

# THE

# Messenger

January 2019

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH • ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA • 507-288-1580 • MOLIVE.ORG

*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## Bold Initiatives in the New Year

Mount Olive is heading into 2019 with much excitement. We are embarking on several bold initiatives that will have a significant long-term impact on our congregation and community.

First, as has been announced, we have been in serious discussions with Families First of MN to establish a daycare center at Mount Olive for traumatized children and a training center for daycare providers. Even now our properties committee is in conversation with Families First, hammering out the details regarding needed updates and renovations to our facility, start dates, policies and terms of our agreement. The goal is to have the day care/training center open and ready for operations by this summer. We believe that God has called us to play a significant role in addressing the need for affordable daycare in Rochester and this is the vehicle that God has placed before us.

Second, the leadership of the congregation has recently given their blessing to a bold outreach initiative to unchurched young adults in Rochester. We are committing ourselves to starting an Alternative Worshipping Community (AWC) at an offsite location in town. This community will hold weekly worship services, be involved in service projects, and generally be a sub-congregation of Mount Olive. The commitment to this new AWC has necessitated rethinking our call process and staff structure, and to this end we are now pursuing a clergy *couple* rather than an individual pastor, calling an Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry *and* calling an Associate Pastor for Outreach who will be the lead pastor of the AWC. We feel that God is calling us to this new initiative and we are happy to report that in early January we will be having a second interview with a clergy couple who has embraced this vision. Sadly, this new initiative means we will be saying goodbye to our Director of Children, Youth and Family, Kailea Mattheis, who has been a wonderful member of our staff for the last year and a half.

We believe that both these initiatives are a result of God's leading. They are evidence of the truth of our conviction that we exist for the sake of the world, to bring good news to the poor and to preach the gospel to all people. Blessed be God who has led us boldly into this new year.

Peace,

Pastor Glenn

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*Annual Meeting of the Congregation*

*January 27, 2019*

*Meal served by Women of the ELCA at 11:45. Meeting at Noon*

## Be an Advocate – Go to “Day on the Hill”, February 7

Registration for Day on the Hill is now open. The Day on the Hill is the single day each year when faith communities from all over Minnesota gather to lobby their state representatives on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised citizens of our state. The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition organizes this event and it has been proven to be a very effective way of reaching our legislators with our common concerns as people of faith. In order to register, go to [jrlc.org](http://jrlc.org) and click on “Day on the Hill”, which will lead you to the registration form. We will be carpooling from Mount Olive on February 7, leaving at 7:00 am, returning by 4:00 pm. Students are especially encouraged to attend at a reduced rate.

## Celebrate Mount Olive as Reconciling in Christ

On the weekend of January 26-27, Mount Olive will be having a celebration of our new designation as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. As part of worship that weekend, as well as at our Annual Congregational meeting, we will be lifting up this milestone in our life together and looking forward to what lies ahead. Plan now to join us in this milestone celebration. Invite your friends; it’s a celebration!



## Advocacy for the Common Good Training January 15

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm on **January 15** for an interactive presentation and robust conversation led by Katie Powell of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. As a part of the training, we'll explore:

- How poverty affects the Rochester area
- How we can work with the state legislature to make change
- Why we are called to advocacy work as people of faith
- What actions we can take to end poverty in MN.

This event is free. All are welcome.

### Open Budget Meeting January 13

If you would like to take a detailed look at the 2019 proposed budget, come to the Open Budget Meeting on January 13. Meet in the library at 9:15 am. This is an opportunity to go over the budget and ask any detailed questions.

### Annual Meeting January 27

Each year in January, our Mount Olive community gathers for a meal followed by our annual meeting. This is a time to reflect on the accomplishments and blessings of the previous year, and an opportunity to look forward to where God is calling us in the year ahead. In addition to the annual reports of ministry teams and staff, we will elect new officers to lead us in our mission and ministry. The Women of the ELCA will serve lunch following the 10:30 service on January 27, the meeting will begin at noon. Mark your calendars for this important gathering!

