

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Within The Fold



December 2018

Volume 16 Issue 12



The Monthly Newsletter of:
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor:
Rev. Vincent Barringer

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Within the FOLD of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Vincent Barringer
Eritrean Lay Minister Berhane Elias
Assist. Pastor, Korean John Kim
Church Secretary Patty Heaton
Deacon Bill Greenbecker
Music Director Robert Martin
Custodian/Caretaker Miguel Cabrera

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SPECIAL DATES TO NOTE

Saturdays 5:00 pm. Evening Worship
 Sundays 9 am Worship, 10:30 Bible Study and 10:45 Sunday School
 Tuesdays 7:30 am Tuesday Guys
 9:00 am Tuesday Quilters
 7:00 pm Choir Practice
 Wednesday's 9:00 am Coffee Klatch church Rummage Sale Work
 Thursdays 9:00 a.m. Crafters
Dec. 8 1:00 pm Christmas Tree Trim
Dec. 9 10 am Choral Service & potluck
 Dec. 5, 12, 19 Advent meals & worship services
 Dec. 16 2:00 p.m. Christmas caroling
 Dec. 18 Quilters Cookie Exchange
 Dec. 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service
 Dec. 25 10:00 am Christmas Day service
 Dec. 31 6:00 pm New Year's Eve service



Make plans to stay for Bible study on Sunday beginning at 10:30 a.m. right after coffee hour in the Parish Hall. The current theme is Catechism.



12/2 Bob & Gail Weinrich- wedding anniv.
 12/9 Noreen Berkhof celebrating birthdays
 12/16 Marvin & Shirley Schaus's 50th wedding anniversary
 12/23 Lisa Barringer- Pastor's Vince's bday
 12/30 Peggy Riegert for God's blessings

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, or to thank God for blessings, please print your name and occasion on the chart in the narthex.

Please also remember to have the flowers delivered **before 12:00 noon on the Saturday before** so that Miguel can be there to unlock the sanctuary. Also, if you don't want to take the flowers home, please let Patty know and she will find a place for them.



www.downeygoodshepherd.org

Like us on Facebook:
[Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Downey CA](https://www.facebook.com/GSLCDowney)
www.facebook.com/GSLCDowney



CAJennings@aol.com
 or contact the office.



LOOKING FOR THE LUTHERAN HOUR?
 You will find it on radio station 740AM
 on Sundays at 8:00 am
 or anytime on the internet at
www.lutheranhour.org.



from Rev. Vincent Barringer

To the Saints at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: Well, Halloween, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving are now over. So, now we can start thinking and preparing for the Celebration of our Lord's birth: Christmas! Yes, Christmas, the anniversary celebration of our Lord's birth. Now I know for some this newsletter will seem late. After all, the stores have been decorated for Christmas since the last after, after, after Christmas sale ended back in July. I also know that many of you Christmasaholics have been decorating trees, watching the Christmas programs on the Hallmark Channel and listening to Christmas carols since mid-October. However, most of us non-fanatics are just now getting around to planning our Christmas holiday.

We are planning what gifts we will buy for those that we love. We do this as an imitation of the magi who brought gifts to the newly born Jesus in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:12). Some of us are going further, contemplating and designing in what ornate way we are going to decorate our houses in festive lights. Which is an imitation of the star that guided the magi to Bethlehem to the newborn King (Matthew 2:2). All the while, we are buying things and putting up lights, we are planning to put up a Christmas tree in honor of....wait that is not in the Bible! Why do we put up a pine tree with lights in our homes during Christmas time? It is not in the Bible. There are not many, if any, Douglas Firs in Bethlehem! So what gives? Why do we keep this tradition?

Well, like so many of our Christmas traditions we have Germany to thank. According to the History Channel "Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree.

Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles."

It is from Germany that the Christmas tree tradition came to America via German immigrants to Pennsylvania where the first examples of them are found in lithographs from the 1830's. From there they spread across America where they are now a mainstay of American Christmas.

