
ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH ESKO, MN

A family of believers grounded in, growing in and reaching out in Christ

ADDRESS:

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
Four Elizabeth Ave.
Esko, MN 55733

CONTACT US:

Church - (218) 879-3510
Email - stmattsesko@aol.com
Web - www.stmatthewsesko.org

OUR PASTOR:

Tom Brinkley, Pastor
Cell - (218) 343-2080
Email - Brinkley57@yahoo.com

OUR STAFF:

Jennifer Keske
Preschool Director/Teacher
Sybil Halvorson
Preschool Teacher
Church - (218) 879-3510
Email - lelpreschool@gmail.com

Christina Walther
Youth Coordinator and Music Leader
Cell - (218) 391-3649
Email - waltherchristina@gmail.com

Johnny Eng, Deacon
Cell- (218) 310-1385
Email - jemsoco@aol.com

Jen Prachar, Office Manager
Rebecca Bauer, Secretary

A Change of Season!

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

It's September! Where does the time go? Autumn is almost here. My childhood autumns in Iowa hold precious memories—Rally Sunday at church, unpacking warmer clothing, hot cocoa, harvest moons, fires in the hearth, a well-stocked pantry, and best of all—FOOTBALL! I loved it.



Autumn is a season of change, a season of transition, a season of renewal. It's also a season filled with hustle and bustle. It's the time when children go back to school, young adults go away to college, and parents are pulled in a thousand directions! Autumn is an exciting time – but in the midst of all of our activities, it's important to stay focused on God and make the most of every precious moment.

One of the things I've learned about life is that it's full of seasons. There are seasons of plenty, dry seasons, seasons of doubt, seasons of pain, seasons of just enough, seasons of recovery, etc. There's no rhyme or reason as to when they show up or how long they'll last, but one thing is certain, they do pass. The worst seasons seem like they'll never end and the good seasons seem to go by too fast. I believe that God will give us what we need for each season, and that each season is a time of preparation.

If God uses seasons to prepare us, then I believe that you can be fruitful no matter what the season is in your life. You can glean from each season of your life things that will grow you and produce fruit for the future. You may be looking at your life right now and see a desert wasteland, but Isaiah 43:19 says that God is about to do something new. He'll make rivers in the desert so that you can

"A Change of Season" continued on page 2

"A Change of Season" continued from page 1

produce fruit and grow. No matter how dark life gets or how abundant your blessings are, God has a design and a purpose to grow you through this season. *He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:3)*

This scripture tells us to never give up. No matter how long, strenuous, and painstaking the road or trials are in our lives, there is always a new season ahead, a season of new beginnings. *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 ESV)*

We all have busy schedules, but even on our most hectic days, just as we make time to feed our bodies, it's also important to nourish our souls. Take time to listen for the still, quiet voice of God to see where He is leading. *Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)*

Pastor Tom Brinkley



Sunday School Starts Soon!

We kick off the Sunday school year on Rally Sunday, September 12th! Join us downstairs for Sunday school at 9:15 am. Come and meet your teachers and see our Sunday school room. There may even be a surprise guest! Parents please stay for the adult Bible Studies available.

Then stay for the 10:30 service with a fun-filled carnival afterward! Our theme for the carnival is building Sundays! We will have lunch and, of course, ice cream! Can't wait to see you!

God's Team! Stronger Together!

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WORSHIP:

- Sunday, September 5 - 9 am - Worship in the sanctuary with safety guidelines
- **Beginning September 12** - Sundays 8 & 10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 am worship services online via Facebook and posted to our website
- Sundays - 9:30 am - TV option Channel 6 (KBJR) airs "My Savior Lives"

BIBLE STUDY:

- Sundays 9:15 am - Adult Bible Study in the Family Life Center (begins September 12)
- Sundays 9:15 am - Women's Bible Study "Women of the Bible" Pastor Tom's Office (begins September 12)
- Tuesdays 7 am - Men's Bible Study in the Fireside Room
- Tuesdays 9 am - "Coffee with Pastor" online via Facebook
- Wednesdays 5:30 pm - Women's Bible Study "Jesus in Me- Experiencing the Holy Spirit" in the Fireside Room (begins September 15)
- Thursdays 9:30 am - Women's Bible Study "The Book of Isaiah" in the Fireside Room (begins September 23rd)

YOUTH:

