



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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*Our Shared Mission: We are saved by
grace through faith to share the good news
of the Gospel with all people and live
God's love by our words and actions.*

Monthly Newsletter – November 2021

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November 2021 Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Location
Sunday, Nov 7	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's
Sunday, Nov 14	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's
Sunday, Nov 21	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's
Thurs, Nov 25	Online	Online Thanksgiving Devotion
Sunday, Nov 28	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's



Tune In – Worship via your Car Radios
10am • All of November • At St. Stephen's
TUNE IN to radio station **89.1 FM**

Timeline of a Decision - A Note from Pastor Brenda

These last 19 months or so have been saturated with a combination of **decisions** and **prayers**. The course of a Pandemic is **anything** but predictable, and, alas, we find ourselves in another **upswing** of local cases of COVID-19. Here's how this last **decision** of November Worship in the parking lot panned out:



October 20	Latest, local COVID data collected from (1) CDC, our Synod-recommended (2) COVID-Act Now website, and (3) Bridge Michigan - the 3 sources from which we have historically shaped our worship decisions during COVID.
October 20	St. Stephen's Council Meeting, 6pm Latest, local COVID data shared. Conversations about Outdoor or Indoor Worship; time change.
October 21	Gethsemane Council Meeting, 6pm Latest COVID data shared. Conversations about Outdoor or Indoor Worship.
October 22	Additional Data regarding the worship practices of local churches shared with all 16 members of our 2 Councils. Final Vote on whether to worship OUTDOORS or INDOORS for November 2021 was requested via e-mail.
October 26	Final phone conversations made to acquire the vote of every, single Council Member (16) from both Congregations. Final Tally: 10 members voted to worship Outdoors. 6 members voted to worship Indoors. Worship Time adjusted to allow the day to warm-up a bit. Final decision regarding November 2021 worship made: November Worship will be Outdoors at St. Stephen's at 10am.
October 27	Worship Decision & Process communicated via Newsletter
November 3	Both Councils will meet for their Annual Joint Council Meeting. Conversation regarding December 2021 Worship to be held.



4 Dorothy Baumler
5 Cheri Leiphart, Taylor Schultz
9 Ken Chaney
15 Evan Mack, Kyle Salo
24 Brock Bergquist, Tara Klatt
29 Tanya Fletcher

*Jay Chapple, Trish Dams
Thomas Dutkavich,
Jared Jurmu, Brent
Jurmu, and Jordan Baril*

We continue to hold in prayer:

Art Kaliszewski	Avery Hayward	Caitlin Christophersen	Dan Etelamaki
David Kohrt	Dean Kauthen	Deanna Thill	Delores Erickson
Delores Gill	Dennis Paul	Denise Marineau	Dorothy Klein-Wassink
Dorothy Peretto	Emily Christenson	Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin
James Dutkavich	Jim Gill	Jim Wenger	Joan Hofer
Karen Raether	Keith Thoun	Kenny Kline	Kevin Havelka
Lewis Nicholson	Logan Parrett	Lois Azelton	Lorrie Stone
Luann Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi	Michelle Beauchard	Mike Lubore
Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer	Miles Sorenson	Pat Heiden
Penny Nehls	Richard Lesperance	Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi
Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkell	Stephanie Wallgren
Sue Skowronski	Tammy Parrett	Tom Kuntze	Tom Wenger
Tracy Klatt	Wayne Sundstrom	Wendy Gravelle	Wendy Hanson
Wendy Majkrzak			

Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your daily prayers. Corrections? Additions? Please contact the Church Office. Thanks!

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – COUNCIL MINUTES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

PRESENT: Harlan Anderson (*President*), Bob Berglin, Cheri Leiphart (*Vice-President*), Keith Olson, Al Raether, Kami Salo (*Secretary*), Pr. Brenda Greenwald

ABSENT: John Starzynski

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Al Raether

Devotions: *Forgiveness and Emotions*

Kami Salo

- Meeting called to order: 6:02pm

Agenda Approval

a. Motion to Accept: BOB

Seconded: AL

CARRIED

Secretary's Report

a. Motion to Accept: KEITH

Seconded: CHERI

CARRIED

Pastor's Report (*on file - highlights below*)

Pastor Brenda

Funeral: +Penny (Truitt) DeYoung Smith+ (10/23)

Devotions: Writing for the Synod: *Pray Faithfully (10/31-11/06)*

Baptism: Brian Charles Hafeman (11/28)

FLLC: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Fall Festival - nearly \$25,000

Food Pantry: 82 family units registered.

