

# Good News of Grace

**“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”**

John 3:8

If there is one thing I have come to learn about Nebraska, it is that it is windy. It is a rare day that the wind turbines which increasingly are dotting our horizon lack a breeze to produce electricity. In earlier generations the same power was used to pump water via windmills. On those windy days, frequently my mind goes to these words of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

Jesus said, “The wind blows where it wishes.” We don’t control the wind, we can’t turn it off or on. Wind is one of those things that you can’t store for a later time. We can’t change its direction or velocity. While modern weather forecasters can predict wind speed or warn about frontal systems overtaking the area, they do not cause the wind to blow. We speak of harnessing the wind. But the best we can do it to is to develop ways to make use of it while it is there.

Jesus used people’s familiarity with the wind to make a point. He said, “So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” Divine rebirth is beyond our control. It is like the wind. We can see its effect, but we do not control it. Sadly, too often we can treat faith and our relationship with God like an elec



## June

### 2021

#### **Pastors**

Michael Buchhorn  
Erik Christensen

#### **Family Worship Times**

Sunday: 8:00am &  
10:30am  
Sunday School  
9:15am



904 Logan

Wayne, NE

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grow  
with US  
in  
grace

tric fan that we can switch off or on at our pleasure. We can presumptuously conclude that we can remain distant from God and then return to him when we decide the time is right.

But faith is about relying on a power outside of ourselves. The Holy Spirit is that force. It is interesting when the disciples were told that they would be witnesses concerning Jesus' life, death and resurrection they were instructed, "Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" *Lk 24:49*. Even though they knew the story, they needed to wait on God's empowering Spirit.

Knowing the Holy Spirit provides the power means that our coming to faith and remaining in the faith is not simply a matter of putting the right program together or memorizing a presentation. That said, it does not mean that we simply sit back and do nothing. As the disciples awaited the outpouring of the Spirit, they worshipped Jesus and were continually in the temple blessing God (*Luke 24:53*). The book of Acts tells us, "'All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer" (*Acts 1:14*).

While we do not control the Spirit, we do know where the Holy Spirit has promised to be found and at work. The Bible tells us that "Faith comes by hearing" (*Rom 10:17*). St. Paul elsewhere asked, "Did you receive the Spirit by works of law or by hearing with faith?" (*Gal 3:2*).

The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God and through the Word joined to physical elements in the sacraments. These gifts from God are to refuel and replenish us.

Those wind turbines are placed on hilltops in Nebraska for a reason. That is where the wind is most likely to blow. We gather together in worship, regularly listen to God's Word and receive His Supper because this is where God promises to be at work.

May God bless our hearing with faith that we are strengthened is our connection to Him.

In Christ,

Pastor Buchhorn

**Closer to “Normal”** During June we will be returning to several practices which were suspended due to pandemic precautions. These include resuming communion at the altar rail. Those who have difficulty with steps or have mobility challenges are welcome to receive the sacrament at your pew. Those communing at their pew are asked to use one of the front pews or the handicapped seating area on the north side of the sanctuary. Please let the pastor know of your desire to commune at the pew and simply remain standing at the conclusion of the Agnus Dei.

If any have concerns about receiving the sacrament in larger group settings without social distance, we still will offer the small group Family Communion hour at 4 p.m. on Saturday. This service will continue to use enhanced health measures like social distancing and masks.

For the immediate future we will still be using only disposable individual cups. These cups can be placed in the communion rail after use. The restoration of the common cup will be reevaluated by the elders as we move ahead. We will also continue to receive offerings at the door as you enter or exit rather than passing an offering plate.

While not a change, it also should be noted that non-alcoholic wine and gluten free hosts are available for those needing these for reasons of health. See a pastor if you desire to make use of these.

Both of the pastors have been fully vaccinated and therefore have stopped wearing masks for Sunday morning communion distribution.

We are thankful to be able to resume some of our long standing customs.

The return of things like handshakes, hugs and other forms of greeting is still something all of us are figuring out as we go. Please note that while you may be comfortable with such expressions of friendship others may not be.