- Sundays 9:15 am - age 3 - 6th grade Sunday School downstairs (begins September 12)
- Sundays 9:15 am - Grades 7-12 Bible Study in the Youth Room (begins September 12)
- Tuesdays 3-5 pm - T3 Grades 7-12 in the Youth Room (begins September 14)
- Thursdays 6-7:30 pm Grades 7-12 Youth Group In the Youth Room (begins September 16)

NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

The congregation voted on July 25th to place a call to Pastor Mike Giddings as associate pastor. This past week he met with staff and leadership of St. Matthews and took a tour of the church, parsonage and the area. We ask for prayers for the Lord to be with him, his family, and his congregation as he discerns where the Holy Spirit is calling him to serve. Pastor Giddings hopes to have his decision to us in the next couple weeks. We will notify the congregation as soon as we have more information. Watch the weekly announcements for updates.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| • Sue Wischniewski | • Dan Heikkinen | • Jen Prachar |
| • Brenda Hall | • Pat Johnson | • Isaac Wisted |
| • Dave Haugen | • Ron Eng | • Joe Klatt |
| • Scott Prachar | • Chris Nelson | • Deb Haugen |
| • Chris Schultz | | |



News

Registration continues to increase for fall enrollment; as of the July meeting, there are 11 students enrolled per day. LELP is licensed for 20 students; 14 students/day will enable LELP to operate within its budget. Only one of the five preschools in Esko are fully enrolled so far for the fall.

Substitute teachers are needed; there are only two available at this point. Anyone interested in sharing God's love with little people is encourage to apply; teaching and/or day care experience is especially

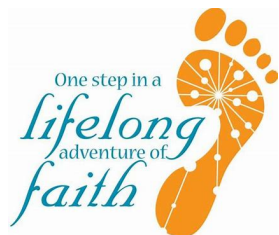
desired. A background check is required; substitute pay is \$15/hour. For more information, email the school at lelpreschool@gmail.com.

If you are on Facebook, please "like" the LELP page and share our posts. Social media is terrific way to let others in the community know about our excellent preschool!

LELP still needs three more board members from St. Matthews. The time commitment is nominal (maybe 3 hours/month); most important is idea-sharing and moral support for the teaching staff. Perhaps God is calling you to join the board? If you are willing to help, please contact Laura Hanson at 591-1073.

A special thanks to Nathan Bentley and Advantage Printing for the new LELP banner!

