

The Voice of Hope

The newsletter of Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA
“Knowing and sharing the good news of Hope in Christ”

Pastor Daniel Severson



Dear friends,
 My letter to all of you this month is going to be a combination of “How I became a Lutheran,” along with a description of the next two adult classes. On Sunday, January 14th, we will begin our study of the book of Galatians having completed our study of

“Revelation” on January 7th. A complete synopsis of our study of Revelation will be available for those who might want one. The Galatians study will be based on Luther’s 1535 commentary on that book so I encourage everyone to buy a copy. You could also check out the one we have in our library. The second study, meeting Wednesdays at 1:00 pm will be on Christian Spirituality—what it is and how to practice it. We will focus on 1st John, select Psalms, select teachings of Jesus, and some passages in Paul’s letters. Using these biblical verses, we will look at ways we can come to know God rather than just know about God; We will look at ways to experience the presence of the Spirit in our hearts; We will look at the ways in which we change after having had an experience of God’s presence; And we will look at how we can become more authentic in our Christian faith so that life and belief are more consistent.

I became a Lutheran when I was baptized into the American Lutheran Church in April of 1955. In order to nurture my faith, my mother would read stories from the Bible most every night before I went to bed. As a family, we prayed at every meal, attended church every Sunday, and went to Bible camp every summer. My mother taught Sunday school, sung in the choir, and was active in the women of the church. My dad served on the church council, where he was often a trouble maker in terms of advocating for change. He also helped start the Bethel Bible Study for adults, and later, he was one of the leaders in the Search Bible study. Whenever we were out of town, they found a church to attend, and when they moved to California in 1975, the first thing they did was find

a church. I was confirmed in 1968.

My faith as a child and as an adolescent waxed and waned. At times, I was totally committed. At others, I wondered if any of it made sense. My involvement with the institutional church pretty much ended after I was confirmed. I had gotten involved with a peer group whose home lives were a disaster, and church was definitely not in the picture. Of more interest to me were fast cars, playing pool, and some other things I won’t mention.

After graduating from High School (It was really a social promotion), I moved to Los Gatos, California to live with my older brother who was well on the way to a successful career in business. His goal was to become a CEO one day, which goal he reached years ago. I didn’t have a goal so I went to work flipping burgers for “The Red Barn” franchise. Less than a month after starting this job, I became deathly ill, was promptly put in the hospital, and given about a 25% chance of survival. God was yelling at me, and He got through. As if he were some kind of prophet, the doctor advised me to go to college so I enrolled in West Valley Community College in Saratoga, CA. After vainly trying some business classes, I got interested in philosophy and psychology. I read and read and read. A whole new world was opened up to me. However, the professors at this school were so hostile to Christianity, that there was hardly a lecture where some kind of snide remark was not made about Jesus and the church. This did not bother me. It only made me want to dig in further so that I might better understand the faith that had been planted in my soul.

To make a long story short, in the summer of 1975, I visited my other brother who was living in Orlando, Florida. He was married, had one child, and worked as a physical therapist. He introduced me to books by Barth, Bonhoeffer, Kierkegaard, Tillich, Luther and some commentaries on the Bible. One night, unable to decide which way I should go: make a leap of faith, or reject the whole thing, I felt the Spirit of God in my heart and that decided the matter once

and for all. From that time forward, I became convinced that the detractors of the Christian Faith didn't even know what it was they were speaking out against. This was like the Children of Israel who had just been freed from Egyptian slavery but still had a long journey ahead of them through the desert: a place where they would either rely on God or perish. The faith my parents gave me was now mine. However, this was only the beginning of the journey.

In the upcoming classes on Galatians and spirituality, we are going to look at what it means to go through the desert while relying on the grace of God. I believe you will find these gatherings helpful for your own journey. I hope you will join us.

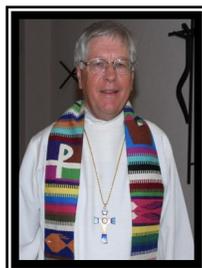
Blessings,
Pastor Dan

“Threat or Promise—John the Baptist”
Pastor Paul Michaelson



 Photo credit to Skip Dahl

Pastor Paul Michaelson



I don't know about you but for me I gave up making resolutions for the new year. It got to be too depressing! I choose to select more short-term goals, like what do I want to accomplish in the next month or two. What about you?