**Greeters and Lay Readers:** We thank those who have indicated a willingness to help with our worship life by volunteering to serve as Greeters or Lay Readers. Please check the “Those who Serve” page in this newsletter for the June schedule. It is not too late to volunteer! Simply indicate your willingness to serve on your attendance registration sheet.

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## **Wayne State College and Younger Adults**

Our College Ministry group will be holding a large planning meeting the evening of June 10<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Erik. We have a group of dedicated college students who are extremely excited for the upcoming year, and they are ready to start work on plans and programs that will be of interest to all of our students at Wayne State College. If you are attending Wayne State College, one of our college students currently enrolled in online learning, or you simply have a heart for college ministry please reach out to Pastor Erik to make any suggestions for this year as we get closer to that date. Our goal and expectation are to continue to find ways to minister and offer opportunities for our college students to grow in their faith and help lead others to a stronger understanding of what God has done for all His children!

**National Youth Gathering** Come help us sell concessions for our upcoming family friendly movie on June 17<sup>th</sup>! Movie will start at approximately 8pm so plan to be here at church by 7:30 to help us get everything set up and organized for our families to enjoy a fun time under the stars together.

**Jr. High and High School Lock-In June 17<sup>th</sup> following NYG Movie** Immediately following the family friendly movie on June 17<sup>th</sup>, we are going to have a lock in for all of our Jr. High and High School students! Bring a sleeping bag and pillow, your favorite board games, any church appropriate movies you would like for us to potentially watch together, and of course your BIBLE! Parents would be asked to help us with selling concessions during the movie and if you want to chaperone with us overnight you can, or you can feel free to go home and get some sleep! Pastor Erik and Symphony Jareske will be the chaperones for that evening.

**High School Sunday School Class** We want to invite all of our High School Youth and Parents to the High School Sunday School class that Jeff and Colleen Simpson are leading! We will continue to meet in the fellowship hall right by the sanctuary. Come join us as we want you to be strong in your faith, and Biblical knowledge since God promises to speak to us through His Word. Let's continue to build strong relationships together in fellowship as well!

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## **Visionary Parenting Bible Class with**

**Pastor Erik** Parents are you looking at getting into God's word with your children? Are you not sure how to even begin doing something like that? Do you want to find support and encouragement for strengthening habits that you are already using? Well then, we hope you will come join Pastor Erik during the Sunday School Hour from 9:15 to 10:15AM! We will cover great topics like God's grand vision for the home, a God-filled normal life, Biblical fatherhood and motherhood, family worship, multi-generational faithfulness, a safe home, and disciplines that disciple. What you will hear and learn is that God has brought your family together for a grand purpose! Our study called Visionary Parenting will help you discover and lean into this awesome opportunity. Through studying God's Word in this Visionary Parenting series, you will be inspired to catch a fresh vision of God's purpose for your family, while also being inspired to build faith and character in the hearts of your kids.

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## **CONGRATULATIONS to the CLASS OF 2021**

Congratulations to the 35 LHNE graduates who received their diplomas on May 9th. Please keep these graduates in your prayers as they move forward in their journey with Christ.

## **Jr. High and High School Trip to Adventureland Theme Park July 17<sup>th</sup> (6am to 11pm)**

July is a busy month... With Chicken Days, and the County Fair, but we hope you will make time for one more event for your family! Our hope is that on July 17<sup>th</sup> you will meet Pastor Erik and the other youth group members at church at 6am to travel to Altoona, Iowa to ride roller coasters, slip and slide at the water park and have a fun fellowship time of youth group bonding. We will be home by approximately 11pm if not sooner, as we will leave no later than 6:30pm If you are interested, please follow this link... [Bit.ly/AdventurelandYouthTrip](#)... to RSVP by June 27<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot at Adventureland! If we have 15 people signed up by then we will order group tickets that cost \$40, and the tickets cover the main theme park as well as the water park. If we don't have 15 people signed up by then we will buy individual tickets that cost \$50 at the gate once we arrive in Altoona. As we will be driving to Altoona, we need some parental help getting us to the theme park, and then getting us home. If you can chaperone and drive, please let me know that as well. You will need money for food, souvenirs, and anything else you would like throughout the day. Please be sure to bring enough sunscreen, church appropriate clothes that can get wet if riding water rides, water shoes, and a change of clothes for the ride back home.

