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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



ST. PETER'S NET JANUARY 2024

Beloved in the Lord:

The year 2023 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church could

be summarized with one word: *special*. It was a year with a lot of special projects happening among us. We welcomed our first vicar in four years. Both the parsonage and the vicarage received a new roof with new siding yet to come at the vicarage. Our congregation's preschool has a new dishwasher after months of patient waiting.

2024 will also be a special year. Our stained glass windows will soon be repaired for the first time since their installation 72 years ago. We will, God willing, receive our tenth vicar this summer, not long after Vicar Sinatra will be married to

his fiancé here at St. Peter's... a first in our congregation's history! Our church building will have her turn this spring to receive a new roof. Only God knows what else is in store for our congregation over the next twelve months.

The one thing that remains constant amid the many special things of the previous year is that our Lord Jesus Christ continues to feed us and to lead us in His preached Word. His Word holds us together and



grows us in grace. You and I have had front row seats the last two years as we have watched Jesus heal division

> among us in sermon and Sacraments. I take no credit in being a peacemaker. Our heavenly Father receives all the praise and honor for returning peace and stability to our congregation.

It's hard to believe that something so normal, almost mundane, brings us together and makes us stronger. But our Lord does His greatest work in what seems insignificant. Article 24 of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, one of the works that comprises our confession of faith called <u>The Book of Concord</u> says: "There is nothing that keeps people at church more than good preaching. The true adornment of the churches is godly, useful, and clear doctrine, the devout use of the Sacraments, fervent prayer,

and the like." The things we sometimes take for granted: listening to a sermon, attending a Bible study, receiving the Lord's Supper, praying at church and at home with your family, these are gifts from a gracious God that strengthen us in His love so we may love one another.

I'm not a New Year Resolution sort of guy. It's enough for me to live one day at a time, let alone try to keep a promise to myself for a year. *Continued next page*

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So instead of making a resolution that might be too much for us, let's you and I continue to grow in God's grace by being present in His house to receive His gifts of forgiveness and life. If you are inclined to make a resolution for 2024, why not join Vicar and me for regular Bible study? Why not volunteer your time on Altar Guild? Why not sign up to serve a Lenten Supper? Maybe you'll think of something I forgot to mention.

There will always be something special happening at St. Peter's, but don't overlook the normal things. That's where our Lord does His best work: forgiving your sins, strengthening your faith, and blessing the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. Happy New Year of our Lord 2024!

Your partner in the Gospel, Pastor Juhl

P.S.: Becky, our children, and I thank you for the many ways you showed your love for us this Christmas. Please continue to pray for us, as we pray for you. We love you, too!



This month, let us study a Transfiguration hymn that's been around for a few years. It is "Alleluia, Song of Gladness." To refresh, Transfiguration, which falls on January 21 this year, is the celebration of Jesus going up a mountain with Peter, James, and John. While there, his heavenly glory shines brighter than the sun, and his clothing becomes dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear and speak with him as well.

Liturgically speaking, Transfiguration is also the day where we say "good-bye" to the word "Alleluia". We now expectantly

await its return on Easter. This hymn includes an explanation of that goodbye and is as such, is sung as the closing hymn.



The author of this hymn is un-

known, but we do know that it was written around the 11th century in Latin. The version we sing in LSB was translated by John Mason Neale and edited for our hymnal. Neale was born in London, England in 1818. He studied to become a priest, being ordained in the Anglican church in 1842, but was never healthy enough to hold down a pastorate. As a result, he spent much time learning about theology, antiguated church architecture, and, most importantly to us, the translation of many medieval hymn texts. In LSB, 22 of our hymns are based on his texts, of which he has 400+ hymn contributions. Some of the more famous translations we use: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", "Of the Father's Love Begotten", "All Glory Laud and Honor", and "Jerusalem, the Golden." He succumbed to his long -time ailment in August 1866.

The tune for this hymn has been paired with LAUDA ANIMA, written by another Anglican, John Goss, in 1869. The tune was written for the hymn "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" but pairs wonderfully with this text as well. Lauda Anima translates from Latin to English as "Praise, My Soul." John Goss was born in Fareham. England. which is about five miles north of the English Channel and lie in the center of the southern coast. He was an opera singer in his early years, but soon turned to church music. He served as organist at St. Paul's Cathedral in London from 1838 until retiring. He was knighted by Queen Victoria upon his retirement in February 1872. He died in 1880 in London. He composed many choral works, wrote a few hymns, and is considered to be the last composer of his era to focus his efforts on writing music for the church.