Dire need of: SUGAR, FLOUR, HYGEINE PRODUCTS

Lion's Club Donation paid off yearly Milk bill at Gary's

The Storehouse: Elementary School Materials being repurposed

OTHER: Roubal's Services (9/19, 10/17), COVID Booster (10/13)

Denise brought us up to speed on Music reporting - hooray!

Financial Reports

Sandy Chaney, Treasurer - Danielle Bergquist, Financial Sec.

a. Written Reports

b. Motion to Accept: AL

Seconded: BOB

CARRIED



COUNCIL MINUTES.....Continued

Ministry Team Reports

Team	Liaison(s)	Updates
• Bethesda Cemetery • Faith Formation • Fellowship/Social Ministry • Finance Team	Keith Kami Kami Al, Harlan, John, Bob	Meeting: 10/26, 6pm <i>Committee to be set up to review a 2022 budget. Welcome, Bob, to the Team!</i>
• Memorial Fund • Property Team • Stewardship Team • WELCA • Worship/Music	John Al, Cheri, Harlan, John, Keith Cheri Harlan Keith	
Motion to Accept: KAMI Seconded: AL CARRIED		

OLD Business

- a. Mary Palmer (MCRS) checked out the donated AED system: battery would have to have been replaced every year at \$400 per year, pads were out of date and needed replacing (\$120), and machine does not audibly explain correct medical procedures in case of an emergency. AED system was returned.
- b. **RECOMMENDATION:** After reviewing CDC guidelines and current/local covid data, it was recommended that worship for ALL of November will in the Parking Lot. St. Stephen's will host, and time will be adjusted to 10am to allow for warm-up. Gethsemane Lutheran Church's Council meeting is tomorrow, October 21, and then a final Recommendation will be made. The Blessing of the Orange (Hunters) will take place on Sunday, November 14th.

NEW Business

- a. Transfer of membership. **Motion: KEITH Seconded: BOB CARRIED.**
- b. **Joint** Council meeting November 3, 2021 at St. Stephen's starting at 6pm.
- c. Next St. St. Council Meeting: Nov. 3, 2021 at St. Stephen's, *after* Joint Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- a. **Motion to Accept: AL Time: 6:51pm**
- b. Church Council closed the meeting with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kami Salo

Words of Thankfulness...



...for generous hearts and hands



...for new life after loss



...for caring words that help to heal

Andersons celebrate 60 years of marriage



Judy Engel, daughter of the late Fred and Gladys Engel, and Harlan Anderson, son of the late Edwin and Audrey Anderson, were united in marriage Oct. 21, 1961, at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Stephenson. The couple said they are very proud



of the longevity of their marriage. They have two sons, Jeffrey (Noreen) of Orlando, FL, and Jerry of Wallace. They also have four granddaughters, Jayne, Holly and Elizabeth from England and Kaley from Boston; and two great-grands, Olivia and Harry.



...for anonymously washed dishtowels

...for 60 years of marriage

Daily Bible Readings - Year B & C

Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark with more selections from the Gospel of John than any other year.

The second, New Testament, readings are from 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James, and Hebrews.

Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.