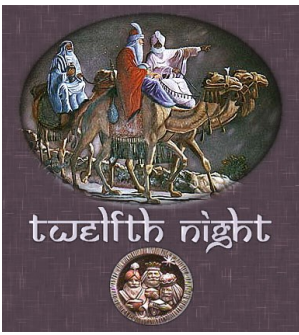
### 2019 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for anyone who is not a Simply Giver have been made available in the church entry and will be placed in your church mailbox if they are not picked up. Contact Bill in the church office if you would like envelopes or have any giving questions.

## Mount Olive’s Inclement Weather Policy

When the snow flies and the wind chill is -20 degrees, is there still quilting group? Metamorphosis? Bible study? Here are the quick rule-of-thumb guides for winter weather.

- If school is cancelled because of inclement weather, all church activities, including evening activities, are cancelled
- If school dismisses early and community evening events are cancelled due to poor weather, all evening church activities are also cancelled
- Worship on Saturday night and Sunday is rarely cancelled. In the rare event that this occurs, we will have notification on our website, [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org), our Facebook page, and on the KTTC television channel.
- Always use your judgment before driving in bad weather. If MNDot advises no travel except in emergency cases, please assume that means church activities as well.



## Twelfth Night Potluck and Game Night

Join the celebration of the Twelfth Night of Christmas on Saturday, **January 5**. The potluck meal will begin in the Fellowship Hall following the Saturday evening service at 6:00 pm. Table service and beverages will be provided. Bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share. Following the meal, we will have some time of fellowship enjoying board games or cards. You may also bring a favorite board game to share. Sign up in the Gathering Area to help with set up or clean up.

## Festival of Epiphany January 6

Observed among Christians as early as 215 AD, Epiphany is one of the oldest festivals in the church, with a rich tradition in the early centuries. In 2019, Epiphany (January 6) falls on a Sunday, giving us an opportunity again this year to observe this festival in worship. We will be observing Epiphany on Saturday and Sunday, January 5 and 6, in all of our worship services and celebrate God's revelation to all nations. Remember to wear white and gold, the colors of the day. And, as part of the weekend's festivities, you are also invited to join us for a Twelfth Night celebration after Saturday worship. Bring a dish to share and board games to play!



## Volunteer Update

Have you noticed some new faces serving in worship? Metamorphosis youth and their families, new members, and volunteers who attended the recent training have been among those recently serving. We are so thankful for everyone who helps the worship services run smoothly. However, there are always vacancies on the schedules. Is there a time that you could serve? At Mount Olive, volunteers select their service opportunities, time and date, via the online scheduling program, Sign Up Genius. If you would like to receive an invitation to Sign Up Genius or have any questions about volunteering at Mount Olive, please contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life. The current schedules are updated regularly and posted on the Mount Olive website, [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org), under the "Service" tab. Links to the Sign Up Genius schedules are also on the website. Consider yourself invited!!

## Godspeed for Jim and Pam Berg

At the end of the 10:30 am worship service on December 16, Pastor Glenn led a Godspeed and blessing for Jim and Pam Berg as they will be moving to Texas for Jim's work in early January. Jim was the current council President and Pam was the treasurer for the Women of the ELCA. They

were members of the choir and served in numerous volunteer roles over their years at Mount Olive. Pam was also a member of the staff for many years. Best wishes to the Bergs in their new community!



## Flowers in the Sanctuary

If you would like to provide flowers on the chancel in 2019, sign up at the Gathering Area cabinet where you will find the calendar and payment envelopes. You may place orders for special occasions or in memory of loved ones. Please write your name and the designation for the flowers on both the calendar and the payment envelope. Your envelope may then be placed in the offering plate or the office drop box. Thank you!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Service Project

The Sunday school students will be rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries for the 2nd Sunday of Service on January 13. Students will begin the morning in their Sunday School rooms as usual. Following music practice they will move to the Fellowship Hall to make bandages.

### Sunday School Offering Helps Global Ministries

Thank you to all of the Sunday School children who have been so generous this school year. The offering from September - December 2018 will go to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania for educational purposes. The offering from January - May 2019 will go to the Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO), also for educational purposes.