Well, that is to say that we do have self-expectations. And as Christians, we are called to be “purposeful.” Do you like that word? There are a lot of good “p words”, like ‘persistent,’ ‘patient,’ ‘pursue,’ ‘perseverance,’ ‘practice.’ Pick one or two....

Perhaps you can ask the question, “What is the one (or 2-3) things I am going to do this year that I didn't get around to last year?”

And reflect on how you are making a difference in the lives of others.

Psychologist Erik Erikson has written that people in their later years have to choose between “stagnation” and “generativity.” And he defines stagnation as thinking only about ourselves: How do I feel today? What aches? Who calls me, who ignores me? He says generativity, on the other hand, is “being concerned about the next genera-

tion and what sort of world we are leaving them. Generativity serves to pull us out of ourselves and gives us a role to play in the world.”

2018 beckons us to be active and to make a difference. It happens in the congregation and in the communities all around us. God empowers you to do so

The Seniors Planning task force has made plans from January through March.

In January we will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 12:30 to 2 pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring a salad to share. The program: Relate your family story. Our lunch-outing for the month will be on Thursday, the 18th. We will have lunch at “Kabul's” in Belmont. Car pool at 12:30 or meet there at 1 pm.

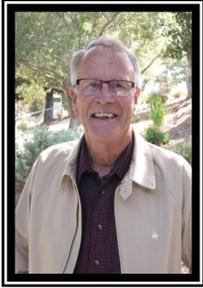
Please be sure to sign up so that a reservation can be made. We have many interesting suggestions for programs and activities that can be shared when we meet.

God bless!

Pastor Paul



From our Council President



I have to admit: this is my favorite time of year. One of many terrific things to experience is the beauty of our church sanctuary and Nielson Hall – all decked out for our Christmas services and activities. Hats off and many thanks to all the people that participated in making this festive transformation of

Hope into a space that we can experience and reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we move past Christmas and into the new calendar year, it is exciting to share the news that we have been presented with additional opportunities to share our Hope facility and campus with others, adding to the several groups which already use our facility. One new use will be to serve as a satellite site for Bible Study Fellowship. BSF is an international, interdenominational organization whose mission is to study the Bible in depth, with the plan of fostering a passionate commitment to Christ, His Word and His Church in the individuals that attend. Many in our congregation have participated in BSF over the years. The primary site for women is at the Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City which meets on Wednesday mornings while the one for men is at Menlo Church which meets on Tuesday evenings. To provide a broader outreach, the organization has designated a number of satellite sites to facilitate attendance in additional communities. Beginning this January, the satellite site for men in San Mateo will be at Hope and will be held each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:55. On these evenings, the BSF team will be at the church from 6:00 to 9:00 to allow for setup and cleanup. Note that they will be meeting in the education building when we have special events such as Lent. These meetings will include both a session for an ongoing discussion of scripture in small groups and a lecture by Jeff Jones. Jeff's lecture each week will be a video of the lecture he presented at Menlo the previous night. I attended the series the year before last on the study of Revelation and while I found it very rewarding it was a little tiring driving down 101 in the evenings. Having the meeting at Hope will be much nicer. This year, BSF is studying the book of Romans. I encourage the men in our church to join this fellowship begin-

ning January 10. They welcome new people at any time. The website for BSF is www.bsfindernational.org.

The other group that will be meeting at Hope is the Goshen Christian Church. Goshen is a Mandarin-speaking church which originated in Beijing China as a "house-church" in order to escape interference from the government. The group worshipping at Hope will essentially be a mission church for Mandarin-speaking people who live mostly in the San Mateo/Foster City area. Pr. Dan has met with their Pastor, David Wei, and their congregation. He was pleased to experience their orthodox theology and enthusiasm about worshipping at Hope. Goshen's weekly service will begin at 4 every Sunday; Pastor Wei will use the library in the education building for two hours each Wednesday beginning at 11:00 am. They have graciously indicated that they will provide us with funds for use of our facility. The website for their church is www.goshencc.org and their pastor's Facebook account is www.facebook.com/Davidweikalyong.

