



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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Stephenson, MI 49887

(906) 753-4932 Soffice@gsslutheran.org

Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

Phone/Text: 720.989.8218

E-mail: Pastor@gsslutheran.org

Sunday Worship

10:30a

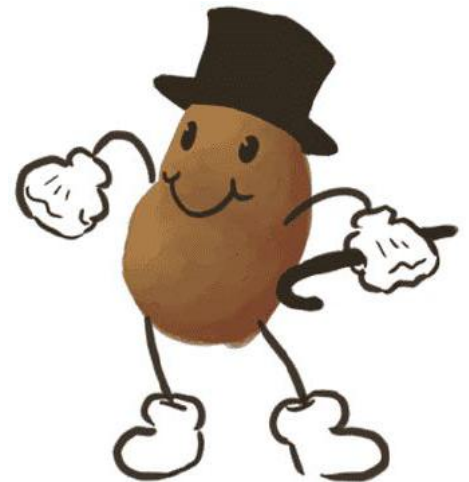


Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayers, Save these Dates	2
Pr Brenda: <i>Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup</i>	3
Candid Photos of Joy	4
Dwelling in the Word	5
Daily Bible Readings for September	6 - 7
Council Minutes from August 2023	8
Fortune Lake: Annual Fall Festival + Fellowship Key	9
Lifelong Faith Formation Classes for Fall 2023	10
UP Wild - Outdoor Church + Food Pantry Needs	11

Don't Miss This Fun Event!

September 14, 4:30-6:30p: Top the Tater!

Spud some time over at Gethsemane's 4th Annual **Potato** Dinner, complete with delicious toppings like stroganoff and beef tips and so much more! ***Come hungry - and bring a friend!***



Hospitalized? Welcome a visit? Contact the Office at **906.788.4234**, or reach out to **Pr Brenda** directly at **720.989.8218** (call/text), and we'll make it happen!

5 Jordan Crawford
6 Paul Francour
12 Keith Olson
17 Tracy Klatt, Carrie Bright
19 Crystal Salo
21 Pat Heiden
25 Tony Hofer
29 Pr Dave Christenson



4 Gary and Sue Hess

We continue to hold our military members in our prayers:

**Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple,
Ken Dam, Trish Dam, Brent
Jurmu, Jared Jurmu**

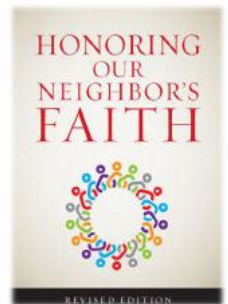
Looking Ahead: **SAVE THESE DATES!**



Sunday, October 1, 12:30p: Blessing of the Animals in the Backyard of the Parsonage (N6106 US Hwy 41, Wallace, MI 49893). Held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi (*the patron saint of animals*), this service will be short and sweet, and families are invited to attend **WITH** their pets, farm animals, and furry friends!

4 Saturday Mornings (2 in Oct, 2 in Nov), 8-9a: Adult Faith Formation.

Hundreds of Christian denominations and dozens of non-Christian traditions have followers in the United States. *How do we view this wide variety of beliefs and practices? How does the Lutheran tradition compare with others?* We'll use this book to **explore faith traditions** that represent a wide spectrum of beliefs. We're trying a **SATURDAY MORNING** class to accommodate those who work, those who love to get an early-start on their weekend, and those who don't like to drive at night. **Plan to attend!**



We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Anthony Hofer	Benjamin Hollister	Betty Harring	Callan Johnson	Carol + Jim Anton
Dan Etelamaki	Darwin Diehm	Deanna Thill	Deborah Becklund	Dennis Saari
Dick Durrow	Dorothy Roemer	Emily Christenson	Heather Brisson	Jason Leisner
Jenna Perras	Karen Raether	Kathy Harris	Ken Kline	Kevin Havelka
Kim Boldt	Logan Parrett	Louie Tauscheck	Marcia Droese	Mark Thoun
Mary Bright	Matt Koldos	Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer
Miles Sorenson	Nancy Diehm	Ronnie Anderson	Ryan Derrickson	Sandy Baumler
Sharon Powell	Sophie Slight	Tammy Parrett	Terry Stage Roddy	Tim Bruce
Tracy Klatt	Warren Suchovsky	Zeke Gill		

Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your prayers. Contact the Office with any corrections.

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Dear Church,

Back in 1997, the Fifth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA adopted **The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament**. The document offers precisely what its title suggests: it sets the standards by which the use of the sacraments should be followed.