### Mitten Tree Thank You

Our neighborhood schools' staff and students thank Mount Olive's generous donors for the much needed winter garments to help keep students from needy families warm this winter: winter coats, snow pants, warm gloves, boots, hats, scarves, socks, jackets, and more. Your gifts put smiles on lots of faces! Thank you to Ann Willis and Pam Hansen for distributing the donated items and to the prayer shawl group for their many knitted hats!



### Thanks Bell Ringers

Thank you Bell Ringers for the Red Kettle Fund Raising Drive. Your time ringing bells has made a world of difference to those who are served by the local Salvation Army. Special thanks to Carrie Fletcher for organizing these events.



### Family Promise Hosting Weeks

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers for making our December host week possible. Even though we only had one family, your time and efforts made a huge difference to them!

Mount Olive's next **hosting** dates for homeless families are **January 6-13**. Many volunteers are once again needed for hosting, meals, and transportation. Please sign up online using the link below. The link is also available on the Service tab at [molive.org](http://molive.org). A paper sign up sheet highlighting open slots is on the table in the entry. Contact Erin or Jason Sinnwell with any questions-

[etracy515@hotmail.com](mailto:etracy515@hotmail.com) or [sinnweja@gmail.com](mailto:sinnweja@gmail.com)

Online sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/yabq5rwc>

### Family Promise Training

All volunteers who interact with guests need to have a current training on file. (Set up, tear down, and laundry volunteers do not need training) Volunteers can recertify by watching a refresher video on the Family Promise website. The next in-person training is at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Tuesday evening, **January 15** at 7:00 pm. Please come to learn more about this great program!

### 2019 Host Weeks

Mark your calendars for the host weeks for the rest of 2019:

**January 6-13**

**April 21-28**

**June 2-9**

**August 11-18**



## Food for Friends

Members of Mount Olive have been serving the children at John Adams Middle School through the Food For Friends Program for many years. Mark Schultze and Warren Kemplin, have supported it from the beginning and have been serving as co-coordinators. Thank you Mark and Warren for making sure that the program has continued. Mark Schultze is now stepping down, and we are very thankful for all the time and dedication he has given to make sure the backpacks and bags of food are filled each week during the school year. Thank you, Mark, for your many years of service. It is greatly appreciated. We now welcome Carrie Fletcher to the Food For Friends team. Her focus will be on scheduling the Food Packers, and Warren will continue to work with scheduling the Food Drivers. Sign-up sheets for drivers and packers can be found on the cabinet in the Gathering Area.

## Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits

Mount Olive has been collecting items for LWR since 1996. Since then Mount Olive has donated 1,020 Baby Care Kits! These gifts in the past have been sent to over 20 different countries to help babies in need. The kits are distributed as part of emergency relief efforts but they are also given to encourage expectant women to seek prenatal care. In the month of January, you can help welcome the littlest ones into a caring international community and swaddle them with love! Pick up a Baby Care Kit card in the Gathering Area this month to donate to Lutheran World Relief. Please contact Cathy Hanson with any questions or to volunteer to help with sewing or assembling kits. On Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> the Baby kits will be assembled on the 2nd Sunday of Service and blessed during the worship service.

### Sewing Night for Lutheran World Relief

On **January 8** at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, we will be gathering to cut, sew or serge LWR receiving blankets. If you are able to join us please bring your sewing machine/serger and cutting supplies. Two blankets are needed to complete each LWR Baby Kit so many hands will be needed. The sewing is just a straight stitch, so all abilities are welcome.



### Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

All knitters and crocheters are invited to attend our next meeting on **January 8** at 9:00 am. Yarn, needles, treats, and guidance are provided. The group meets from September to May to knit or crochet prayer shawls and hats. To request a shawl for someone who

is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, contact Peg Whitley - [peg.whitley@gmail.com](mailto:peg.whitley@gmail.com), or call the church office at 288-1580.