Now, the Christmas tree might not be found in the Bible, but it does remind us of two important truths; That Christ brings life into our homes and our lives even when our lives are cold, barren, and seeming devoid of life. While the lights we adorn them with remind us that He is the Light of the World; A light, which no darkness can overcome.

As a symbol, this is powerful. Therefore, while this might not be a "Biblical" tradition as certain tiresome people tell us, it is certainly a tradition that a Christian can keep. Because anything that reminds us that Jesus breathes into us new life and light is a good thing. Remember, traditions are fine if they support a Biblical truth, and this tree trimming tradition certainly does that!

So beloved, trim your trees, or if you have had them up since before Halloween, remember to water them. Because a dry Christmas is a natural fuel air bomb! However, always remember why you are doing so. Not for some weird pagan fertility ritual, but rather to remind yourself of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who breathes life into us and is a light to our cold, dark world. Amen.

God Bless You All,
Pastor Vince



Did you realize that Pastor's sermons are recorded and online on our Facebook page?

††† December Servants †††

Greeters

- 12/2 Millie Herrmann & Pauline Lentz
12/9 (10:00 am) Linda Mitchell &
Carol Morris Lowe
12/16 Arlene & Cora Conley
12/23 Bernie & Nancy Gallie
12/24 (7:00 pm) Open
12/25 (10:00 am) Open
12/30 Mary Pabst & Noreen Berkhof
12/31 (6:00 pm) Open

If you would like to be a greeter please contact Linda Mitchell. All it takes is a smile and maybe a welcoming handshake.

Head Ushers

- *12/2 Bob Weinrich
12/5 (7:00 pm) Bob Weinrich
12/9 (10:00 am) Rick Shields
12/12 (7:00 pm) Mark Heaton
*12/16 Bob Weinrich
12/23 (9:00 am) Rick Shields
12/24 (7:00 pm) Scott Engles
*12/25 (10:00 am) Bob Weinrich
12/30 Scott Engles
*12/31 (7:00 pm) Mark Heaton

* indicates communion service

Ushers are always needed. If you would be interested in helping, please call the church office or speak to an usher before or after services.

Lay Readers

- 12/2 Shirley Greenbecker
12/9 (choral service)
12/16 Mitch Haack
12/23 Carol Morris Lowe
12/30 Linda Mitchell

Please call the church office if you would be interested in helping as a lay reader.

***God's Word is daily bread – not cake
for special occasions.***

Altar Care:

- 12/1 & 2 Nancy Gallie
12/8 & 9 Donna Engles
12/15 & 16 Noreen Haack
12/22 & 23 Nancy Gallie
12/24 & 25 Donna Engles
12/29, 30 & 31 Noreen Haack

Coffee Server: Donna Engles

Duty Elder:

- Sundays – Mitch Haack
Wed. Dec. 5 – Mitch Haack
Wed. Dec. 12 – Mitch Haack
Wed. Dec. 19 – Mitch Haack
Mon. Dec. 24 (7:00 pm) – Fred Thies
Tues. Dec. 25 – (10:00 AM) Fred Thies



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute a poinsettia plant for our Christmas array, you may use the flower envelope enclosed in the Sunday bulletin or send a check with "poinsettia" in the memo line. Please indicate whether you want the plant to be in thanksgiving to God for blessings, in memory of a loved one, etc.

Newsletter
DEADLINE

**For the January 2019
issue is Tuesday, January 8 at 5:00 pm.**

Please be prompt in meeting this deadline so that the newsletter can be printed and delivered in time for the mailboxes on Sunday.



Pastor Vince continues with Confirmation instruction at 11:30 each Sunday morning. If you know of a boy or girl around the ages of 12-13 who would like to learn more about our faith, please call the church office 562-803-4459.