The document (*available online or can be borrowed from Pastor Brenda*) upholds the teachings of the **Book of Concord** (*Basically, all the things that Lutherans confess - and is also available online or can be borrowed from Pastor Brenda*) and applies them to **present-day** worship.

I tell you about these important, pieces of **Lutheran** writing because it is by these **standards** that the decision has recently been made to switch from alcoholic **wine** to **juice** during Holy Communion.

"Some communicants suffer from allergic reactions or are recovering from alcoholism... For pressing reasons of health... Congregations might decide to place ... non-wheat bread or nonalcoholic wine or grape juice on the altar. Such pastoral and congregational decisions are delicate, and must honor both the tradition of the Church and the people of each local assembly." **Part III, Principle 44, Application 44C**

This change has been done to **accommodate** those who are abstaining from alcohol, those with an allergy to wheat, gluten, or grapes. Nowhere in the written Word of God do we see a command or requirement relative to the **fermentation** level of the cup's contents, nor is any preference given in **The Use and Means of Grace** document to unleavened or leavened bread. Since both forms of bread have a precedent in Christian history, both are acceptable. The same logic has been applied to forms of juice.

There was a phrase used above (*and many times in **The Use and Means of Grace***) that was our guiding light when making such a decision: *"Such pastoral and congregational decisions are delicate, and must honor both the **tradition** of the Church and the **people** of each local assembly."*

Honoring both **tradition** and **people** - *that's* the key here. Various practices have changed and been modified over the years: monthly communion vs. weekly, common vs. individual cup, bread vs. wafer. When even one person cannot partake in the Meal set before us, however, we must re-evaluate our traditions, and find ways to make God's table accessible and welcoming to absolutely **ALL**.

"The [elements] of Communion are handled with care and reverence, out of a sense of the value both of what has been set apart by the Word as a bearer of the presence of Christ and of God's good creation." **Pt III, Prin. 47**

In addition to these **practical** reasons, since we know that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper for our **benefit**, we can hold a faithful confidence that **God** continues to guide our conversations and decisions regarding this matter. We **gather** for Communion, as the **wheat** is gathered from the fields, and the **grapes** from the vine, together with the **saints**. I invite you to receive this change in the manner in which it was presented: with **trust** in our Savior's promise of presence, and **grace** in our hearts.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in me and you will not thirst.

ELW Hymn #472

Pr. Brenda



Church Picnic Fun!



+Lainey Dee Beardsley,
beloved child of God. She
was **baptized** at the church
picnic on July 30th, 2023.



Congratulations to
newlyweds **Tessa** (Wagner)
and **Toby Irish** who were
married on Saturday,
August 19, 2023.

Tessa's younger brother,
Dalten, is currently a final-
year, Confirmation student,
and will be Confirmed at St.
Stephen's in Spring of 2024.



Gunnar Roksvold,
grandson of **Bill and**
Karen Grundstrom
and son of **Wendy,**
could be spotted all
over Stephenson and
Wallace, fulfilling the
40 volunteer hours
he needed for High
School.



Duelly Keyzers (first on the left) enjoyed
some time outdoors during his stay at
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp this summer.



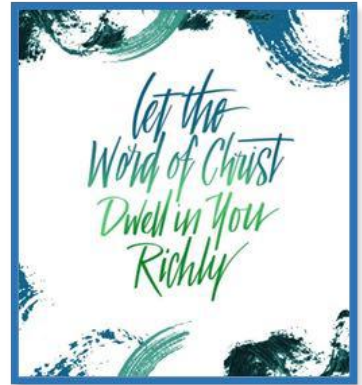
Grandpa
Wally (and
Grandma
Wendy)
Majkrzak
welcomed
grandson
Parker, born
to **Katherine**
and Tyler
Klitzke.

Dwelling in the Word

Colossians 3:16

Dwelling in the Word is a 20-30-minute process for becoming aware of God's presence and the Spirit's movement by listening and reflecting on Scripture as a gathered community. Dwelling in the Word forms faith and trust within a group by sharing responses to three questions:

1. **What captures my attention?**
2. **What questions do I have?**
What do I wonder?
3. **Where might God's Spirit be nudging us?**



The word "**dwell**" or "**abide**" is used frequently in **Scripture**. It means to live or remain somewhere or with someone for a time. The practice of Dwelling in the Word invites communities to live with a text for a time so that the reflections, wonderings, and promptings of God's Word form and shape our faith and living. The purpose of Dwelling in the Word is **not** about answering questions or getting to particular results, but rather allowing ourselves to be present with God's living Word. (Thus, Dwelling in the Word does **not** require a leader steeped in biblical scholarship.)