LELP admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic

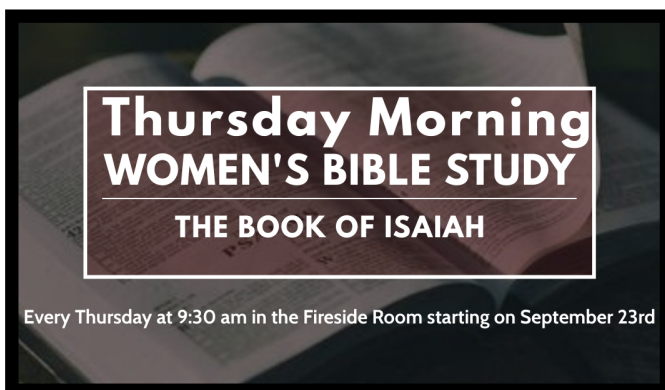
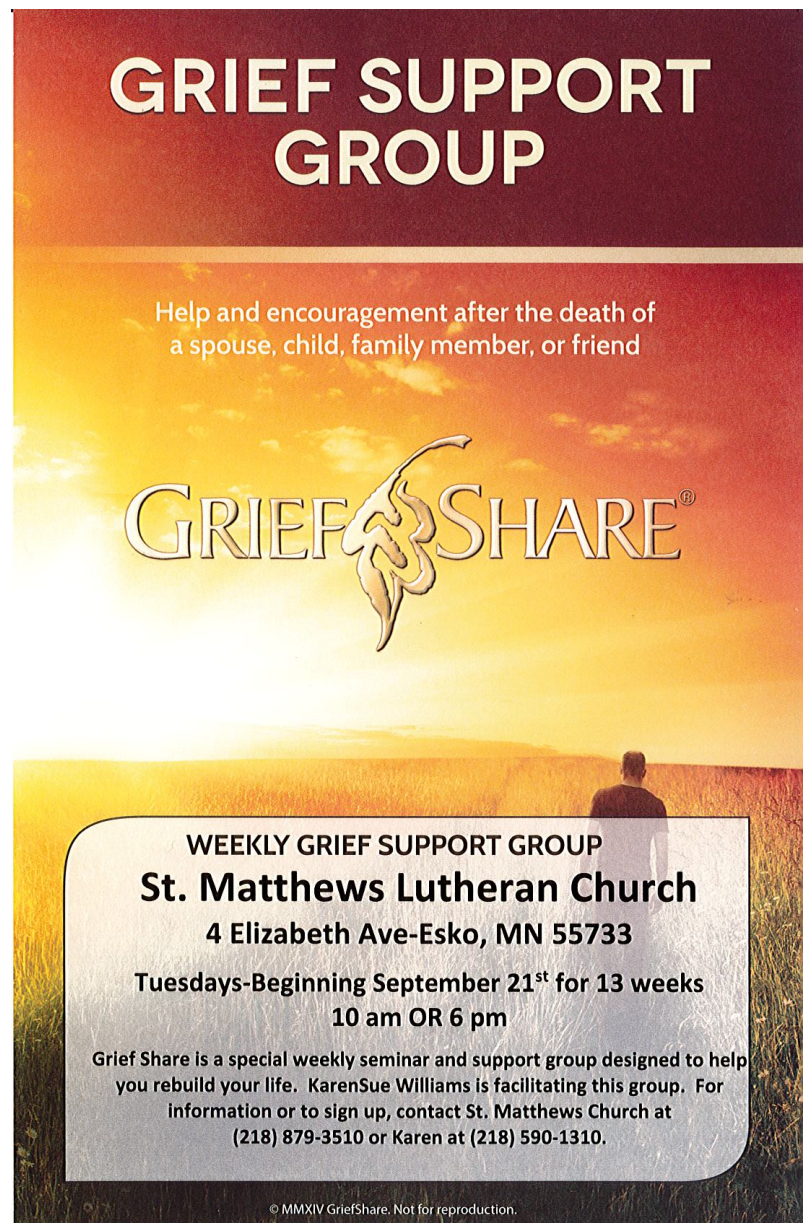


7th and 8th Grade Confirmation

Confirmation Orientation for Parents: Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:30 pm

Confirmation Class begins: Wednesday, September 29th 3:20 - 5 pm

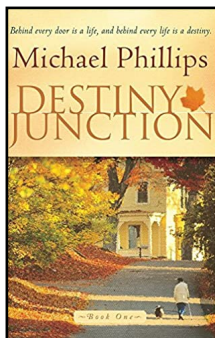
Come after school to St. Matthews for class.





Please join St. Matthew's Church Choir as we begin again to
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Our first rehearsal is **Wednesday, September 8 from 7-8 pm** in the sanctuary. Rehearsal will include discussion regarding choir and covid protocols. Kindly bring a mask. Thanks, Sheri Herman



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group will meet Thursday, September 23, at 1 pm in the Fireside Room at church. We will discuss the book *Destiny Junction* by Michael Phillips. I hope we will be able to meet in person and get our group going again.

Please call Judy Nelson at 218-590-1521 for information and/or to order a book.

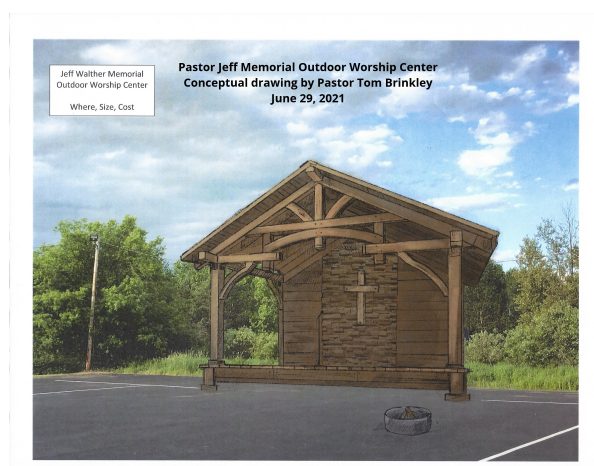
Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution Saturday, September 25



A monthly food distribution will be held from 10:30am- 12:30pm, at Mission Creek Church. The church is located at 521-131st Ave. West in the Fond Du Lac neighborhood of Duluth. There is a \$20 donation per bundle (share). Ruby's Pantry welcomes everyone: there are no income or residency requirements. This is a drive through distribution; please provide adequate space in your vehicle.