Happy Birthday &
Anniversary blessings to
our members and friends
who will be celebrating
their special day in
December



- 12/3 David Canales
- 12/4 Robert Mendoza
- 12/5 Cara Griffith
- 12/8 Noreen Berkhof
- 12/8 Gary Quamme
- 12/15 Lauren Miller
- 12/16 Shawna Macias
- 12/17 Arlene Conley
- 12/20 Camila Andrade Capistran
- 12/20 Pastor Vince Barringer
- 12/21 Anna Canales
- 12/26 Kathy Earls
- 12/27 Jeremy Mazzanti, Jr.
- 12/28 Landon Menge
- 12/29 Devean Kephart
- 12/30 Ginie Mains
- 12/30 Marilyn Olof
- 12/31 Todd Griffith
- 12/31 Peggy Riegert



Please remember our home bound members and shut-ins especially when you are mailing Christmas cards. A simple note sent to let them know they haven't been forgotten is all it takes to brighten someone's day. There's a list of names and addresses in the church office.



"Beautiful music ... is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us."
—Martin Luther

In keeping with this wonderful quote, please make special note of our upcoming musical concerts.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 9, 10:00 am

(Note the special time.)

Bring your favorite recipe to share with your church family for the **international potluck fellowship** meal which will follow the service.

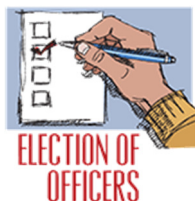
VIOLA & PIANO CONCERT

Wednesday Dec. 19th @ 7:00 pm after soup supper. Come & listen to the beautiful music these two men play. You will not be disappointed.



- 12/16 Bob & Gail Weinrich
- 12/21 Marvin & Shirley Schaus 50th
- 12/25 Henry & Fern Clute
- 12/27 Pastor & Edy Busch
- 12/27 Tyler & Lauren Miller

We apologize for the error if we've omitted your anniversary or birthday. In that event, please contact the church office so we can update our records.



will be held Wed. Dec. 12 after the evening Advent service. Please consider accepting a position on the board. We are especially need a new Head Trustee. We ask that all voting members try your best to be there. Thank you!

Check your
Sunday
bulletins for
future dates.



*Special Prayers
For Those in Need*



*Please remember
these friends in your
prayers.*

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Margie Ashley | Ruth Bartholomay |
| Judy Bowser | Darlene Bulian |
| Carl Chavis | Vern Eberhard |
| Edythe Heuer | Al & Martie Ludtke |
| Robert Mendoza | Shawna Macias |
| Jo Miller | Harriette Moomey |
| Jaxson Peate | David Rennegarbe |
| Patricia Rennegarbe | Judy Schmidt |
| Marilyn Shroyer | Ernie & Carla Soliz |
| Dorothy Thies | John Robertston |
| Lee Allen | |

Pray for those away at college:
Elizabeth Barna

- Military:** Kirsten (Corwin) Bonack, Air Force
Christina Papineau, Navy
Dallas Hodges
Anah Kotilla
Blake Bostick, Air Force
David Ottens, Marines
Noah Olof, Marines



Something different this year is that we are continuing to get together on Thursday instead of taking time off. So if you are not too busy we invite you to join us. At this time the Boutique made \$4,000 + and we will be having a Mini Christmas Boutique on December 9th.

We want to wish all a Blessed Christmas and to say "Thank You" for all your support.



Quilters Cookie Exchange is
Tuesday December 18th.



When you're online, take a minute to check out the new website www.downeygoodshepherd.org
Many thanks to Robert Martin for his work in this effort.

AND, don't forget Facebook. You can check in each Sunday morning under your profile. Tap "What's on your mind?" and the option for 'Check In' will come up. The church should automatically be listed so you can just click it and there you go. Make sure you 'like' us as well: [facebook.com/GSLCDowney](https://www.facebook.com/GSLCDowney)
Never hurts to have our name ready for anyone looking for a spiritual home.