Join the whole Northern Great Lakes Synod in Dwelling in the Word.

Visit <https://bit.ly/DwellNGLS> for monthly Scripture passages that you can use to begin your meetings: Council, quilting, Faith Formation, Women's Group - whatever meeting you have, begin with this brief devotion and Dwell in the same Word together.

Also, you are invited to join the **Synod Council** (*Pastor Brenda will be there*), via **Zoom**, to Dwell in that monthly Word the first **Thursday** of every month, beginning in September. The Zoom link will be on the Synod website. **May our Synod be blessed as we listen to God through Dwelling in the Word!**

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U.P. Wild Looking to Expand to Menominee Valley Conference



U.P. Wild Church is a collaboration between the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan and the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA that seeks to create opportunities to foster a deeper spiritual connection with God **outdoors**. U.P. Wild is based out of Marquette, MI but is steadily **expanding** into other parts of the synod.

Anyone interested in helping establish a branch of U.P. Wild in **OUR** region is invited to an informational gathering at Henes Park Pavilion #1 on **Saturday, September 16 at 2p**. Attendees can expect a welcome to our bioregion, passing of the peace, wilderness reflection, wander & ponder, sharing circle, shared prayers & incense, a closing poem and time to discuss what a local branch might look like.

Visit upwild.org to learn more this ministry or contact Brad at pickens@upepiscopal.org with questions.

Daily Bible Readings, Year A

Year A focuses on the Gospel of **Matthew**. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings focus on major Genesis narratives, the covenant with Moses, and the establishment of Israel in the Promised Land. The second, New Testament, readings are from Romans, Philippians and 1 Thessalonians.

Fri – Sept 1	Jeremiah 15:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:7-12	Psalms 26:1-8
Sat – Sept 2	Jeremiah 15:10-14	Matthew 8:14-17	Psalms 26:1-8

Sunday, Sept 3 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21 | Psalm 26:1-8 (3) | Romans 12:9-21 | Matthew 16:21-28

Prayer of the Day: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Sept 4	2 Samuel 11:2-26	Revelation 3:1-6	Psalms 17
Tue – Sept 5	2 Samuel 11:27b-12:15	Revelation 3:7-13	Psalms 17
Wed – Sept 6	Jeremiah 17:5-18	Matthew 12:22-32	Psalms 17
Thu – Sept 7	Ezekiel 24:1-14	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	Psalms 119:33-40
Fri – Sept 8	Ezekiel 24:15-27	Romans 10:15b-21	Psalms 119:33-40
Sat – Sept 9	Ezekiel 33:1-6	Matthew 23:29-36	Psalms 119:33-40

Sunday, Sept 10 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11 | Psalm 119:33-40 (35) | Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 18:15-20

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Sept 11	Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16	1 Peter 2:11-17	Psalms 119:65-72
Tue – Sept 12	Deuteronomy 17:2-13	Romans 13:1-7	Psalms 119:65-72
Wed – Sept 13	Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28	Matthew 21:18-22	Psalms 119:65-72
Thu – Sept 14	Genesis 37:12-36	1 John 3:11-16	Psalms 103: [1-7] 8-13
Fri – Sept 15	Genesis 41:53-42:17	Acts 7:9-16	Psalms 103: [1-7] 8-13
Sat – Sept 16	Genesis 45:1-20	Matthew 6:7-15	Psalms 103: [1-7] 8-13

Sunday, Sept 17 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21 | Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (8) | Romans 14:1-12 | Matthew 18:21-35

Prayer of the Day: *O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Sept 18	Genesis 48:8-22	Hebrews 11:23-29	Psalm 133
Tue – Sept 19	Genesis 49:29–50:14	Romans 14:13–15:2	Psalm 133
Wed – Sept 20	Genesis 50:22-26	Mark 11:20-25	Psalm 133
Thu – Sept 21	Nahum 1:1, 14–2:2	2 Corinthians 13:1-4	Psalm 145:1-8
Fri – Sept 22	Nahum 2:3-13	2 Corinthians 13:5-10	Psalm 145:1-8
Sat – Sept 23	Zephaniah 2:13-15	Matthew 19:23-30	Psalm 145:1-8

Sunday, Sept 24 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10–4:11 | Psalm 145:1-8 (8) | Philippians 1:21-30 | Matthew 20:1-16