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## **Vacation Bible School June 13<sup>th</sup> thru 17<sup>th</sup> 5:15pm to 8pm**

*Is there just one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God?* Our kids grapple with questions like these every day. At Mystery Island, we'll uncover the truth about our Creator God! There's a sea of confusion about who God is and what he's like, so we'll track down the one true God and learn how amazing he is through the pages of Scripture. Mystery Island VBS is packed with teaching that connects the Bible to the real world and gives kids a better understanding of our awe-inspiring Creator and the salvation he offers through Jesus

Christ. Each day, kids will learn more about one of God's amazing attributes (great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, trustworthy) and how that applies to their lives. Grab your sunscreen and get ready for a taste of paradise as you track down the one true God at Mystery Island! Our Daily Schedule will include: Dinner starting at 5:15PM followed by a large group opening 5:50PM, small group rotations through lessons, games, and crafts, and large group closing at 8:00PM. Thursday June 17th will be a special evening with a family friendly island themed movie being shown immediately after our large group closing. Concessions will be sold including popcorn, candy, and drinks. All proceeds from the movie go towards helping the Youth Group make it to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas during the summer of 2022! Be sure to encourage your friends to register, and we will see you soon for a swash buckling, rip roaring, high sea sailing tale of an Island Adventure!!!

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## **Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid**

May 12, 2021

Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid met May 12, 2021 with thirteen members and Pastor Christensen present. Pastor Christiansen led the group through a Bible study entitled "Rejoice. Always". Bible verses were read exploring the similarities and differences between happiness and joy. Christian Growth leader, Jan Casey, read a devotion entitled "I'm Scared to Pray Boldly" based on James 5:16

The business meeting was opened by the group reciting the LWML Pledge. Roll call was taken and minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was filed for audit. Committee reports were given. Sewing reported they tied 5 quilts and will sew gain this month. Visiting committee reported sending many cards. Another 1000 Best Choice labels were sent in and 300 more labels have been collected. President Rhonda Sebade announced that the of items collected for hygiene and school kits during the LWML Spring Workshop resulted in 43 schools kits and 64 hygiene kits being donated to Orphan Grain Train. The Ladies Aid will gift Derek Jareske as a token of appreciation for all he has done at Grace Lutheran and wish him well as he starts his year of internship in Maryland to complete his DCE degree. Pastor Christiansen will be given a gift in recognition of his five years in the ministry.

The meeting concluded by singing the birthday song in recognition of Darlene Lilienkamp and Melvy Meyer's birthdays. The Lord's Prayer closed the meeting.

# Sunday School

As I look forward to the next several months, I would like to say how grateful I am to have been able to be a part of this congregation. On my journey toward becoming a Director of Christian Education, I often point back to my journey through teaching Sunday School at Grace Lutheran Church. Shortly after beginning my undergraduate degree at Wayne State College, I was asked to begin co-teaching for the, then, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class. At the time, I was working on an education degree, and I thought that teaching for this class would provide a good opportunity to gain more experience. Little did I know, God had a plan for my future, and although I became more and more involved in the educational ministries at the church throughout my time at Wayne State, I still was not able to see how the individual pieces were slowly coming together. As many people can attest, when asked if I would ever consider a future in church work, I, for years, definitely argued against such a possibility. It finally took a change in my plans for me to stop to consider the plan that God had in store for me. They say that hindsight is twenty twenty, and as I look back now, the path, although full of twists and turns, seems to clearly point to where I am, now.