The use of our church for these new groups has been reviewed and approved by Council and by Pastor Dan. I thought that my article provides a good opportunity to explain to the congregation what will be happening. Both groups have indicated their respect for the use of our facility and will adapt usage, accordingly. If you are on our Hope campus Sunday afternoons or Wednesday evenings and see some strangers, please give greetings to both the Goshen Church congregants and the BSFers, respectively.

Blessings,

David Phillips



From our Choir Director



January and September are months of a clean sheet of paper and ambitions to try new things. New Year's resolutions abound and we are anxious to try new things and make new starts. September has similar opportunities, but in January we are more open to try new things. If you are thinking about starting new things, we would love to have you become a member of the choir or Bells of Hope. We always need new people, and we really do have a good time as well as enjoying our own fellowship. In addition to making our own fun,

we rejoice in serving the congregation through music. It is a very enjoyable way to serve, and of course we love to make music. Bells meet at 6:45 on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary and choir meets at 7:45 in the choir room. We have plenty of empty chairs just waiting for you.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Shirley Fitzgerald
The Chancel Choir
The Bells of Hope



Facebook and YouTube for Hope!

As some of you may know, Hope Lutheran Church has a much more active Facebook page! In an effort to build up our presence on Facebook, please like our page as well as our weekly posts which are updated each Wednesday! You can find our page at www.facebook.com/hopelutheranchurchsanmateo.



Hope has also recently created a channel on YouTube. My goal is to post videos of the Sunday service as well as other church related videos and begin to post them regularly. Please support both our YouTube and Facebook pages by "Liking" and Subscribing! You can find our channel by going to YouTube and entering "Hope Lutheran Church San Mateo" in the search bar.



Audio Sermons now available online!



Missed one of Pastor Dan or Pastor Paul's great sermons? Want to hear them again?

You can listen and re-listen to recent sermons, which are now being posted as audio sermons on our website!

<http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/>

Audio sermons for other recent Sundays can be found here:

<http://hopelutheransanmateo.org/worship/sermons/sermons-archive/>

Just click on the headphone icon of the sermon you want and the audio bar will appear. Click the play button on the audio bar and enjoy!

The most recent three sermons are posted on the bottom of home page of the website:

Hope Lutheran Church Women's Christmas Dinner!

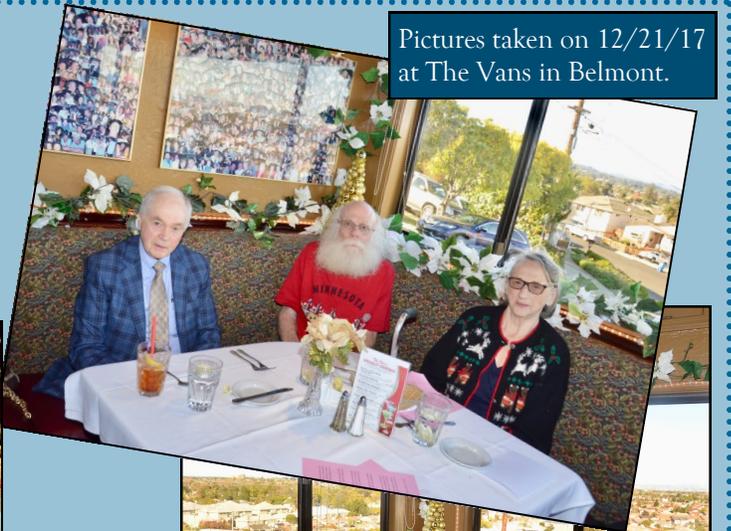


Pictures taken on 12/5/17 at the HELC Women's Christmas Dinner in Nielsen Hall.



Photo credit to Maggie K Timeus

Seniors Luncheon at The Vans!



Pictures taken on 12/21/17 at The Vans in Belmont.



