your family, friends and neighbors for ice cream and entertainment. Anyone interested in helping can contact Shelly Rosenstock at 769-7067 or Erin Arneson at 281-2987.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rally Day and Annual Church Picnic is Sunday, September 7, 2008.

Please call Shelly Rosenstock at 769-7067 if you are interested in helping on the Fellowship Committee.



UPCOMING EVENTS		
July 6-12	???	Random Spontaneous Event #1 Call Kevan for Details
July 13-19	???	Random Spontaneous Event #2 Call Kevan for Details
July 20	7:00 PM	Revolution!

Support St. Stephen the Martyr's Mission Trip

From August 10th through the 15th, several of our fellow disciples of SSM will travel up north to Clintonville for a week long mission trip. We will be staying at Imago Dei Village, one of the Crossways Camps, where we will experience God through worship, Bible study, campfires, enjoying creation, swimming, games, and much more. Each day we will also travel into the neighboring communities to help people with our service projects, reaching out in the love of Christ. Please keep this group of missionaries in your prayers as we prepare for our trip.

Another way to offer your support is by donating to the Mission Trip Fund. If you were in worship on Father's Day, you received a tube of

M&M's minis from Kevan. These tubes make great loose-change collectors. Already on the very next day after receiving her candy tube, one person returned it full of quarters (and even some bills), totaling \$17. At \$1.50 per tube of M&M's minis, that's over a 1,000% return on Kevan's investment. Talk about faithful stewardship! During July, fill up your candy tubes with quarters, and return them by Sunday, August 3rd. Of course, it's also been said that bills and checks roll up and fit quite nicely into the tubes (and into envelopes if you didn't receive a tube). ?

King's Kids Summer Choir

will be starting on Sunday, July 6th following the 9:30 service.

The choir is open to all kids who have just completed 1st-6th grade. If you need any other information about it please contact Stephanie Mayer at 423-6943 or stephaniemayer@wi.rr.com.

SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS

The Bible tells us to 'study to show yourself approved unto God, a worker that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' Remember to use your library during the summer! We have lots of great books & videos for all ages!

Proverbs 2:10 "For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul."

3-4-5 TO PASSING ON THE FAITH

(from Frogs without legs Can't Hear by David W. Anderson & Paul Hill)

Service

The next key in the series is Service. This is the act of going out to help others. We create a healthy church family when we get everyone involved in something that is beneficial to others. It helps to show others around us that we are living examples of Christ's teachings and love for the world.

There are various types of service that can be done. Some are as simple as doing things around the house that help everyone in the family, like taking out the garbage, doing the dishes, cleaning up or doing the laundry. Other services can be done in the church, such as helping to greet people, reading the lessons, ushering, helping with coffee hour, or teaching a class or leading a Bible study.

More involved projects would include the service project that we do on our Summer Mission trip, or when the youth do the 30-hour famine and canvas the neighborhood for the food drive, bringing in food for the food drive, or helping with the Gathering.

Other projects could be going out on your own and donating time to help in a food pantry, serving a meal, going to help build a home or going on your own mission trip to help others in need either in this country or abroad.

The satisfaction of helping others and learning to put them first is such a rewarding experience that it is difficult to describe. It's the personal satisfaction that you did something to help out this world that all of us have to live in, together.

Until next time, peace be with you.

Tim Falksen

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: 414-258-0858 stillerz7@yahoo.com



MUSIC CORNER

Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson, Co-Chairs

We pray that all members, families and friends of SSM are enjoying their summertime (despite the rain & flooding).

Though summer is a slower, more relaxing time for many as vacations are planned with family or friends, the ministries of SSM do not take a rest in the summer and Music & Worship goes on as usual.

We take our volunteered time seriously so as to serve God and you faithfully.

We also still need YOU during the summer! If you can help as an usher, greeter, lay reader or communion assistant, please let us know. If you are signed up to volunteer in any of these ministries and cannot make your assigned date, please find a replacement and let Lynda know in the office. Any amount of help you can offer is most appreciated.

SUMMER CHOIR

Did you ever think about joining the choir, but you weren't sure choir was right for you? Then Summer Choir is just the ticket! There is no weekly rehearsal for summer choir. We meet at 9 am in the Sanctuary to go over the anthem for that morning.

Summer choir will sing on the following Sundays:

Sunday, July 6

Sunday, July 20

Sunday, August 3

No previous experience is necessary and everyone is welcome!! Come to one, or come to all! Give it a try!

SUMMER HYMN-SING!

Our summer hymn-sings are a wonderful time to share your favorite hymns that may only get sung once or twice a year. Several times this summer, we will begin our worship with the opportunity to sing some of the congregation's favorite hymns. We handed out forms to write your favorite hymns down, but we will also take requests from the pews on those days as well. Come prepared!