All of that being said, I am nervous about my next steps, I am sad about leaving a congregation that I love so much, and I am disappointed that I will no longer be able to serve with the various individuals that I respect so much. At the same time, I am excited about the new opportunities that lay before me because I have confidence in the fact that, through everything, God is ultimately in control, and that this church will continue, with or without me. For instance, the Sunday School teachers are currently looking forward offering instruction during the summer months as Sunday School classes continue through the months of June, July, and August.

To close, it has been an amazing gift to have been able to teach, and learn, as part of this Sunday School program, and I have been extremely privileged to have been able to work with some many amazing students, teachers, parents/guardians, and congregation members in my time as a teacher in this congregation. For anyone considering the possibility of serving in this congregation, I cannot advocate for teaching as part of the educational ministries at Grace Lutheran Church enough, and I cannot wait to hear about the amazing things that God has in store for this congregation, in the future. Thank you!

The Children's Sunday School program will continue regular instruction, 9:15AM to 10:15AM, during the months of June, July, and August. During

these summer months, beginning with June, music practice for the Sunday School students, both Lower and Upper Divisions, will take a break, and as we look toward the fall, we will hope to bring back this experience after Rally Day. As such, parents should continue to drop off, and pick up, students in the classroom areas, but as some classes are combined during the summer months, parents should be reminded to make sure to look for a classroom teacher when dropping off any children. As always, if parents have any questions, please feel free to contact Derek Jareske using the information below. Also, please continue to check for updates, in the bulletin, newsletter, and our Facebook page.

The Sunday School will continue to work to provide a safe educational experience for all of our children. As such, masks will continue to be provided, and teachers will be encouraged to continue their current cleaning practices. We appreciate your continued support!

Due to a teacher retreat that is currently scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00AM to 1:00PM, there will not be a separate Sunday School meeting for the month of June.

For the months of June and July, regarding to our service project, the Sunday School will be requesting deflated soccer balls and small air pumps for boys ages 8-12. As always, if you are interested in helping with this activity, the Sunday School will be collecting any donations for this project in the marked bin by the Sunday School office, in the basement. Thank you for your continued generosity!

*For more information, and updates concerning any future plans for Sunday School activities, please make sure to join and routinely check our Facebook page. Join by searching Grace Lutheran Sunday School, Wayne, NE for updates and weather-related announcements.*

To close, we sincerely appreciate the patience of all of our Sunday School parents and students as we strive to continue to offer a Christ centered educational experience. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you have an interest in teaching, subbing, or assisting in a non-teaching fashion, please contact Derek Jareske at 402-369-1555 or [dejar-e01@gmail.com](mailto:dejar-e01@gmail.com). Thank you!

Respectfully,

Derek Jareske and the Sunday School Program  
([sundayschool@gracewayne.com](mailto:sundayschool@gracewayne.com))

# Mission Council Minutes

May 10, 2021 7:30 p.m.

The Mission Council at Grace Lutheran Church met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021. The following members were present: Jerry Echtenkamp, Deb Jensen, Justin Anderson, Pastor Buchhorn, Angie Beiermann, Dwight Mock, Doug Heithold, Heather Reinhardt, Chad Janke, Brian Frevert, Megan Dubbs, and Pastor Erik.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Echtenkamp.

Pastor Buchhorn led a devotion and prayer.

The minutes from the April 19, 2021 Mission Council Meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Dwight to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

Deb Jensen presented the Financial Reports for April 2021. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Brian to approve the financial reports. The motion was approved. Deb Jensen recommended to close the church savings account at F&M Bank with a current balance of \$36.92 as we currently have specific saving funds in place for marked items in our general budget funds. It was moved by Heather and seconded by Megan to close the savings account at F&M Bank and roll the \$36.92 into the general fund. Motion carried.