Mini Christmas Boutique

Sunday Dec. 9th after the Choral Service

Everything Christmas related...
Blankets, quilts, towels, pillows, scarves & more.
Buy your favorite flavor of jellies, jams & marmalade: strawberry, cherry, lemon & orange.
Pick up a couple jars of the "World Famous Bazaar Soup". It's so good. And best of all The Bake Sale!
Don't miss out.



GOT SCRIP?

Be sure to stop by the Scrip table after services to see the new list of vendors for the holidays. There's a whole new order form to include all your favorites. We hope we've included everything you might want in this new list.

A reminder that any large amount of any one vendor would need to be special ordered with payment due at the time of the order. If you aren't familiar with the Scrip program, the cards are used just like gift cards except Good Shepherd receives a rebate from the sale of each one. Thanks for your support and thanks to Gail Weinrich and Darryl Quamme for their continued dedication to this service.



From Marilyn Olof,
Chairperson

I am stepping down as head trustee as of December 31, 2018. It is time to have someone younger than myself to take over this job. I have enjoyed it for many years - because I really like telling men what to do even if they don't comply with my wishes all of the time. However, they have usually been pretty good and things seem to get done in due time; if not, they put it on "the list" and get to it sooner or later.

I know this past month they have been cleaning out Miguel's office and, my, what a job that has been. I never realized there was so much stuff in there. I think it has been there since day one and now it is time to get rid of it. They also got a light fixed on roof by the kitchen door. I think it took them a couple of days to complete that job, but it is done.

They continually replace lights in the school proper, unplug plumbing, rake leaves, water grounds, trim bushes, etc. If you would like to join them on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, I am sure they will find something for you to do to keep you out of mischief.

Seriously now, I have really enjoyed working with "My Guys" these past years and I will miss them. As you all know, they are Marvin Rosenow, Tom Olson, Ron Quamme, Gary Quamme, Mitch Haack and, of course, our dedicated custodian, Miguel Cabrera. They deserve a raise in pay - maybe some fancier donuts or cookies once in awhile. I know they also really like chocolate, like I do.

Have a very Merry Christmas to all of you and a very Happy, Healthy New Year in 2019.



If you've been receiving cards or phone calls or special greetings, you can thank our Care Group teams led by Marilyn Olof. We offer thanks to them for their diligence in carrying on this thoughtful work. Each person has over 15-20 members to take care of so any help would be greatly appreciated. Even a few names would lighten the load for them. If you think you can take a few names, please either contact the church office or Marilyn.



Want to be part of the
email prayer chain?

Just drop a note to Donna Engles at d.engles@sbcglobal.net and she will add you to the list. It's not hard at all. She will send prayer requests to you so you can include these friends in your daily prayers. No problem either if you want to forward the news along to other friends or relatives. Our Father tells us to ask Him in prayer & we are reminded that ALL prayers are answered.



Choir Rehearsals are led by our organist, Robert Martin, each Tuesday evening from 7:00 - 8:00 pm, and by Mary Pabst on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. Join us!

Like to sing Christmas carols? Come to the church at 2:00 pm on Sunday Dec.16 and we will car pool to some of the shut-ins.



Afterwards, food will be served at the Weinrich house. Yum!



**Advent Season begins
Sunday, December 2**

Below is a schedule for the upcoming Advent services:

- Wed. Dec. 5 – 12 noon lunch & 1:00 pm service
6 pm soup supper & 7:00 pm service
- Wed. Dec. 12th, 12 noon lunch & 1:00pm service
6 pm soup supper & 7:00pm service
- Wed. Dec. 19th, 12 noon lunch & 1:00pm service
6:00pm soup supper &
7:00pm Viola & Piano concert




- Dec. 8, 1:00 pm Christmas Tree Trim
- Dec. 24, 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec. 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day Worship
w/communion
- Dec. 31, 6:00 pm New Year's Eve Service
w/communion



Sunday School is ongoing every Sunday morning from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. in the room off the patio next to the kitchen (music room). We thank teachers

- ❖ Mark Heaton & Donna Engles who have the 4-7 age group
- ❖ Arlene Conley & Patty Heaton who have ages 8-12.
- ❖ Belen Rediet who have 13+ and meet in Classroom 1 of the north school building.