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Sept 25	Genesis 27:1-29	Romans 16:1-6	Psalm 106:1-12
Tue – Sept 26	Genesis 28:10-17	Romans 16:17-20	Psalm 106:1-12
Wed – Sept 27	Isaiah 41:1-13	Matthew 18:1-5	Psalm 106:1-12
Thu – Sept 28	Ezekiel 12:17-28	James 4:11-16	Psalm 25:1-9
Fri – Sept 29	Ezekiel 18:5-18	Acts 13:32-41	Psalm 25:1-9
Sat – Sept 30	Ezekiel 18:19-24	Mark 11:27-33	Psalm 25:1-9



Harry and Olivia, the English, great-grand kiddos of **Harlan and Judy Anderson**, set-up a delightful lemonade stand!

Baby Benjamin continues to grow in faith and love as **Grandma Kim** brings him to worship each week.





Church Council Minutes

May 17, 2023 - Council Meeting



Present: Cheri Leiphart / Keith Olson / Bob Berglin / Pr. Brenda Greenwald
Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting called to order at **9:01a.**

Absent: John Starzynski

Devotions Jeremiah 29:11 - Promises to give us a HOPE and a FUTURE!

Agenda Approval

Cheri

- Updates to Child Protection Policy, Wedding Policy

Motion: Keith

Second: Bob

Result: CARRIED

Secretary's Report / Minutes

Pr. Brenda

Motion: Keith

Second: Cheri

Result: CARRIED

Pastor's Report

Pr. Brenda

CALENDAR ITEMS

- **Funerals**
 - +Rev. John Shallow+ (4/22/23) Solo Zion
 - +Karron Wittgren+ (5/5/23) at Our Savior's
 - +Linda Djupstrom+ (5/9/23) burial at Bethesda
- **Weddings** Two Couples on the Horizon: Bethel, St. Stephen's
- **Chili Supper** THANK YOU! GREAT Turn-out, lessons learned
- **Synod Assembly** 5/18-5/20: Alvin/Sharon Etelamaki (St), Wendy Hanson (G)
- **Confirm + Pent.** Nathan Douglas Klein (5/28/23 at G)
- **Memorial Day** Speak/Sing Bethesda (8:30a) and then Mellen (9:30a) on 5/29/23

MINISTRY MOMENTS

- Spring Cleans Gratitude! Buildings + Parsonage
- Food Pantry Superior Cedar, Spartan Nash. NEED: FROZEN MEAT!
- Roubal's Worship on 04/16
- Menominee Health Worship on 04/25
- Membership Transfers from St to G (2)
- Moses Project Lovely wrap-up, including Hospital visit with Mentor
- Music Ministry Celebration of ELWs from +Galbraith Family+
- Office Manager Update: Denise Wangerin will resign to teach at her Catholic Church.
- NGL Synod Council: Conference Met; Developed Bishop's Election Graphic
Devotions: Prayfaithfully (4/23-4/29/23)
Assembly: Council, Seed Sower's Luncheon, Led Sat Morning Worship
- Visitors PLEASE watch for new faces. Make an effort to greet.
- Visits Home: 4 Hospital: 4 Retirement Home: 4 Office: 3

Treasurer / Financial Secretary's Reports

Sandy Chaney, Treas. - Danielle Bergquist, Fin. Sec.

- Need to verify that all numbers are accurate.
- SHORT 3 months, OVER for 2 months.

Motion: Pr B

Second: Keith

Result: CARRIED



Ministry Team Reports

- **Bethesda:** Joyous clean-up day. Flag is UP!
- **Faith Formation:** Confirmation planning will happen over summer.
- **Fellowship:** We continue to rejoice that this is a meaningful time for folks!
- **Property Team:** Discussions regarding Lawn Moving, de-humidifier.
- **WELCA:** Gratitude for their partnership!
- **Worship/Music:** Looking forward to future services with our new hymnal.

Motion: Pr B

Second: Bob

Result: CARRIED

NEW Business

- **Child Protection Policy Update**

- o Made in conjunction with our sister church, Gethsemane, both our Synod and our Insurance company (*and just good, ole common sense*) urged us to have a policy in place that outlines the code of conduct for all individuals who work with children under the age of 18 in our churches. It outlines best-practices for events, travel, overnight adventures, regular activities, and when to/not to be alone with children under the age of 18.
- o Council Members will review over summer, submitting any suggestions and/or corrections at our first, Fall meeting.