Mon — Nov. 1	Deut 6:10-25	Rom 12:17-21; 13:8-10	Psalm 51
Tue — Nov. 2	Deut 28:58- 29:1	Acts 7:17-29	Psalm 51
Wed — Nov. 3	Micah 6:1-8	John 13:31-35	Psalm 51
Thu — Nov. 4	Numbers 36:1-13	Rom 5:6-11	Psalm 146
Fri — Nov. 5	Deut 15:1-11	Hebrews 9:15-24	Psalm 146
Sat — Nov. 6	Deut 24:17-22	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	Psalm 146

Sun. Nov. 7 — 24th Sunday after Pentecost 1 Kings 17:8-16, Psalm 146, Heb 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy.*

Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Mon — Nov. 8	Ruth 1:1-22 1	Timothy 5:1-8	Psalm 94
Tue — Nov. 9	Ruth 3:14—4:6 1	Timothy 5:9-16	Psalm 94
Wed — Nov. 10	Ruth 4:7-22	Luke 4:16-30	Psalm 94
Thu — Nov. 11	Daniel 4:4-18 1	Timothy 6:11-21	Psalm 16
Fri — Nov. 12	Daniel 4:19-27	Colossians 2:6-15	Psalm 16
Sat — Nov. 13	Daniel 4:28-37	Mark 12:1-12	Psalm 1

Sun. Nov. 14 — 25th Sunday after Pentecost Dan 12:1-3, Pss 16, Heb 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25, Mark 13:1-8

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith*

to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Mon — Nov. 15	Daniel 8:1-14	Hebrews 10:26-31	Psalm 13
Tue — Nov. 16	Daniel 8:15-27	Hebrews 10:32-39	Psalm 13
Wed — Nov. 17	Zechariah 12:1—13:1	Mark 13:9-23	Psalm 13
Thu — Nov. 18	Ezekiel 28:1-10	Acts 7:54—8:1a	Psalm 93
Fri — Nov. 19	Ezekiel 28:20-26 1	Corinthians 15:20-28	Psalm 93
Sat — Nov. 20	Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18	John 3:31-36	Psalm 93

Daily Bible Readings ...continued

Sun. Nov. 21 — Christ the King Sunday Last Sunday after Pentecost

Dan 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 93, Rev 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Mon — Nov. 22	Daniel 7:19-27	Revelation 11:1-14	Psalm 76
Tue — Nov. 23	Ezekiel 29:1-12	Revelation 11:15-19	Psalm 76
Wed — Nov. 24	Ezekiel 30:20-26	John 16:25-33	Psalm 76

Thu. Nov. 25 — Day of Thanksgiving

Deut 8:7-18, Psalm 65, 2 Cor 9:6-15, Luke 17:11-19

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*



Praise to you, O Lord, for you have nourished us from youth and you give food to all living things. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness and provide for all our needs, that we may abound in every good work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. To him, with you and the Holy Spirit be glory, honor, might, majesty and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.

Fri — Nov 26	Nehemiah 9:16-25	1 Thess 5:12-22	Psalm 25:1-10
Sat — Nov 27	Nehemiah 9:26-31	Luke 21:20-24	Psalm 25:1-10

Sun. Nov. 28 — First Sunday of Advent Jer 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thess 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

Prayer of the Day: *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

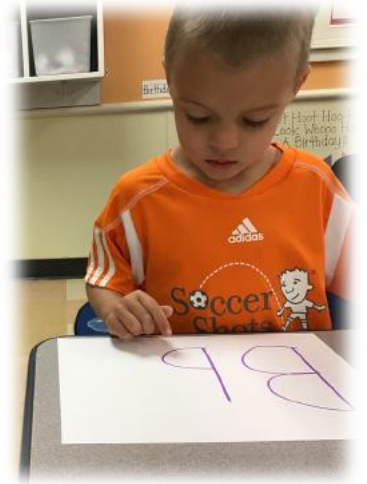
Mon — Nov 29	Numbers 17:1-11 2	Peter 3:1-18	Psalm 90
Tue — Nov 30	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Revelation 22:12-16	Psalm 90

Pastoral Musings

by Rev. Brenda Greenwald

Dear Church,

It's **b**een a while since I've regaled you with a tale of this **b**rilliant **b**oy, the **b**eautiful offspring of my **b**rother, **B**rad. Colton, my 4 year old nephew, is **b**usy practicing his letters (*on this day, the letter **B***) at his daycare in Colorado Springs. Not yet in **b**ig-**b**oy preschool, this **b**eloved lad's already prepping for a **b**ustling life ahead.