### Mount Olive Quilters

The quilters meet at 9 am each Thursday in the Fellowship Hall. They are grateful to have had several recent donations

of fabrics. They have pressed and cut the fabric and put together packages of quilt squares that need to be sewn together. Pick up a package or two to sew from the bin in the Gathering Area cabinet; directions are included. If you have any questions, call Sandy Schlenker at 529-8215.

## Sunday Forums in January

Each Sunday at 9:15 friends and members of Mount Olive gather in the Fellowship Hall for a discussion of some topic where faith and life meet each other. In January our themes are:

**January 6** – Deacon Travis Beck will again lead the forum on hymnody. Poor weather in early December kept many from this great opportunity for conversation, learning, and a bit of singing.

**January 13** – Service Sunday (All are invited to help with rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries)

**January 20** – Join Katie Powell, the Statewide Organizer with JRLC, as she discusses how we can use our identities as people of faith to create economic stability for all Minnesotans, particularly the most vulnerable. JRLC mobilizes religious communities to influence public policy for social justice in Minnesota.

**January 27** – Celebrating the History of Mount Olive anticipating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January 2020.

## Men's Discipleship

The Men's Discipleship group continues their study of Matthew on Saturday mornings at 8:30 am in the front Conference Room. This group, open to all men of the congregation, meets every Saturday morning during the program year for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. Contact Mark Masbruch for more info. - mmasbruch@hotmail.com.

## Study Hebrews with Pastor Glenn

The book of Hebrews is not a book many of us know well, and yet it contains some of the most important teachings we have regarding the identity and work of Christ, as well as the meaning of a life of faith. Plan now to join with Pastor Glenn as he leads a six-week study of this important book beginning on Wednesday, **January 9** at 6:30 in the church library. You can also come at 5:45 and enjoy a home-cooked hot meal in the church fellowship hall prior to the study. Books are \$7. Please look for the sign up sheet and book order envelopes in the Gathering Area at church.

## Faith Seeking Understanding (FSU)

Faith Seeking Understanding reads and shares conversations about a variety of books and videos on theology, spirituality, social justice, and Christianity and our changing church. The next meeting is on Tuesday, **January 8** at 6:30 pm. The group will watch and discuss a video presentation from the Faith and Life Series: *Without Buddha, I Could Not Be a Christian* by Paul Knitter. All are welcome to join the discussion; no preparation is required. Meet in the Mount Olive library. If you have any questions, please contact Kailea Mattheis, Director of Children, Youth, and Family at kailea@molive.org or 507-288-1580 ext. 207.

## Women of the ELCA News

Women's small groups (circles) will meet in January for Bible study and fellowship. The new year is a great time to join a group. There are 6 groups that meet at different times and days. If you are interested in joining a group and would like more information, please contact Renee Schaefer, Women of the ELCA president- vettelady54601@yahoo.com or Nancy Britson-nancy@molive.org.

**January 8** - Monthly study leader preparation with Pastor Glenn in the front Conference Room at 5:30 pm. Bring your Gather Magazine and a Bible. (Delayed one week due to New Year's)

**January 13** - Board meeting at 11:45 am, meet in the front Conference Room

**January 27** - Mount Olive's Women of the ELCA will serve a hot meal prior to the Annual meeting. The free-will offering will support the many benevolence programs the women's group is involved with. Help is needed for providing food, serving and cleanup. Members from each of the women's circles are encouraged to sign up in the Gathering Area to help.





## A Little Hope for Christmas!

On **December 16<sup>th</sup>**, Mount Olive's children and youth told the story of Christmas with a modern twist in *The Hope of Christmas*. The Christmas Program was written by Mount Olive's own, Jessi Hafeman, and directed by Dawn Farr. A big thank you to Jessi and Dawn as well as the students, their teachers and music leaders, and Kailea Mattheis and Travis Beck for all of their hard work putting the program together. The performance was enjoyed by all!



## Youth Trip Fundraising Update

Thanks to all of your support, the high school and middle school youth groups have raised just over \$850 for their summer trips. Thank you to all the families who came and had a fun evening with us during the Parents' Night Out Fundraiser.