Photo credit to Maggie K Timeus

Preschool Corner



The school is on vacation but we wish you all a very Happy, Healthy New Year!

Blessing, Jeanne



Stewardship

The Generosity Effect: tidbits from a June 2017 article by Margaret Poe

That feel-good boost you get from volunteering? It's one of the many benefits linked to living generously. There is a happiness left. When compared to people who never volunteer, the more people volunteer the happier they are.

Keep moving. After 2 years of volunteering, female volunteers walked an average of 1,500 more steps per day than women who didn't volunteer.

Heart benefits. Older adults who volunteered at least 200 hours in the previous year were less likely to develop high blood pressure.

What do you get from giving back? Positive outcomes include: less stress, less depression,

more social connections, longer lifespan, better quality of life, higher self-esteem, and better brain function.

Don't overdo it. If your volunteer commitment is overly time consuming or stressful it may take a negative toll on your health and well being. Balance the time you spend giving back with your commitments to family, friends, and work. No matter what your age, you can benefit from donating your time to a worthy cause.

Jerilyn Struven
Stewardship Chair

The most
important
things in life
aren't things



A message from our Financial Secretary

We have had a beautiful response to the Matching funds campaign that a member of the congregation so graciously challenged us to help close the gap on the budget shortfall for 2017. The anonymous donor offered to match all monies beyond amounts pledged up to \$10,000. Our members responded by contributing \$11,955!! Our church is truly blessed with benevolent, giving members.

A big THANK YOU to the original challenger and to all those who 'stepped up to the plate' .

God Bless!

Linda Harvey
Financial Secretary



The Voice of Hope Birthday listing

If you do not want to have the month and day of your birthday listed on Hope's monthly publication, The Voice of Hope, please call or email the church office!



HLCW Circles

Lydia Circle is open to women of all ages and stages; Evening or weekend meetings; Our schedule is flexible. Location: Hope Youth Room
Contact:

Mary Circle
3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Martha Welch

Sarah Circle
3rd Tuesday of the month 10:00 am
Location Varies
Contact: Lois Nieman

Celebrating birthdays in January

Anne Hermansen 1/1
Bob Smith*
Holly Hermansen 1/4
Ann Haritatos 1/13
Mehri Vatanparast
Verena Brauen 1/18

Stewart Hoffheins* 1/19
Jack Coyne Jr. 1/20
Anders Voss
Margo Kannenberg 1/21
Bob Paulus*
Gregory Pedro 1/21
Jerry Butler 1/25

Douglas Johnson 1/27
Marilyn Johnson
Gilbert Schroeder 1/28

Names in bold = our brothers/sisters turning 90-90+ years!

* = Friend of Congregation



Spark Time Sunday School in November

Children from Kindergarten thru Grade 6

dismissed to Sunday School during Sending Hymn and
join parents in Café Hope after approximately 30 minutes of study and activity.

Date	Theme	Scripture
January 7	Simeon and Anna	Luke 2:22-40
January 14	Jesus the Word	John 1:10-18
January 21	Jesus' Baptism	Mark 1:4-11
January 28	God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3:1-20

Ministry Assistants

Date	Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants	Readers	Spark Leaders
1/7	Mary Phillips	David & Mary Phillips	Bill Hroziencik	Monika Hastings
1/14	Jack Coyne	Jerry Milner Skip Dahl	Hank Harper	Jessica Stucke Emma Worthge
1/21		Tom & Deb Stucke	Lisa Sallander	Hank Harper Ken Struven
1/28	Eric Hoover	Mark & Erica Grimstvedt	Monika Hastings	Sandi Kane

Youth News

2017 certainly ended on a high note for the youth program at Hope. By all accounts, our Youth-led service and International Brunch on December 17 was a success. The service was enjoyable and well attended, we had good participation from our youth and their families, the food was plentiful and delicious, and we raised over \$900 for the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston. This gives us a good start toward our \$4500 fundraising goal. I would like to extend a HUGE thank-you to Sandi Kane for recruiting volunteers and keeping us organized! I am so appreciative to your ongoing dedication to our youth programs at Hope. I would also like to thank our youth volunteers and our lefse-making crew!