The concentration level of **f** this tyke baffles us all - he diligently traces out the curves and lines of **f** his letter **f**amilies. It made me stop and think: when's the last time **w**e exercised such uninterrupted **f**ocus on a task? Imagine the **f**aithful **f**ruits we'd yield when turning to a **f**amiliar story inside one of **f** our **f**avorite Bibles, and thought**f**fully, *deliberately* tracing the lines of **f** the story, be it the heroic **e**fforts of Queen Esther, or the caring **f**riendship of **f** Naomi and Ruth.

When **C**olton prepares to trace **c** a letter, there are no other thoughts or **a**ctivities to distract **c** him from his goal: he aims to **c**onnect **c** his pencil (*or his pen, or his favorite - a marker!*) to the paper, and su**c**cessfully **c**aptures the letter. They say a **C**hild shall lead them...what if we let *this* **c**hild **l**ead **u**s to a distraction-free environment, where we **c**an take a moment or two each **c**h day to **c**onnect - not with paper, but with the God of letters, the God of **c**are, and the God of Love.



Tracing the path alongside you all, *Fr. Brenda*

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Hymn of Promise

taking+ faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know needed protection.
- What do you do and who do you turn to when you feel you need to be protected?
- Psalm 16 gives praise to God for being our great protector. What does that mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 13:1-10.

The Gospel of Mark was written shortly after the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by Roman soldiers in 70 A.D. It is easy to imagine that the people wondered if all hope was gone following that jarring event. Had God forsaken the people once and for all? Was this the end of time? Was Christ coming back soon? During times of national or spiritual crisis, it is easy to wonder about such questions, follow after some conspiracy theory, or follow another voice that sounds like the second coming of Christ. Jesus says, in essence, do not be misled, do not make your own predictions about the end. Our task is simple: know in your highs and lows that you are loved and protected by God; give thanks for your neighbors and serve them with joy. Trust God and Christ's reign. During difficult times, how can you show your trust in God?

Pray: God of the universe, when we experience personal or social disasters, help us to keep our eyes on you and speak with confidence the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

With the advent of social media, many false messages and hopes are offered as true. Such messaging and propaganda can raise fears and sow divisions among people. Serve your neighbor by resisting extreme messages and social anxiety. Speak words of trust in God that calm one's soul and offer hope and peace to others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 16:7 says, *"I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me."* When we read or listen to God's Word at the end of the day, our hearts and minds are filled with thoughts that carry us through the night. Even as we sleep God's Spirit is at work, ministering to us and leading us. This week, take time to read or listen to God's Word before you go to sleep. For children, use a storybook Bible. After reading, say this blessing: **May the Lord make you lie down in safety and may you sleep in peace.** (Psalm 4:8)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Soon and Very Soon

taking+ faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about someone you loved who has died.
- Why do you think it is important to take time to remember loved ones?
- What special person or persons in your life do you want to remember on All Saint's Day? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 21:1-6a.

We live in the era of the reality of global pandemics. Whether it is COVID-19, some other global virus, the news of natural disasters, civil wars, or other tragedies, we are faced with the reality of death in ways we often try to avoid. All Saints Day is one of those times to face death intentionally in a community of faith. The biblical promise is a new heaven and earth that is brought to us. We don't need to escape this world; God promises to join us. Verse 3 states, *"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God.'"* That promise has already begun to happen through Jesus Christ, the Word that became flesh and still dwells among us through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Death forces us to address human limitations and what our own future holds. Our future is held by the God who comes to conquer death and give us a new heaven and earth where death and tears will be no more. This is trustworthy and true. What comfort and hope do you find in knowing this?