A special thank you also to all those who baked and purchased goodies from the Bake Sale on December 15th and 16th. Your support for the youth means a lot. Again thank you for helping us raise funds for the upcoming summer trips.



## Metamorphosis Resumes January 9

Please mark your calendars for **January 9** for when Metamorphosis will begin the Winter unit on justice. Dinner is at 5:45 pm and class begins at 6:00 pm.

## Pub Theology Resumes Meetings

After a long hiatus, Pub Theologians will be resuming their weekly discussions on Monday evenings from 5:30-7:00pm at Hy-Vee on 37<sup>th</sup> St, beginning **January 7**. If you enjoy thinking about faith, life, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our world today, come join the group, led by Deacon Travis Beck. Meet us at the Hy-Vee Market Grill at the 37<sup>th</sup> Street Hy-Vee. Topics are always sent out a day ahead of time and can be found at [rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com](http://rochesterpublictheology.wordpress.com). Order food or a beer at 5:30 pm, conversation begins at 6:00 pm. See you at the pub! **Note that Pub Theology will not meet on January 21.**

## Ripe Olives Meet January 11

Ripe Olives is a group for Mount Olive's most experienced members, mostly retired folks. They meet the second Friday of the month September through May for fun and fellowship! On **January 11**, Jamie Rothe, manager of Destination Medical Center will present *DMC 101*, an overview of the largest economic initiative in Minnesota history and what it's impact will be on Rochester and our community. Breakfast will be provided with a freewill donation at 9:30 am and the program will begin about 10:20. Sign up at the Gathering Area cabinet. Contact Nancy Britson, Director of Congregational Life, with questions 288-1580 ext. 202 or [nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org).

## Adventure Club Happenings

The Mount Olive Adventure Club is a diverse and dynamic group of people of all ages that enjoy exploring a wide variety of activities. Be sure to pick up a Fellowship brochure to read about everything that is planned for 2019.

### January-Ski Trip to Welch Village on January 21

Do you want to have a real adventure? Join the crew for a trip to Welch Village on Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will load up and leave the parking lot at Mount Olive at 8:00 am, and return by 5:00 pm. Lift tickets for the whole day are \$38, rental fees for skis or snowboards are \$25, and helmet rentals are \$5. Everyone is encouraged to pack a lunch and/or snacks, as well as bring along money for hot drinks or other food. Pastor Glenn, who grew up skiing in Wisconsin, (but hasn't skied for a while!) is leading this adventure. Who knows, perhaps there will be a few pictures of wipeouts available at the end of the day. Please sign up in the Gathering Area at church, filling out release forms for minors, and indicate if you can drive.



**February - Save the Date for Bowling!** Set aside Friday, **February 8** for an Adventure Club bowling excursion. All ages are welcome to join us for some fun on the lanes! We'll meet at the Suites area at Bowlocity on North Broadway at 6:00 pm.



Travis Beck accompanied the carolers.

**December Adventure Recap -** In December, a large group from Mount Olive attended an excellent performance of *Annie* at the Civic Center. Another group went caroling on December 16, visiting several senior facilities that are home to some of our members.



Roger and Lois enjoyed a visit from carolers.



## Travel to Holden Village with Pastor Glenn and Ruth

Pastor Glenn and Ruth Monson will be leading a trip to Holden Village this summer. We have already reserved the week of June 10-15 (not including travel days) for members of Mount Olive. The rate for the week is as follows: \$76 per adult/per night (\$380/5 nights). \$56 per youth (6-17)/per

night (\$280/5 nights). Children 5 and under are free.

Holden Village is a wonderful Lutheran retreat center (home of Holden Evening Prayer) in the Cascade Mountains of eastern Washington. Inspiring scenery, music and worship, classes and lectures, and wonderful hiking all contribute to an outstanding experience for all ages. More information regarding travel will be coming shortly. Please indicate your interest on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering area.