Stanza 1 of the hymn expresses the joys that the word "Alleluia" encompasses. Alleluia is an interjection that means "Praise Yahweh". We sing in the second line, "Alleluia is the anthem Ever raised by choirs on high." Eternally, all choirs will forever praise God!

Stanza 2 starts off in the eternal bliss of our praises but brings us back to our life as redeemed sinners on earth. It closes with the line, "But by Babylon's sad waters Mourning exiles now are we." Recalling Judah's exile into Babylon starting in 587 BC, we, too, are not of this world, as Jesus reminds us in John 18:36. We are merely passing through. We certainly look forward to the day when our sorrows are no more in paradise.

Stanza 3 reads: "Alleluia cannot always Be our song while here below; Alleluia, our transgressions Make us for a while forgo; For the solemn time is coming When our tears for sin must flow." Lent is a time of repentance. We know we're sinners. We can't rid ourselves of our sin. We like to think we can, but it doesn't do us any good. We can only dig deeper and deeper holes for ourselves when we try to absolve our own sins.

But we know Lent is not the end of the story. Easter is just over the horizon. We know that full payment will come through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Stanza 4: "Grant us...At the last to keep Thine Easter With Thy faithful saints on high." We know we're not alone. We are not the first to tread here on earth. Many have gone before, including Jesus, our Savior. So, while we symbolically put Alleluia in the grave for a season, we rejoice that our salvation is accomplished for us in Christ! What a bunch of Alleluia, indeed!

> In His service, Cantor Geremy Zieroth



"New Year, New Me." This is the mantra of our society every January. Every year, people (at least half the U.S. population) make New Year's resolutions, looking to improve something about themselves. For many people, the desired area of improvement is cited to be physical fitness (about 48% according to Forbes)

with improved finances (38%) and improved mental health (36%) taking second and third respectively. And while most people feel confident in their ability to reach their goals (80% overall) and believe that sticking to said goal could have a positive impact for years to come (86%), few people keep themselves accountable to their goals (20%). While it is debated when "Quitter's Day" is, most people who take up a New Year's Resolution end up ditching their resolution about 3.74 months into the New Year. Only a very small minority keeps with their goals (6%).

Statistics aside, most of us are probably well aware that most New Year's Resolutions don't stick. Most of us probably have had a New Year's Resolution one year and quit before April. This writer certainly has! We all hear and perhaps have even said at one point, "New Year, New Me," but most of us probably think it's a big joke because of the dramatic irony of the statement. We all know the "New Me" of the "New Year" will become the "Old Me" next month. Even our recently-purchased exercise equipment knows it'll be covered in dust by next month and in a garage sale a few years from now.

So for us it is not "New Year, New Me," but rather "Same Me, Different Year." And this isn't just a thing for New Years Resolutions; this also seems to be the case in our lives of faith. Year after year we still sin, perhaps even struggling with the same pet sin as last year. We want to get rid of it, but we can't by ourselves.

But just as there is nothing new under the sun in this world, Jesus doesn't seem to change much either. Christ yesterday is the same as today; He comes with healing and forgiveness of sins. Through Christ, we change for the better. Zaccheus (the "wee-little man") was a swindling tax collector, and yet because of the mercy that Jesus showed him, he changed his ways giving back the money he stole and then-some. St. Paul was an ardent persecutor of the church, yet through the mercy shown him by Jesus on that Damascus road, his heart of hatred was changed. He went on to be the prolific writer of the New Testament and quite the churchplanter. And you will find that sort of transformation here at God's House, the Church. You'll find it in the proclamation of God's Word. You'll find it at the Sacrament of the Altar.

So if you take on any sort of New Year's Resolution, why not come to church? If you already come to church, don't stop now. And if you can't come to church because an ailment or immobility, let us know, and pastor and I will bring church to you. Unlike a New Year's Resolution, however, this is not a chore. Church isn't something you do but rather a gift for you. In that sense, it's less like a New Year's Resolution and more like a Christmas present. But instead of coming once a year, this present is available every week or more. So why not take it?



Yours in Christ, Vicar Sinatra



BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday mornings between services a Bible Study is held in the sanctuary. Stay after the early service or come early for the late service to join in.

Saturday morning Men's Bible Study is held in the classroom across from the office at 8:00am.

Ladies Bible Study is held on Tuesday's at 1:00 p.m. here at St. Peter's.

Join in this time of fellowship and discussion of God's Word.





"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."





Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean
- cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush

What you do:

- Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
- 2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
- With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
- 4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
- 5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



MASON JAR **Nightlight**

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

- 1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
- 2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
- Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
 When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.

St. Potovis

St. Peter's Child Care & Preschool Cathy Wendt, Director

Happy New Year to everyone from St. Peter's Day Care and Preschool. We are looking forward to an exciting year filled with new experiences, inspiring activities, and a whole lot of fun! After a busy holiday season, we are embracing a calmer month as we enjoy the snowy winter months to come.

The kids look forward to the monthly themes and this month we will learn about: Arctic Animals, who doesn't love penguins, snowmen and much more. We will even enjoy an indoor snowball fight. You are welcome to come join the fun! Volunteers to read stories, help with lunch, oversee craft projects and much more, are always appreciated.

We appreciate all the donations and gifts from our Christmas Wish Tree requests. The kids love the new rugs and especially the new books and toys. Your support of the Day Care center is a blessing to each of us everyday.









Did you Know Our Child Care & Preschool has a Wish List?

- Volunteers who love working with children
- Monetary gifts
- •Items on our Ama-

zon.com wish list <u>https://www.amazon.com/</u> hz/wishlist/ls/3AHJ7WTR7OX4C? ref =wl_share

- Gently used books, toys and dress up clothes
- Your prayers as we celebrate the new year!

DIVINE SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

January 7/81st Sunday after Epiphany1 Kings 8:6-13Psalm 100; antiphon: Isaiah 6:1; Revelation 19:6Romans 12:1-5Luke 2:41-52	Order: DSI, p. 151 Hymns: 523 - 410 - 402 - 401, 725 - 847 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth
January 14/15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Amos 9:11-15 Psalm 66:1–5, 20; antiphon: v. 4; 92:1 Romans 12:6-16 John 2:1-11	Order: DSI, p. 151 Hymns: 408 - 737 - 394, 399, 822 - 412 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Adult Choir
January 21/22 Transfiguration of Our Lord Exodus 3:1-14 Psalm 84:1–2a, 4, 10–11; antiphon: Psalm 77:18b 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Order: Order: DSI, p. 151 Hymns: 413 - 798 - 400, 414, 810 - 417 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: Handbells
January 28/29 Septuagesima Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 18:1–2a, 27, 32, 49; antiphon: vv. 5–6a 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5 Matthew 20:1-16	Order: DSI, p. 151 Hymns: 827 - 566 - 746, 680, 662 - 761 Organist: Cantor Geremy Zieroth Choir: All Sunday School Choirs



THE ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, January 28th 1:00 p.m.

- Election of Officers & Board members
- Adoption of the 2024 Budget
- Other items of business



St. Peter's is open and welcoming everyone to come to worship. We offer three Divine services:

Sundays at 8:00 am and 10:30 am, Mondays at 6:30 pm.

YOU are invited to come to worship for the outpouring of God's love and receive the Sacraments.

You have the option of giving online at StPetersArlington.org, with designated or automatic giving. Thanks for your generosity and support.



COUNCIL MINUTES December 12, 2023

The December 12, 2023 meeting of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church council meeting was called to order by President Cameron Gramse at 6:30pm. This meeting was held in the conference room. Pastor Juhl opened with a devotion from Isaiah 7. God with us – Immanuel. We were sent a sign – the child in the manger – that God is with us just as He promised.

The Agenda was presented. Bill Steffenhagen moved approval, Brad Larson second, motion carried.

Secretary's minutes were read. Bill Steffenhagen moved to approve the report, Bob Hagenow second, motion carried.

Financial Secretary's report presented by Bob Hagenow. We had a really solid November. General fund giving was 112% of the prior November giving and 91% of October 2023 giving, keeping in mind that October had 5 Sundays and November only 4. We currently sit at 101.4% of prior year current expenses offerings. This puts us at 88.4% of our 2023 predicted expenses. Online giving was 34% of general fund contributions. Mission giving is almost exactly equal to 2022 and while previous practice has been to send ½ of the excess to Mission opportunities and make the other ½ eligible for general operating expenses, that is not a bylaw and we would be free to use more than ½ if we had need to cover shortfalls in 2023. Paul Yamriska moved approval, Alex Rehlinger second, carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Meg Hanson. She pointed out that \$3200 was transferred from the Special Purpose Insurance Reserve account in November, this allowed us to finish the month with a positive \$3148. The current checkbook balance is \$9,294.38 and payroll this week will be covered. She then presented an offer from Paychex, a 45 year old company that specializes in church payroll and HR provider. At the current time we, the church, pay \$375 per year for the extra QuickBooks software to run payroll, The Child Care Center also pays that amount for the share that they utilize. With Paychex and their partnership with Concordia Plans Services, it would cost us \$535.20 per year, an increase of only \$160.20 or \$6.68 per pay period. After a long discussion, Bill Steffenhagen moved to go forward with integrating with Paychex effective January 1, 2024 with the understanding that the Child Care Center would be on board with the increase in expense. Benjamin Robinson provided the second, motion carried. Brad Larson moved to approve the Treasurer report, Bob Hagenow second, motion carried.