The Board of Elders met on May 3, 2021, Pastor Buchhorn opened the meeting with prayer. A study of Shepherding our Strays Workshop Session 1 followed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the membership changes these included one addition by affirmation of faith, one transfer out and one loss due to death. Midweek classes will not meet on a weekly basis in June and July. Sunday School will continue to meet throughout the summer months, but will be reduced to a combined group of students. The Youth Group will continue to have meetings this summer. Pastor Erik is working with parents to create a Youth Board that will help set up a structured plan for both the Jr. High Youth and High School Youth Groups. A leadership plan is in place and will be adding new key pieces to plans for the Campus Student Ministry for next year. Fishers of Kids

Preschool is on summer break. The current enrollment is nine students. Adult Instruction Class has been completed and new members received March 21, 2021. Vacancies at St. Paul, Win-side, and Trinity Martinsburg, have been filled with seminary graduates. The Adult Bible Class has begun the “Connect to Disciple” program on April 25, 2021. Ministry plans in light of the Corona Virus Pandemic have been published in the newsletter and bulletin. Numbers and interest in the Saturday Family Communion Hour continue to be solid. It is proving to be beneficial to our members. Pastor Erik will be covering the worship service in Osmond on May 23, 2021 for Pastor Lilienkamp. Plans for offering counting were reviewed with the Elder at the 10:30 a.m. service being asked to assist with this task. The Mission Council is sponsoring a Recognition Brunch on May 16, 2021, during the 9:15 a.m. Bible Class hour in honor of Derek Jareske, Micah Schut, and Pastor Erik. Pastor Erik will be on vacation July 2-9, 2021.

Trustee Report, Justin Anderson- The sprinkler system has been repaired at the preschool. A bid was received from Zach's Heating and Cooling for a water softening system for the church and for a new hot water heater system for the sanctuary wing. After discussion it was determined not to proceed with the water softener system and that the present hot water heater will be evaluated to determine if it is functioning properly in order to determine optimal sizing for any replacement.

Campus Ministry, Jerry Echtenkamp referred to Pastor Erik for the report. The Spring semester has ended for the college students. The campus ministry leadership team has been assembled by Pastor Erik and will hold a strategic planning meeting for the next school year on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The current tenant will be moving out of Cup of Grace on June 11<sup>th</sup> allowing for maintenance needs to be addressed before new tenants move in the first of July.

Endowment – The Endowment Committee met and recommended to the Mission Council to provide further financial support to Pastor Conrad and the Mexican Mission. It was moved by Justin and seconded by Dwight to provide \$2000.00 for Pastor Conrad and \$4000.00 toward the Mexican Mission out of the endowment fund. Motion carried.

Education- Heather Reinhardt reported from Derek Jareske-The Easter Egg Hunt and the Comfort Dogs organization visit, both went well. As we head into summer, Sunday School is trying to reestablish a semblance of our old patterns and routines, such as weekly music practices. As summer draws closer, Sunday School is looking forward to starting an interim summer curriculum and holding a retreat for the teachers, date yet to be determined. Finally, looking forward to next year, there is still a need for additional Sunday School teachers and volunteers, specifically in the areas of teaching 1st/2nd grade, Upper Division music, and substituting.

Auxiliaries- Pastor Buchhorn reported on behalf of Dwight Mock that the Quilting Group, who meets monthly is looking for more volunteers. The Quilting Group will be displaying some of their work for the congregation to see.

Preschool-Angie Beiermann reported the preschool graduation went well on May 7. A list of maintenance items has been given to the Mission Council to be addressed during the summer months.

#### Old Business:

##### Ongoing Facility Projects-

The Main Street sign approved at the previous meeting will begin when the components can be obtained and the work scheduled by SignTech.

Progress is being slowly made on the project to replace the wooden east doors of the church sanctuary.

Stanley Steamer will be coming to clean the hall carpets in the education wing along with the offices, conference room and large meeting room the week of May 10th.

District circuit items – The Circuit pastors continue to meet regularly. St. Paul, Winside and Trinity, Martinsburg both received pastoral candidates from the spring graduating class from the Ft. Wayne. Seminary. Ordinations and installations should happen soon.

Child Safe Policies-Pastor Erik has moved forward to conducting background checks for the Vacation Bible School teachers.