**Please note that we need to submit a complete roster of participants by January 31!**



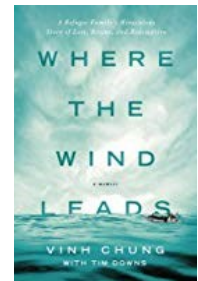
## Saint Lucia Sunday Celebrated December 9

On Sunday, December 9, Mount Olive celebrated the Festival of Saint Lucia. Special thanks to Naomi, Rachel, and Miriam Circles for preparing for the procession of Saint Lucia and serving the receptions following each service. Samantha Fletcher and Maiah Coil portrayed Lucia along with star boys CJ and Josiah Asleson, Noah Mannix, and Wyatt Laqua. Mint girls were Lina Oudekirk, Violet Kuehl, Harper Sinnwell, Sydney Hamann, and Georgia Welle. Check out the Mount Olive Facebook page for more pictures of the celebration.



## Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group gathers again on **January 14** at 6:30 pm in the library, for their monthly book discussion. The January selection is *Where the Wind Leads* by Dr. Vinh Chung. The first-hand account of a Vietnamese refugee who now lives the American dream. *Where the Wind Leads* is the remarkable account of Vinh Chung and his refugee family's daring escape from communist oppression for the chance of a better life in America. New readers are always welcome to join the group. Contact Jodi Schoer for more information, [mjschoer@charter.net](mailto:mjschoer@charter.net) or 288-1951.



## Little Leapers

Little Leapers, the fellowship group for parents and their children who have not yet started Sunday School, will gather in "The Pond" on **January 20**. The Pond is located in classrooms 3 & 4 of the Education Wing. The group will meet, 9:15 to 10:15 am, to share in caring conversation and fellowship as our little ones take a leap into faith. All are welcome! Contact Serena Oudekirk for more information: [serena.oudekirk@grarate.com](mailto:serena.oudekirk@grarate.com).



## Women's Christmas Celebration

Mount Olive women celebrated "A Women's Christmas Evening" on December 3. Mary Circle hosted the evening providing delicious treats and an engaging program led by Sherry Will and Karen Masbruch. Many pictures and stories of the mission trip to Tanzania were shared as well as a tutorial on wrapping a Tanzanian skirt and dancing along with Tanzanian hymns. There was also a brief business



meeting where outgoing treasurer Pam Berg was honored for her years of service and the 2019 budget was passed. An offering of \$600 was collected to support further mission work in Tanzania.



## Spiritual Care

Mount Olive has a Prayer Chain, coordinated by Kim Ignatius. If you have a prayer request and would like the prayer chain to be in prayer for you or someone you love, please contact Kim at: 507-271-6087 or [ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net](mailto:ignatius.kimberlie@charter.net).

**Please contact the church staff if you have any prayer concerns, including any names you would like included in the Sunday prayers in the bulletin:**

- Pastor Glenn: [glenn@molive.org](mailto:glenn@molive.org)
- Church office: 507-288-1580

## Christmas Season Thank You

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who made the Advent and Christmas seasons so special!

- Musicians for their beautiful musical offerings
- Altar Guild members for beautifully decorating the sanctuary and preparing for services each week
- Worship volunteers for helping the services run smoothly
- All those who served for Family Promise, Salvation Army, Community Food Response, neighborhood schools & more
- Fellowship volunteers for serving cookies and coffee
- Those who plowed the parking lot and kept the sidewalks clear
- All of the office helpers who helped prepare mailings, etc.

## Thank You!

Take note of the bulletin board outside the office door where a new crop of thank-you letters are posted. The most recent newsletter from our missionaries in Colombia, Curtis and Katie Kline, is also posted. It is heart-warming to read of the gratitude our mission partners have for Mount Olive and its' generosity.



## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW

Rochester, MN 55901

Office Hours: 9:00 am-4:00 pm Mon.-Fri.

9:00 am-noon Friday

507-288-1580

Website: [molive.org](http://molive.org)

### Worship Schedule

Services at 5:00 pm Saturday and

8:00 and 10:30 am Sundays

Education Hour 9:15 am Sunday

## Mount Olive Staff

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**Senior Pastor**

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