The Board of Elder's report given by Alex Rehlinger. Advent Sunday and Midweek services are going along well and all the Elder's have sent out their congregation cards and magnets with the holiday service schedule on them. The information gathering for the new directory is in the pricing process and moving forward with a spring production time frame. The Christian Women's Council Pie Sales event was a success as 22 pies were made and sold. There was no update from either the Military Care or Oakwood committees. Cantor's report: It's Christmas and music is flying everywhere. Every choir has a performance in the next two weeks, either at a specific Christmas program or service.

The Board of Trustee's Report was given by Keith Podoll. Dishwasher update: we finally have an installer ready to work on this project. An electrician has been consulted as well as a plumber so the potential to have a dishwasher in the downstairs kitchen by the end of the year is a possibility. The vicarage is updated with the new range hood having been installed, the old vent covered and Bill Manthey has been here to paint and repair the walls. The subject of who to contact for holding events in the church basement, child care area, was brought up. After a brief discussion, it was decided that whomever would like to hold an event would bring a plan forward to the Trustees with a head count as well as type of event and the Trustees will make sure that our insurance is complied with as well as making sure that the event does not exceed our capacity.

The Board of Christian Education report was given by Charlotte Reddeman. The State Child Care Stabilization grant has been approved and will continue through July 2025. Our center was also approved for the American Care Act, Military Assistance Program. "Kids' Night Out"



fundraiser was a success with \$350 raised that will benefit the Child Care Center. Beginning in January, Beth will reduce her hours to 2 days per week and John Bock will then be in to take care of the other 3 days of the week. Sunday School is in a 3 week break now but Christmas programs, "To Us a Child is Born" (upper grades) and "Silent Night, Holy Night" (lower grades) are going well, first practice was super successful. The Bike-a-thon raised \$1130 and that was used to order a family water system and a full herd of animals through Lutheran World Relief. Bible Studies, the Ladies just finished Proverbs, the Men are working through Genesis, and the Sunday morning group has finished the minor Prophets. Everyone is taking a Christmas break. The youth and midweek students did a fantastic job decorating the trees and the sanctuary. They were finished in about 45 minutes and then were treated to pizza.

Pastor's Report was given by Rev. David Juhl. Good news from the Madison North and South Circuit, Rev. Allen Strawn of Holy Cross, Bridgeport, NE accepted the call to Calvary Chapel, Madison and Rev. Greg Hovland of St. John's, Portage returned the call to Redeemer, Springfield/Nixa, MO (multi-site parish). Rev. Dusan Tillinger of First, Kingsville, Ontario is deliberating the call to Living Christ, Madison. Here at home, Advent Evening Prayer continues December 13th and 20th at 6:30 PM. This year's theme is "Peace Came to Earth". Lent begins Wednesday, February 14th. Geremy, Vicar, and Pastor will be selecting a theme sometime after the first of the year. He and Vicar had attended the South Wisconsin District Rural and Small Town Ministry Convocation in October. There will be an encore convocation on Sunday -Monday, January 14-15 in Manitowoc. Brad Larson will join Pastor and Vicar.

Vicar Report was given by Vicar Nicholas Sinatra. Much of his time is occupied by the same things as before, writing sermons, teaching and leading Bible studies, and helping Pastor with home bound visits. He passed his five month vicarage evaluation. Santa came early and brought St. Peter's a 50" flat screen courtesy of LCEF. Vicar's assignment is to get it mounted on the wall in the large conference room upstairs and get it programmed for us to use. Can be used for meeting graphics or slide shows, maybe even a Sunday School movie!

There were no membership changes.

Old business included the nominating committee has one name as a potential Trustee candidate. Budget committee update, Bob and Meg have received the 11 month numbers and are plugging them in to the projected expenses report and will share with the rest of the budget committee when they have time.