- **Wedding Policy Update**

- o Changes to policy include specifications for the couple regarding premarital counseling, organist/music, conduct during the worship service itself, decorations at the church, photos during the service, and non-negotiable guidelines when it comes to drinking, smoking, and vaping.
- o Council Members will review over summer, submitting any suggestions and/or corrections at our first, Fall meeting.

NEXT STEPS, ADJOURNMENT

- **Next Meeting:** JOINT Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 13 at St. Stephen's.
Motion to Adjourn: Pr Brenda TIME: 10:17a

CLOSING – The Lord's Prayer



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

FALL FEST IS OCTOBER 7

JOIN US ONLINE OR IN-PERSON!

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp's **Annual Fall Fest** will be conducted **Saturday, October 7, 2023**. We are so excited to provide members of your congregation and community an opportunity to support our ministry here at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp - and have a lot of fun in the process!

As we did last year, we will have **two events** running simultaneously:

- **ONLINE Auction** begins Sept. 26 and goes *through* October 7
- **LIVE Auction** will be held here at camp at 11a on October 7th

ALL MORNING

- In the **Chapel**: Draffle Ticket Sales and Country Store Items for sale

FROM 9:30 - 10:30a CT

- In the **Dining Room**: Continental Breakfast and Bake
- In the **Chapel**: Country Store (hand-made crafts) and Quilt Preview

STARTING at 11a CT

- In the **Chapel**: Opening of the LIVE Auction

*For people who would like to **donate** items for the Country Store, there is still time! The necessary forms are available in the church office, and all submissions need to be **AT** Fortune Lake by **September 15th**.*

*If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact **Deborah Hansen**, Office Manager at Fortune Lake, at **906-214-2267**.*



Fellowship Key in Kitchen

There is now a **KEY** in the **KITCHEN**: This **Fellowship Key** is meant for those who are preparing the food and beverages for our **Sunday Fellowship Time**.

If you know you're going to need to get in **EARLY** (*drop things off for others, just get a jump-start on the prep*), **TAKE THE KEY** on the Sunday **PRIOR to YOUR** date. It unlocks the **front door** of our building.

Use it to let yourself in to the Church when needed, and **LEAVE IT ON THE BLUE PAPER** when done so the **NEXT** person can use it. **Happy Fellowship!**



Northern Great Lakes Synod

Fall Classes Open for Registration

Join the Conversations about the Church, Community, and World

Registration is quick and easy for the classes offered by the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Beginning in September and October, Lifelong Faith Formation offerings will meet online via Zoom. Two classes are also meeting in-person. For more information contact Deacon Lori Ward at lori.ward@nglsynod.org or 615-519-1969.

Go to <https://nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation> for details and to sign-up for classes by September 15.

Christ's Kaleidoscope: A focus on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. with Samuel Brink, Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp intern + Pastor Bruce J. Thorsen, Faith, Okemos, Michigan
Sundays for five weeks, September 24-October 22 from 4-5 p.m. Eastern Time, 3-4 Central Time

Who are the Evangelicals? A former evangelical pastor turns whistleblower (w/o being mean) with Dr. Lon Hider, Christ the King, Escanaba
Mondays for 10 weeks, September 25-November 21 from 6:30-8 p.m. Eastern Time, 5:30-7 p.m. Central
Meeting in-person at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1230 N 18th Street, Escanaba, with Zoom option

Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past:
A Conversation about Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life by Michael Girlinghouse
a book study with Bishop Katherine Finegan, Northern Great Lakes Synod
Mondays for four weeks, October 2-October 23; 5-6 p.m. Eastern; 6-7 p.m. Central

Stewards of Children: The movement to make your faith community a safe space
with Pastor Kari Vadis, Trinity, Rhinelander
Thursday, October 19, from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Eastern; 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Central or
Thursday, October 19, from 6 – 8:30 p.m. Eastern; 5 – 7:30 p.m. Central

Stewardship of Animals with Cindy Sjoquist, First, Gladstone
Tuesdays for three weeks, October 3-17; 6:30 – 8 p.m. Eastern Time, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Central
Meeting in-person at First Lutheran, 1212 Minneapolis Ave., Gladstone, with Zoom option

The Gospel of Mark: It's Story and Meaning with Pastor Phil Johnson, Ascension, Minocqua
Tuesdays for six weeks, September 19-October 24 from 7-8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6-7 p.m. Central

That's Not in MY Bible: a survey of the Apocrypha w/ Pastor Tommy Richter, Zion, Manistique
Wednesdays for 10 weeks, September 20 – November 22 from 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 6:00 Central



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

SEPTEMBER



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

Monthly Newsletter - 2023

Important DATES and Information inside!

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