Youth service and brunch helpers: Caitlin Holl, Emma Worthge, Erica Lin, Henry Lin, Matthew Stucke, Noah Lin, Owen Sallander, Paige Holl, Rachael Stucke, and Riley Sallander.

Lefse making crew: Deb Stucke, Sally Worthge, Peggy Shomaker, Paige Holl & friend Brianna, Frank & Erica Lin, Vicky Hanson, The Voss family, Helena Dummler, Jerilyn Struven, and Marlys Jungroth.

Our next youth event will be the Palm Sunday Brunch on March 25. I am also excited to announce that Lighten Up Lutherans will be returning to Hope on April 29. I am hoping for a big turnout from our very talented youth. Please start thinking of your act – this event has not failed to entertain in past years, and I'm sure the 2018 show will be just as fantastic.

Wishing all Hope families God's Blessings in 2018.

Judy Jeschke



Why I Am a Lutheran?

My Norwegian father, John Thorson, met and married my mother, Moya Chalmers, when he was stationed in England during WWII. They moved to the United States and began their life together, and I was their first born. I grew up in Albert Lea, Minnesota. I was raised Lutheran due to my father's influence and guidance. He made sure I went to church every Sunday, no excuses. His motto was similar to that of our mail carrier. "Through wind and rain, sleet and snow, I will deliver the mail", or in my case, be delivered to Sunday school and church every Sunday. Because of this I had eighteen years of perfect attendance. Our church, Grace Lutheran, offered incentives for good attendance. Therefore I earned a New Testament, a Bible, a Hymnal, and a Lutheran ring.

I was active in Luther League, and when faced with where to continue my education after graduating from high school. I chose a Lutheran college.

My home church, Grace Lutheran gave me a small scholarship because I chose a Lutheran college, Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. After receiving my B.A. in Speech and Drama, I be-

gan teaching high school in Spring Valley, Minnesota.

I moved to California after doing some post-graduate work, and received a Master's Degree in Communication. My father was very proud. I was the first one in the family to earn an advanced degree. I have been a life long Lutheran. I joined Hope after I moved to California, and became very active serving multiple terms as Congregational President. My sons Ryan and Jason Reed were baptized and confirmed at Hope. When my husband, their father, Robert John Reed passed away in 2015, there was only one place they wanted his memorial service, Hope Lutheran.

Two Lutheran Churches: Grace Lutheran and Hope Lutheran. Why Am I A Lutheran? It was divine providence that I had a father that helped shape my beliefs and faith journey. I am blessed! Thanks be to God!

Karen L. Reed



Dear Hope Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your generous donation of 10 children's comforters! Thanks to your support, the Children's Fund will serve more than 4,500 low-income and foster children, infants to age 18, in San Mateo County this year and provide them with items such as backpacks and school supplies, holiday gifts, baby clothes, diapers, and more. The Children's Fund relies on the kindness of businesses and individuals such as you to provide children with those things that are not available through public funds.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Haro
Executive Director, Children's Fund

Dear Hope Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous participation in the Lutheran World Relief October 2017 Northern California Ingathering! God has blessed LWR with you and your congregation; your donation will help relieve suffering around the world.

Sincerely,

Marge Johanson
Key Leader (Volunteer)
Notheran California Ingathering
Lutheran World Relief

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

As we come to the close of another great year here under the redwoods, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Mt. Cross. Because of your generosity, this summer we were able to provide over 700 campers with a week of faith-filled adventure at camp and in 12 church communities. Over 1300 people enjoyed the beauty of our site through our rental ministry. God is truly present in this place!

Thank you for being a part of the Mt. Cross story. We are so grateful for the prayers you have showered us with in this time of transition, and we ask that you would continue to hold the camp, the staff, and those who will be impacted by the ministry of this place in prayer as we move into the future God is calling us to. We're honored to have served you for the past 70

years, and look forward to our future together!

Blessings,

Rev. Marvin Abrahamson
Mt. Cross Board of Directors, President

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gracious gift to ELCA World Hunger!