New business began with an announcement that Concordia Theological Seminary – Ft. Wayne is in the process of gathering nominations for President of the Seminary. Bob Hagenow moved to nominate Rev. Dr. Todd Peperkorn for the position, Bill Steffenhagen second, motion carried. That form was signed by Pastor Juhl and President Gramse and will be scanned and emailed tomorrow. Next item was setting the date for the annual Voters' Meeting to be held in January. Bob Hagenow moved to hold that meeting on Sunday, January 28th at 1:00 p.m., Meg Hanson second, motion carried.

Alex Rehlinger moved to adjourn, Brad Larson second, motion carried at 7:57 pm.

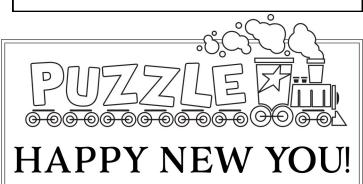
> Respectfully submitted, Lynnette Taylor, *Council Secretary*



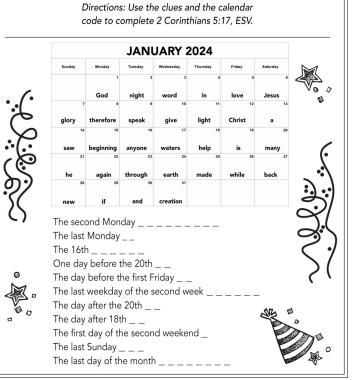
FINANCIAL REPORT CURRENT EXPENSE FUND:



Balance on Nov 30, 2023 \$4,23	9.41
Receipts for Dec (est.)\$23,55	
Expenses for Dec (est.)\$(18,90	
Shortage/Overage\$8,88	4.92



Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.



Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



The table in the narthex has a good selection of cards available. Stop by and check it out! There is a wide range of cards to fit every occasion, All proceeds go to the *Christian Women's Council* to help

support all their good works. There are also a small number of craft items available for sale. You may leave your cash or check in the basket on the table.

ELDERE

Jan 7	8:00 a.m.	Phil Kruger
	10:30 a.m.	Tyson Miller
Jan 8	6:30 p.m.	
Jan 14	8:00 a.m.	Benjamin Robinson
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Kruger
Jan 15	6:30 p.m.	Paul Yamriska
Jan 21	8:00 a.m.	Brad Larson
	10:30 a.m.	Alex Rehlinger
Jan 22	6:30 p.m.	Benjamin Robinson
Jan 28	8:00 a.m.	Bill Steffenhagen
	10:30 a.m.	Tyson Miller
Jan 29	6:30 p.m.	



January 7 & 14

Early

No Chairman Dave & Wesley Sandstrom Craig & Owen Wendt Glenn Puntney Riley Puntney Cody Puntney Todd, Justin, Hayden Taylor Logan Sandstrom Late No Chairman Nathan Campbell Noah, Haydin, & Lucas Vint Quamme Vint Quamme, Jr David Steinke Alex Rehlinger

January 21 & 28

John Caldwell, Chr. (635-4762) Mike Manke Dale & Tucker Johnson Mark Manke Tom Manke Herb Miller, Chr. (635-4557) Paul Yamriska Andrew & Josh Yamriska Jeff Anderson

Jim & William Plenty (Mondays)



JANUARY 608-635-4825 VOLUNTEERS

CHOIR, MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Practices are Wednesdays

Handbells: 6:30 pm Vocal Choir: 7:30 pm Help us make a joyful noise with your musical gifts!

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 No evening Divine Service	N	3 4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	4	ື້	6 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Epiphany 1 7 8:00 AM Divine Service	8 8	9 1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	10 4:00 PM Midweek	1	1	13 8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Epiphany 2 14	15	6:00 PM Bd of Ed 6:30 PM Council 7:30 PM Bd of Elders 16		18	19	20
8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service	6:30PM Divine Service	1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir	Identification (<u></u>	8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Transfiguration 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service	6:30PM Divine Service	1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir			8:00 AM Men's Bible Class
Septuagesima 28	53	30	31			
8:00 AM Divine Service 8:00 AM All SS Gr Sing 9:15 AM SS/Bible Study 10:30 AM Divine Service 1:00 PM Annual Voters' Meeting	6:30PM Divine Service	1:00 PM Ladies Bible Study	4:00 PM Midweek 6:30 PM Handbells 7:30 PM Choir			
	St. P Phone F-mail: stneterl	St. Peter's Luth Phone: 608-635-4825 E-mail: stneterluth@pmail.com	Lutheran Church 825 Fax: 608-635-2753 .com www.stnetersarlington.org	ton.org		Cecco Cecco
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