**Lutheran Women's
Missionary League**

*Contributed by Mary Pabst
& Dorothy Thies*

The LWML Christmas party was hosted on Dec. 1 by Lisa Barringer and Bella Thies. We thank them for an enjoyable time. Our next Ladies Luncheon will be on January 26, hostesses to be announced.



Special thank you to those generous folks who have donated blankets, quilts, food, toys, time and money to our recent programs.

“Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me”.
Matthew 25:40



IT'S COMING! IT'S COMING! Maybe not until February 1 and 2, but it's on the way!!

The group continues to work on rummage sale items in Room 6 and it appears pretty much under control. They work from 10 am to noon on Wednesdays each week. If you have items to donate, please come either on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9 am to noon so that someone will be there to unload your car. Please do not come at 8:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm or 4:00 pm as those are the times the parking lot is filled with the children and parents of Kid's First.

**The cut off date for donations
will be January 18, 2019.**

We have been blessed to have a wonderful group of people to help out and are getting a head start on the project. If you're interested in lending a hand, please see Marilyn Olof or Dianna DeShazer

Please also remember as in previous years.

**NO LARGE ITEMS SUCH AS
FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, ETC.**

**No Exceptions
These items are too heavy
and bulky to handle.**

Have you visited the Parish Hall Coffee Bar lately? Now is your chance to get acquainted with the group that meets together for chat and fellowship each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Coffee is always ready, hot water for tea or cocoa is on tap and the conversation is always interesting. You may even find a doughnut or a snack. Grab a friend and come down for a relaxing time.





Marilyn Olof will no longer be sending packages to military persons after the first of the year. She would be more than happy to offer instructions and suggestions for anyone who would like to take over this very rewarding job mailing to 4 individuals. Please see her for more information.

Lauren & Tyler Miller arrived back in the states on Nov. 3. During December they will be in Illinois visiting Tyler's family.



Their new address will be the same as Pastor & Edy Busch until they get established: 18724 Munsee Rd. Apple Valley, CA 92307



No Saturday Service on Dec. 8th or 22nd
All Boards Meeting scheduled for Wed. Dec. 5th has been canceled due to Advent service.



If you would like to attend any of the upcoming evening services or events but are unable to drive at night, please call the church office 562-803-4459. There are members that would be happy to give you a ride.



Thanks to Robert Kennedy for stepping in to assist Lisa in the screen presentation for Sunday mornings. If you think you would also like to lend a hand on one or more Sundays, please speak with Lisa or Pastor and they can get you started.

KEEP SAVING...

➔ INK CARTRIDGES

Staples takes them and gives us credit for office purchases. Just use the box in the Narthex for your discards.

➔ PULL TABS FROM SODA CANS

These are saved and donated to Ronald McDonald House in Orange County. We send a box about every 3 months.

➔ BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

These are printed on various products including cereal, etc. They are collected and given to Trinity Lutheran School in Norwalk.

➔ FRONTS OF GREETING CARDS

These are sent to a school in Nevada where they are recycled and made into new cards. If you have cards and don't have time to tear the fronts off, Marilyn says she will be happy to do that for you.

We no longer save coupons for groceries for the military.



Remember to take a minute to fill out an attendance/communion card (found in the slot next to the pew hymnals) when you come for worship. Please pass them to the center aisle where the ushers will collect them after the offering. These are important statistics that are needed to complete church and synodical records.

5,000 PETAL PUSHERS NEEDED!