Pray: God of our present and our future, while we grieve the death of loved ones and reflect on our own mortality, help us to remember and trust that you are with us and promise new life in Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Think about someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one at this time. Are there ways you can reach out to help them as they mourn? Perhaps sending a sympathy card, delivering a meal, or including them in prayers? How will you let them know you care?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to give thanks for those we have known and loved over the years. Take time this week to think or talk about loved ones who have died recently or long ago as you look at pictures of them (if available). Light a candle for each of the people. Then pray: **God of hope, thank you for those you have given us to know and to love. Thank you for the life of [names] and for the new life they have in you forever through Christ Jesus. Amen.**



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NOVEMBER 21, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

The King of Glory Comes

taking+
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How can power be used for good? How can it be used for bad?
- If you had unlimited power, how would you use it to change the world?
- How do you think Christ's power and rule look different than the power seen in earthly governments?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 18:33-38a.

The good news of Jesus Christ is not about escapism as some kind of running away from the world that God created. We are reminded of this from the opening chapter of John: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14a). The living Word reveals the power and glory of God that is filled with "grace and truth" (John 1:14b). In chapter 18 Jesus distinguishes between God's grace and truth that lead with love and mercy and the rule of bullies who demean and control others with violence. That is the Roman "peace" that occupied territories like Judea through governors like Pilate who served under Emperor Tiberius. No, Jesus' reign "is not from this world" (v. 36). As followers of Jesus, we engage with creation and our neighbor with a power of a different kind. It is a power that blesses, heals, and makes new through the cross of Christ. It is a power that through a death perpetrated at the hands of the powers from "this world" put Jesus to death and shows itself to be powerless through the humility and weakness of the Son of God. This is the one who came to serve and give us the everlasting power of divine love. Where do you see the good news of Christ's reign happening in the world today?

Pray: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your reign that is filled with divine power as it is filled with grace and truth through Jesus Christ, the one who came to set us free. Amen.

SERVICE

Service to others is filled with humility and love; it is people helping one another. The new church year begins next Sunday. As this church year ends, think of the ministries that have taken place over the past year and who has been responsible for them: worship, music, Sunday school, youth group, Bible studies and more. How can you show appreciation and thanks for those who have served over the past church year?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The season of Advent begins next Sunday. Begin to plan for your home observance of Advent. Think or talk about the traditions you have established in your home over the years. One common Advent tradition is having an Advent calendar. Another is the Advent wreath. If you have not had a tradition in the past, consider beginning one this year as part of your faith journey in your home.



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NOVEMBER 25, 2021

HYMN FOR

THANKSGIVING DAY

Praise God from Whom

All Blessings Flow

taking+
faith
home

THANKSGIVING DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are you thankful for?
- How does a thankful heart impact your health and the well-being of others?
- How do you show and express thanks to God? How might this influence others around you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 126.

This psalm expresses the joy of the Israelites coming home after exile in Babylon more than five hundred years before the birth of Christ. Those who returned were "like those who dream" (v. 1). It does not always happen that our dreams come true, but when a life-changing and positive circumstance happens, it is worth expressing joy. This is more than the buzzer beater winning point at a basketball game. It is more like sowing seeds and hoping the efforts will result in a bountiful harvest. When things happen that celebrate life, love, and good health, we want to turn to the source of all of life, our merciful God shown most clearly to us in Jesus, and give thanks. For people of faith, it is hard not to share our joy with our Lord when hearts are full of thankfulness. When hopes and dreams come true, when birth happens, when relationships are restored, when natural disasters subside, when wars cease, when the fear of death is swallowed up in new life, thanksgiving is the way to express our delight and our joy in the presence of God. Talk or think about a joyful experience that led you to give thanks to God.
Pray: God of abundance, we thank you for all the good in life, for beauty, for bountiful harvests, for peace among neighbors and nations, and for the gift of faith through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Give thanks for all the blessings in your life this Thanksgiving. Think of those who are less fortunate than yourself. Many people, due to circumstances such as age, illness or homelessness, may not have the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones. How can you extend Thanksgiving blessings to others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For Christians, thanksgiving is a way of life. On this day of giving thanks, take time to gather with family and friends to list what God has done for you to give you a thankful heart. Make the list into a prayer by saying: **Dear God, thank you for _____.**



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Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2021 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

***This Monthly Newsletter covers information and happenings
for the Congregation of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.***



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

November

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