You continue to reform, reconcile and renew this ministry with your faithful generosity. Thank you for always keeping the spirit of giving in the ELCA—both yesterday and tomorrow.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous contribution! Your donation enables us to continue to provide pastoral care, counseling, referral and crisis intervention every night of the year when anxiety and adversity can be most extreme, and when so little is otherwise available.

May God's unlimited love continue to bless and sustain you.

Peace be with you,

The Rev. Lyle J. Beckman
Night Minister

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

Many thanks to you for your recent donation of 27 Holiday Boxes to CALL Primrose.

We are so appreciative of your support, which enables us to continue our mission of helping those in need within our community.

Thank you for thinking of others.

Gratefully,

Terri Boesch
Executive Director, CALL Primrose

Upcoming Events

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Sundays @ 11:45am

Our Bible study class will meet after Café Hope in the educational building.

We will be covering Paul's letters to the Galatians and the Philippians. The former covers essential ideas in Paul such as justification, the Holy Spirit, new life in Christ, and Christian ethics. The latter was written by Paul while he was in prison and is perhaps his most joyful letter, speaking of the love of Christ. Class begins on January 7th.

Valentines Dinner

Save the Date! Hope Lutheran Church will be hosting a Valentines Dinner on Sunday, February 11th at 5pm.

Details regarding the venue will be soon to follow. You will not want to miss this!

Seniors Ministry—January 2nd

On January 2nd, the Senior's Ministry will be holding a Salad Potluck luncheon! Please bring salads to share for all to enjoy. The program will be on genealogy and sharing one another's family heritage.

Confirmation Classes, 5 - 7pm

Confirmation classes will be jointly hosted at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Andrews and Hope. The schedule is as follows:

January 21—Good Shepherd
Any questions, please contact
Pastor Dan Severson.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Wednesday @ 1pm

On January 10th, a new Bible study class will meet in the Youth Room. We are going to learn how to read the Bible as a personal address from God to us. There are many ways to use the Bible in a devotional way. Some include prayer. If this interests you, please join us on January 10th!

Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast meets the first and third Saturday of each month in Nielsen Hall. Breakfast is served at 7:30am and the study begins at around 8:00am. We will be completing our study of Luther's "Large Catechism" on Saturday, February 3rd. On January 20th, we will complete our study of the Lord's Prayer and on February 3rd, we will look into the meaning of the sacraments in some detail. **THIS ONE'S IMPORTANT. BE THERE!**

On Saturday, February 17th, we will begin our study of a wonderful book entitled, Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about God But Were Afraid to Ask: The Jesus Edition, by Eric Metaxas. The author became well known for his biographies of Martin Luther (just out this last October), and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and another Christian book entitled Miracles. I highly recommend all of these books.

Everything You Ever Wanted... is written in the form of a dialogue. A seeker, who knows very little about the Christian Faith, asks many questions for which the author provides an answer. I'm quite sure you will enjoy this book, so please come to the Men's Breakfast. It meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 7:30-9am. There is always good food and a lively discussion.

Seniors Luncheon—January 18

On January 18, the Seniors Luncheon will be at Kabul Afghan Cuisine in San Carlos! If you are interested in carpooling to Kabul's, meet at the church at 12:30pm. Otherwise you can meet at Kabul's at 1pm. Sign ups will be in Nielsen Hall or you can call/email the church office to have you name added to the list.

BOOK CLUB

The book club at Hope meets every first Thursday of the month, at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. This month's book is If I Had Lunch with C.S. Lewis by Alister McGrath. In seven chapters, we have a discussion with C.S. Lewis on a variety of topics such as the meaning of suffering, friendship, and the meaning of Life. This book is available on Amazon: audio if you prefer to listen rather than read. Please join us for a discussion of this great book!

Hope Lutheran Church
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January 2018

Voice of Hope Deadline for February edition: Friday, January 19



Hope Lutheran Church

650-349-0100

Email: helc@pacbell.net

www.HopeLutheranSanMateo.org

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Sunday School at 11:00 AM



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