COVID Precautions-In June, we will resume communion at the altar and will be looking for volunteers to resume having lay

readers and greeters. Sunday school and Bible class will also resume unified openings.

Planning will continue for a May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. recognition brunch for Derek Jareske, Micah Schut and Pastor Erik. Derek Jareske is scheduled to begin his 1 Year DCE internship this summer. Our choir director Micah Schut is also graduating and will be moving. Pastor Erik's 5<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary will also be observed.

Financial Secretary and Counters- Due to the illness of our present financial secretary having to step aside from that role, the Elders and Mission council will take over the responsibility of counting the offering and depositing each week. Each week there will be a Mission Council member and an Elder counting the offering. Jeanette Swanson has currently been posting the offering in the church financial record keeping system and has agreed to take on this role on a more permanent basis.

No new business at this time.

The meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.  
The Next Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Reinhardt

# GRACE FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mark Zach
- 3 Kris Fox & Evelyn Lilienkamp
- 4 Otto Haas, Mike Heithold, Rachel Kneifl & David Longe
- 5 Barb Frevert, Jaret Harmer, James Johnson, Jill Lubke & Megan Dubbs
- 7 Reese Rethwisch
- 8 Colleen Starzl, Brenna Anderson & Sherri Widner
- 9 Mackenna Heithold-Wical, Larry Magnuson & Dave Wragge
- 10 Deb Dannelly, Brady Heithold, Pam Henderson, Mary Janke, Shawn Nolte, Michael Temme & Sue Temme
- 11 Chad Sebade
- 12 Emma Heithold
- 13 Lauren Ekberg
- 15 Kira Fox
- 16 Scott Brogren, Trevor Hefti, Verdelle Reeg & Angie Rethwisch
- 18 Jo Junck & Spencer Witt
- 19 Don Nelson
- 20 Darrell Doescher & B.J. Ruwe
- 21 Merlin Beiermann, Trey Dubbs & Dennis Ekberg
- 22 Hannah Brogren
- 23 Kimberly Johnson
- 25 Mike Sprouls
- 26 Pam Matthes & Drew Reinhardt
- 27 Andy Johnson & Nicola Schafer
- 29 Jersi Jensen & Devin Patrick
- 30 Wyatt Lubke

# SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

## Elder on duty:

June 06	8:00 am.	Doug Heithold
	10:30 am.	Scott Hansen
June 13	8:00 am.	Troy Stowater
	10:30 am.	Lonnie Matthes
June 20	8:00 am.	Josh Ruwe
	10:30 am.	Chuck Potosnyak
June 27	8:00 am.	Scott Hansen
	10:30 am.	Doug Heithold

## Acolytes:

June 6	8:00 am.	Cole Zach & Maddux Heithold
	10:30 am.	Lanee Rethwisch & Dylan Jensen
June 13	8:00 am.	Hunter Ruwe & Payton Junck
	10:30 am.	Jade Lilienkamp & Rachel Holland
June 20	8:00 am.	Blake Kneifl & Drew Reinhardt
	10:30 am.	Reese Rethwisch & Brodrick Tiedtke
June 27	8:00 am.	Hallie Heithold & Cole Zach
	10:30 am.	Emma Heithold & Cloey Young

## Lay Reader:

June 6	8:00 am.	James Simpson
	10:30 am.	Galen Wiser
June 13	8:00 am.	Irene Mock
	10:30 am.	Mary Temme
June 20	8:00 am.	Lowell Schardt
	10:30 am.	Louise Green
June 27	8:00 am.	Hallie Heithold
	10:30 am.	Doug Temme

## Greeters:

June 6	8:00 am.	
	10:30 am.	Galen & Kathy Wiser
June 13	8:00 am.	Gene & Janet Casey
	10:30 am.	Jerry & Loree Echtenkamp
June 20	8:00 am.	Tiedtke Family
	10:30 am.	
June 27	8:00 am.	
	10:30 am.	Doug & Mary Temme

**Alter Guild** Diane Zach & Doris Meyer

**Counter:** Jerry Echtenkamp

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