With gratitude for folks from all across the country, this is the 69th year of decorating Tournament of Roses Parade floats. The theme of the parade this year is **“The Melody of Life”** and the Lutheran Hour Ministries float is entitled **“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!”** This hymn proclaims the greatest of life’s melodies, the sweet song of salvation- victory over sin, death and the evil one- and the eternal reign of Christ.

Sign up to be a Petal Pusher by going online to www.petalpushers.org or call the Petal Pushers Chairman @ 949-458-0606 Can't do physical labor? Then donate funds to help pay for this project by mailing a check to: Lutheran Hour Float Committee, P.O. Box 20444, Riverside, CA 92516-0044.

CRUISE OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever dreamed of walking in the footsteps of St. Paul? Would you like to see places that many only dream of? Now is your opportunity to take the trip of a lifetime, with a knowledgeable pastor (Pastor Vince and others) to provide interesting biblical and historical facts along the way. Hear about what life was like 2000 years ago as you walk in the same places that the Apostle Paul did. The date is May 2020. For more information, see Pastor Vince or Lisa.

Please be sure to check the back page of our newsletter and read the ads. If you are able to use any of the services, let them know you saw their ad in the Fold. We thank these businesses for their generosity in placing these ads. As mentioned previously, we receive the newsletter at absolutely no cost to us for printing, assembling & mailing. If you know of any church or organization that can use their services or if you want to place an ad, you can contact C & M Publications at 951-776-0601.



Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

1	be	baby	that	today
2	do	been	this	afraid
3	all	born	town	Christ
4	for	find	will	cloths
5	has	good	bring	manger
6	joy	Lord	David	people
7	not	news	great	Savior
8	you	sign	lying	wrapped

 of _____ the _____
 _____ in the _____ of _____ a _____
 _____ to _____; he is _____ the _____.^a Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answer: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

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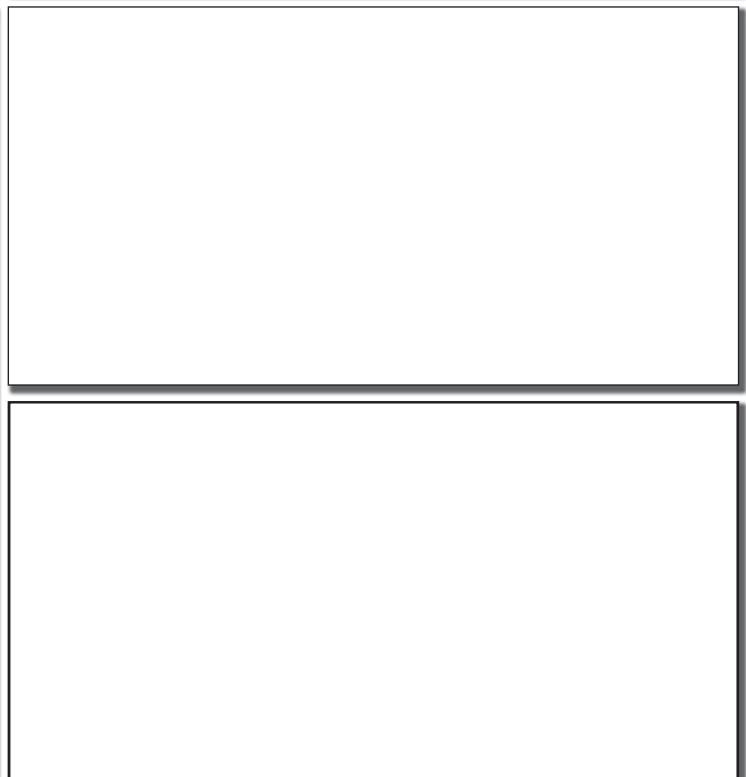
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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

13200 Columbia Way
Downey, CA 90242



CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor	Vincent Barringer
Assist. Pastor, Korean	John Kim
Church Secretary	Patty Heaton
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