July Hymn-Sing

Dates are:

Sat. & Sunday 7/12-13,

Sat. & Sunday 7/26-27,

We will gather in worship at 4:50 pm on Saturday and 9:20 am on Sunday on the dates that the hymn-sings take place.

KING'S KIDS SUMMER CHOIR

Join us every Sunday following the 9:30 a.m. service in the sanctuary for a special summer kids' choir - rehearsals start July 6th. All kids in 1st—6th grades are welcome to join us!



Next meeting is August 5

at 6:30 p.m. We will be planning for the school bags. Call Shirley Lieske: 761-0734 for more information.

SCHOOL BAGS FOR KIDS

Hard to believe—the children are barely out of school, yet soon it will be that time of year to once again collect school supplies. The 'best' sales begin in July! We will again be collecting items for our "school kits" LWR project. If you are early school supply shoppers for your family, please keep our school kits in mind.

The items needed are listed below.

- Pads or notebooks of ruled paper (8 1/2 x 11—150-200 sheets of paper-no loose leaf)
- One blunt scissors (safety with imbedded steel blades)
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers -unsharpened
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- One box of 16, or 24 crayons
- The cloth bag approximately 12" x 14" with cloth handles, will be sewn by Loose Ends

Sturdy fabric for the school bags is needed. Sewing Date: Wed. August 20, 9:30 am.

NO KNIT WITS MEETING

THIS SUMMER

We are taking a well deserved break due to holidays and vacations. We will resume on the 2nd Monday of the month, September 8th ; so we can honor Labor Day.

Chemo-caps are always available; please see any Knit Wit for details if needed.



MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT

We have several kinds of Mt. Meru Coffee available in the narthex. Try a bag soon and enjoy! The cost is \$8.00 per 12 oz. bag.

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

THE STAFF OF LIFE

SSM FOOD PANTRY

SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

...because hunger never takes a vacation...

We are continuing our service to the community by collecting food for Central City Food Pantry in July. Food for children is especially needed in the summer months. Thank you all for your continued support. "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Phil. 2:13

OTHER NOTES

Update from Our Missionaries to Senegal, Africa

The Grow-Hanson family, Peter, Sarah, Elijah & Simon, our Senegal Missionary family, will be visiting the USA this summer! St. Stephen the Martyr has helped to sponsor this family along with many other ELCA congregations throughout the U.S. They have been missionaries with the ELCA Global Mission in Senegal for the past seven years. This visit will be their third.

The Grow-Hansons will be here in the states for three months visiting many congregations of the ELCA, including St. Stephen. They will be sharing their mission work with us and checking in with their Global Mission staff and fellow missionaries.

Peter and Sarah will be speaking to our congregation on

Saturday, July 12, 2008 at the 5 pm service

Peter will be preaching the Word to us, and after the service we will gather in the Fellowship Hall where there will be a question and answer time on their missionary work. Please come and be blessed as they share their heart for the people of Senegal.

We will be serving a light supper in the fellowship hall after the worship service while they speak and pray with us. Food is provided. Sign up on the bulletin board if you will be attending.

Prayer Request

Peter and Sarah ask that we keep them in our prayers for safe travel, a smooth readjustment to the USA, and good health for their family.

Also, please pray both for their important mission work and for the Senegalese personnel who remain in country to take up their tasks while the family is here in the states.

Thank you and God bless!

OMAR MURSAL GRADUATES WITH HIGH HONORS

It was with great pride that John and Nancy Bugajski, Carole and Ron Ropel, and Pastor Gail attended the graduation of Omar Mursal from Washington High School of Information Technology on June 10th. Omar came with his family to the U.S. from Somalia in October of 2004. He has excelled at school, not only becoming a member of the National Honor Society, but was also valedictorian of his class. He was awarded five scholarships and full tuition to Marquette University for the first year.

An excerpt from Omar's graduation speech follows:

"Congratulations to the Class of 2008! We finally made it. This is the day that we have been waiting for. Some of us may be unhappy because it means saying good bye to wonderful people we consider family. Nonetheless, in life we cannot have everything remain constant because things change, sometimes end, and then begin again. Today we should be proud of ourselves and all of our accomplishments; however, graduates, we are not done yet, in fact, we are now beginning the journey that all adults agree as the toughest, perhaps scariest one yet, the road to the future. But this should not intimidate us from reaching our dreams...."

We all know the future is not simple; it requires hard work and dedication. No matter the difficulty, we must finish what we've started. See challenges as an opportunity for growth. They help to shape our character. Be persistent on the road of life. This is the only way to achieve our dreams.

Today we move forward, never to give up....."

A get-together in Omar's honor is being planned for later this summer. Time TBA!

MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE JOB

Please keep the members of the SSM Music Director Search Committee in your prayers. They are hard at work to ensure that our congregation continues in its strong tradition of an excellent music program.