Pastor Jeff Memorial Committee Update

We have been meeting since early June to collect ideas and scope individual projects. To date the following projects are being discussed as memorials in honor of Pastor Jeff; outdoor worship and other ministry center (currently planned to be built off the east end of the parking lot), an indoor stained glass panel, metal art, quilted wall hanging (complete), prayer garden and plant trees. Some of the projects may be included as a part of the outdoor worship center project. A conceptual representation of the outdoor worship center is included with this article. If all of the projects were done, the cost is estimated at \$25,000 to \$30,000. Currently there is about \$7,000 in memorials which have been given in honor of Pastor Jeff. If you would like to contribute to this project, please designate Pastor Jeff memorial on your gift. Donations can be given through the office, collection plate and the church website giving page. We will do as many of the projects as we have funding to support. If you have questions or input, please contact one of the Committee members; Winnie Anderson, Pastor Tom, Bob DeCaigny, Lynnette Shannon, Cherri Sykes or Christina Walther.



Please send contributions c/o:
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
2012 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55812

LCMS Worship - every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., KBJR Channel 6, Duluth

My Savior Lives Northland is a locally produced, regionally recognized TV program with a message for the world. The service includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS. My Savior Lives Northland is broadcast every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations.

September 5

Pastor Robert Franck, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Steve Sykes
- 2- James Bergstedt, Kelli Pantsar, Nickila Jameson
- 3- Jake Erickson
- 4- Nicole Pierre, Jade Alvillar, Sasha Ruemmele
- 5- Miriam Bianconi, Matthew McCullough
- 7- Benjamin Schramm, Noreen Kersting
- 8- John Pagelkopf. 9- Olivia Rengo, Jeff Stephenson
- 10- Melissa Olson
- 11- Jamie Eskuri, Avry Dammer, Declan Sullivan, Rylan Hennessy
- 12- Aaron Hansen, Maili Juntunen, Ahna Brekke, Rainee Johnson, Eilee Straub, Sam Haugen
- 14- Susan Jensen, Ryan Hall, Melyna Hester-Lowry
- 15- Tia Bertogliat, Austin Carlson, Jax Stahlbush, Layla Hanson, Layton Fuchs
- 16- Eila Juntunen, Jessica Maki, Marilu Johnsen, Harrison Hallgren
- 17- Reta Baxley, Michael (MJ) Urie
- 18- Joe Davidson, Jason Sickmann, Sophia Abell
- 19- Richard Okerlund, Darlene Overland, Ross Peterson, Natalie Rice, Brittany Klatt
- 20- Mike Guite, Sophia Frank, Aaron Martineau, Jenn McLeod, Avery Peterson
- 21- Brenda Rengo, Deb Hustad
- 22- Phyllis Bohren, Aubree Kern 23- Sue Olson
- 24- Madalee Sorenson, Megan Chopskie, Jordan Chopskie
- 25- Dale Granholm, Joy Eskuri, Raegen Olson
- 26- Karson Kuhlman, Parker Hill,
- 27- Paige Kesti, Betty Arbour, Eloise Modich
- 28- Jamie Lovstad, Pam Husom
- 30- Brenda Hall, Terri Barnes, Piper Rice, Deb Haugen, Abby Rudnicki, Beckett Leuch



Baptism

August 15

Micah Kyle Rosendahl

Funeral

August 13

Doris Naslund

Christina's New Address:

308 Blaine Ave

Cloquet MN 55720



ALL YOUTH PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE
2022 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN
HOUSTON, TEXAS: COME TO THE...

National Youth Gathering

PARENT/YOUTH MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:00 - 1:00 PM
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

in all things
JULY 8-12, 2022 LOMS YOUTH GATHERING

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT CHRISTINA 218-391-3649



SEPT 2021 SCHEDULE

St. Matthews Youth

SUNDAYS

BIBLE STUDY



9:15 AM
YOUTH ROOM

begins 9/12

LET'S GROW IN GOD'S
WORD! JOIN US FOR SOME
INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY,
FELLOWSHIP & POPCORN!