The members are: Jay Chadwick, Penny Dowling, Karen Hoffman, Dick Kroll, Karen Rasmussen, Kelly Sachse, Denise Sanders, Eric Sanders, Rose Van Evera-Kress, and Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A farmer visiting the city entered a restaurant for his noon meal.

When the food was served he silently bowed his head and gave thanks. One of four young men at the next table, thinking to embarrass him, called out in a loud voice, "Hey, farmer, does everyone do that

out in the country where you live?"

The farmer quietly replied, "No, son, the pigs don't--they just start right in!"

HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE!

Are you moving? Do you have an address, phone number e-mail or status change, a new addition in your family? Don't forget to contact your church to report any changes for your family records.

Would you like to receive the Martyr Monthly via email? Go to www.ststephenthemartyr.com to sign up!

Let the office know if you want to discontinue receiving the hard copy.

Or... Would you like to receive the Martyr Monthly in your church mailbox? Call the office @ 414-421-3543 or email us at ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com.

TIME TO INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS!

A man came out of his house on his way to church one Sunday morning, just as his neighbor came out with his golf clubs. The golfer said, "Henry, come out and play golf with me today." Henry, with an expression of self-righteous horror on his face replied, "Nope, not today! This is the Lord's Day and I go to church."

After a moment's embarrassed silence, the golfer quietly said, "You know, Henry, I have often wondered about your church, and I admire your faithfulness. You know also, however, that this is the seventh time I have invited you to play golf with me, but you have never invited me to go to church with you."

Flower Chart

If you desire to adorn our worship with flowers from a floral shop or a bouquet of your own garden flowers during the summer months, please write your name on the Flower Chart on the office door and specify the month and week that you will be providing flowers. Also, please write a brief note stating whether the offering is in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the family. You can bring your flowers in on the Friday morning before worship during office hours.

SPECIAL THANKS To...

Doug Winter for the beautiful flower plantings around the church building, especially by the sign, and the continuous weeding and pruning.

Carole Ropel and Lois Falksen for attending the Greater Milw. Synod Assembly May 29-31.

Our Monday Night Softball Team Check out the times on the bulletin board or newsletter and come see them play!

All those who continue to serve God and the church in so many ways.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ASSEMBLY, 2008

The theme of the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly, held May 29-31 at the Country Springs Hotel & Conference Center, was: "God's Work - Our Hands". St. Stephen the Martyr was represented by Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins, Lois Falksen and Carole Ropel. We attended the business sessions, referred to as Plenary I, II, III, and IV, participated in worship services and workshops, heard reports from various committees of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, the Women of the ELCA, delighted in the Keynote Address by Bishop Medardo Gomez, the Bishop of the Lutheran Synod of El Salvador, voted on Resolutions and participated in the election of our Synod Bishop, as well as elections for other positions.

As Pastor Gail announced at church the weekend of the Assembly, Bishop Paul Stumme-Diers was re-elected to another six-year term as Bishop after four ballots. During this election process, Bishop Paul and the other two final candidates, the Rev. John Horner-Ibler and the Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, were asked a series of six questions and were given a specified period of time to respond. On the fourth and final ballot, Bishop Paul received 246 votes out of 382, giving him the 60% needed for election. Also elected were voting members to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, members to the synod consultation committee and discipline committee and a youth representative to the council. The Rev. Sherman Hicks, Churchwide Representative and Multi-Cultural Ministries of the ELCA, presided over the election procedures.

The Synod Treasurer, Roger Schroeder, gave his report and presented the 2009-2010 budget plan. He mentioned that in 2007-08 actual income was \$2,675,330 with a 2008-09 projected budget income of \$2,777,500, a projected actual income for 2008-09 of \$2,615,000, quite a bit less than anticipated. After much discussion, the 2009-10 budget was approved.

Being a Delegate at the annual Synod Assembly is educational and uplifting and we thank you for the opportunity to represent St. Stephen the Martyr. The Assembly theme, *God's Work - Our Hands* should continue to hold a very special meaning for all of us, even though we were not all at this event. It is our hands that are required to do God's work whether we are at home, at work outside of the home, at school, out in our community or at church. Let us ask God to guide, direct and inspire us to do so.

Submitted by: Lois Falksen and Carole Ropel

A Moment in American History: James Madison is know as the "Father of the Constitution". He helped frame the Bill of Rights and was the 4th president of the United States. It was his plan to divide the central government into 3 branches, having claimed the source in Isaiah 33:22: "For the Lord is our judge (judicial), the Lord is our lawgiver (legislative), the Lord is our king (executive), He will save us." During his 1st inaugural address Madison said, "... we have all been encouraged to feel the guardianship and guidance of that Almighty Being whose power regulates the destiny of nations, whose blessings have been so conspicuously dispensed to this rising Republic, and to whom we are bound to address our devout gratitude for the past, as well as our fervent supplications and best hopes for the future." May we remember God's blessings and protection of America as we celebrate our independence.

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