SERVICE PROJECT

RALLY CARNIVAL Day

SEPT 12
11:30 AM

WE WILL KICK OFF THE FALL
ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHURCH WITH A
CARNIVAL FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
KIDS! YOUTH WILL RUN THE GAMES!

TUESDAYS



TOTALLY TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

3-5 PM
YOUTH ROOM

begins 9/14

COME HANG OUT WITH YOUR
FRIENDS, HAVE A SNACK, DO
SOME HOMEWORK, PLAY SOME
GAMES...

SPECIAL EVENT

POST-GAME PARTY



SEPT. 17
9-11 PM

COME TO THE CHURCH AFTER THE
HOME FOOTBALL GAME FOR
GAMES, SNACKS & FELLOWSHIP.

THURSDAYS

YOUTH GROUP



6-7:30 PM
begins 9/9

*Kick-off
campfire
308 Blaine Ave.
Cloquet*

THIS IS A TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH
OTHER AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH
THROUGH DEVOTIONS, MUSIC, ACTIVITIES
& GAMES. YEP...SNACKS TOO!

FUNDRAISER

RUMMAGE



SEPT 16-18

SET-UP WILL BEGIN, MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13. SALE WILL RUN
THURSDAY EVENING, FRIDAY ALL DAY
AND SATURDAY UNTIL NOON. WE NEED
YOUTH AND ADULT HELPERS. THANK YOU!

**ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FOR GRADES
7-12 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

TO RECEIVE E-MAIL OR TEXT UPDATES SEND NAME AND
CONTACT INFO TO WALTHERCHRISTINA@GMAIL.COM

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CHRISTINA 218-391-3649

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Stewardship Corner

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

Members often ask how we are paying our bills when our offerings are often short of our budgeted needs. The short answer is that we need to budget for all expenses we are obligated to pay. At the end of each month, we will show how our offerings are actually being spent. Any surplus funds at the end of our fiscal year (June 30) will be used to pay down the church mortgage (\$661,076 as of 7/31/21).

Church Operating Expenses Paid:	July	Total
Salaries	11,942	11,942
Benefits	5,014	5,014
Debt Payments	6,883	6,883
District/Synod Support	2,417	2,417
Electricity	912	912
Christian Education	-	-
Church Property	1,392	1,392
Office	1,073	1,073
Worship	200	200
Youth	-	-
HRA	238	238
Heating Fuel	646	646
Repair and Maintenance	2,213	2,213
Outreach/ Missions	-	-
Conferences	-	-
Insurance	(166)	(166)
Other	-	-
Total	32,764	32,764
Budgeted Needs	36,228	36,228

St. Matthews Offering Income

August 24, 2021

Month	Given	Budget	Difference
July	39,600	36,200	3,400
Aug	33,500	29,000	4,500*
	73,100	65,200	7,900

*4 out of 5 weeks

Giving last year to date: \$69,900

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34

Memorial Fund

*Sincere thanks to each person who honored and remembered a loved one or a friend with a gift
to The Memorial Fund in July 2021*

Gifts have been given in Memory of:

John Maki
Clifford Trevena

Undesignated Fund
Sunday School Fund

- Church security systems were updated with the help of funds from the Undesignated Fund. Thank you to families and friends who donate to this fund.
- Power door openers were installed in the front entry. Thank you so much for this generous gift from the Uran family and friends.
- Music for the Praise Team was purchased from the Choir/Music Fund. Thank you to the friends and families of loved ones for contributing to this important part of our church services.

Please notify the church if you do not receive a thank you from the family or the church for your gift.

For more information on Memorial gifts, please call a member of the Memorial Committee: Winnie Anderson, Walt & Shirley Behm, Eileen Christopherson, Elaine Lindquist, Gene & Margaret Lindquist, Florence Maki, Judy Nelson, Marilyn Pykkonen, or Judy Uran

Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of a friend or loved-one, is welcome to do so. Please include the following information. Memorial folders are also available at the Welcome Center and on the table in the Narthex of the church. Contributions may also be made from our church website at www.stmatthewsesko.org. Select *Giving and Fees* in the top menu bar.

Memorial Fund

In Loving memory of

In Honor of

Given to St. Matthews Lutheran Church by

Name _____ Address _____

Fund _____



**ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH
LITTLE ESKO LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
4 ELIZABETH AVENUE
ESKO MN 55733**

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