

January 2023

Volume 20, Issue 1

# Parish Visitor

Belfield Lutheran Church · Daglum Lutheran Church · Medora Lutheran Church

## *From the Pastor—Merry Christmas*

*Winter* - Christmas worship 2021 was extra special with a first communion celebration in Medora. New basement windows were finally installed in January, which was a surprise that weather cooperated since this installation had been postponed from August and then again from October. I traveled to Camp of the Cross with Dawsyn Malkowski as representatives of the Badlands conference for our Synod LYO board. In February, war broke out in Ukraine. We supported our neighbors from the Ukrainian community by participating in fundraising and prayer, and we continue to light blue candles on the altars in Belfield and Medora in prayer for our neighbors. In March, our Lenten midweek services focused on remembering the promises of baptism. The parish office wallpaper was stripped, and painting was completed, thanks to some community service work. New furniture was donated, and the office was reorganized. Our youth group (Jr High and High School students) participated in some great game nights and a photo scavenger hunt! Check out the April Newsletter for some great photos!

*Spring* - I continued to publish Devotions from the Badlands on Facebook every other week this year, with topics ranging from prayer for rain, safety for ranchers in the spring blizzard, and for new life with calves and other little creatures being born. 59 yrs after the initial service was held in the current building, Belfield Lutheran celebrated a re-dedication of the church building with all the new windows and siding. In the process of some mortar work being done on the outside of the building, Rex Hugelen discovered time capsules that had been buried! We opened those time capsules at this dedication to discover an old newspaper, a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet, a bulletin from the original dedication service, a copy of Luther's Small Catechism, and some pages from the Bible. Such a fun discovery! Don't worry, these time capsules were re-buried with a new one which included some recent newspaper clippings, a copy of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet, and a signed copy of our re-dedication service. Holy Week services included Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday (online due to blizzard), and Good Friday, before our joyous Easter Sunday with all the music of Medora and a special band playing in Belfield. In May, the parsonage received a new roof and gutters! After discovering some missing shingles, we were thankful to receive some insurance coverage and spent a little extra to replace badly damaged gutters. Thank you! In May, I spent some time in continuing education at Camp Metigoshe for First Call Theological Education. This month we celebrated with several graduating seniors as they completed this milestone in their lives.

*Summer* - We were able to fix some broken deck boards on the back deck at the parsonage, and the deck was cleaned and repainted. Early June, I attended our Synod's annual assembly along with delegates from Medora and Belfield. Medora held their annual Car Show BBQ, with proceeds donated to support relief for Ukraine. Summer was busy in the church with funerals, Vacation Bible School, a



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Sunday School Program
- First Communion
- Santa Lucia Celebration
- Annual Meetings
- Women's Retreat
- Thrivent Financial Visit

**Bring your Bible to Church on 1/8/22. There will be a Bible Blessing during Worship!**



Carolers from Belfield Lutheran Church: Top L to R: Maci Wanner & Dawsyn Malkowski. Middle L to R: Natalie Layton, Pastor Dawn & Darnyl Malkowski. Front L to R: Carmen Waldo, Lillian Beck & Jenna Beck

youth trip to Montana, and planning for fall weddings. Check out the August Newsletter for great pictures of these youth events! Belfield Lutheran also finished the new flooring improvements which had been planned for over a year. What a great facelift! We discovered some leaking in the Pastor's office, and hopefully this was fixed. The new basement egress window was installed at the parsonage, and extra dirt removed was used to fill in the landscape outside pastor's office wall where the leak was experienced. At the same time the egress window was installed, work was done on the downstairs bathroom at the parsonage which had incurred significant water damage years ago. The walls were repaired, new paint and flooring freshened it up and it feels much cleaner and comfortable. Belfield hosted a blood drive in August which was a well-attended community event. WELCA hosted a Pavilion supper in July and the Parish hosted one in August. Both were well attended and such a great opportunity to gather in community.

*Fall* - Our parish also served the opening meal for the annual Rostered Leader's Gathering in Medora at Badlands Ministries. Daglum Lutheran hosted a fall dinner, and all three congregations supported the Badlands Ministries Fall event. After three weddings in Belfield and one in Medora, our Belfield WELCA served a fall supper, and several of our young people attended the Synod LYO gathering in Minot. We had a great time with guitarist and guest speaker Tony Memmel. A few Medora members shared "light" (handing out glow sticks and candy) with trick-or-treaters on their trek around Medora businesses. At the end of October, eight of our students were confirmed

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. *1 Corinthians 13:13*



Choir Sing in Medora at Badlands Ministries  
Choir members L to R: Pastor Dawn, Lantz Hurt, Anna Ross, Sherri O'Brien and Carmen Waldo

in an affirmation of baptism service. We celebrated all the saints we lost this year on All Saints' Sunday, and concluded the church year with a walk through the church seasons on Christ the King Sunday.

Advent began in our gospel of Matthew, and we look forward to Matthew's teaching in the coming year. Medora Lutheran participated in Cowboy Christmas and offered "eats on the streets" along with Christmas music and carols. Daglum ladies had a Christmas party, complete with gifts and goodies. The Belfield Choir participated in the Badlands Ministries choir sing and caroling. Belfield Lutheran participated in Belfield Christmas by hosting a pancake breakfast and finishing the day with a shadow nativity by our great students and the Belfield choir, followed by a small group of carolers who visited a few people in town. Santa Lucia girls helped tell the story of St. Lucy from our Scandinavian heritage, and Belfield Choir sang her song. Great times of fellowship followed these celebrations. December concluded with a Belfield Choir program, a kids Christmas program, and Holy Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. What gifts this year has held!

*Prayer for 2023:*

*God of Light and Life, we give you thanks for your love and grace that flows over us whether or not we deserve it. We give you thanks for the strength and perseverance we have in Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, to do this work you call us into together in community. We give you thanks for your presence with us and your promise to stay near us. Guide us with your wisdom in the coming year, in order for us to love you with our whole hearts and to love others as you love us. In Your Holy Name we pray, Amen.*

*Happy New Year!*

+ *Pastor Dawn Busch*





Thank you to those who donated food, their time and money towards the Belfield Lutheran Church Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Thank you to those who supported the event by joining us for delicious pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee! Thank you to Trapper's Kettle for donating the pancake mix again.



*Happy  
New Year*

## *Belfield Lutheran Altar Guild*

*Thank you to Amanda Johnson and Sara Bock for*

*Serving in December*

*Serving in January*

*Doris Urban and Heidi Kukowski*

*Anyone Can Join the Altar Guild!*

*See Jean Franklin for details.*

**BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETARY**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### We Need Help With

- A Sexton
- Mowing
- General Upkeep
- and more!

The Belfield Lutheran Cemetery is looking for an apprentice Sexton. Wes Schurke, the current Sexton, would like to begin teaching someone what needs to be done to take care of the cemetery and what to do in the event he is not available when a family is in need of a plot.



**Let's Join Us!**

If you are interested in learning this very important job Please contact  
**Cory Smith at 701-590-4662**

# INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

Travis Olson,  
Financial  
Professional with  
Thrivent, will be in  
Belfield to let us  
know what Thrivent  
can do for us.

Did you know Thrivent has funds available for us to use in fundraisers? Did you know Thrivent has savings opportunities for us?

Travis will join us for worship and share a brief presentation for us at coffee hour. He will be available for questions and answers.

**Come and find out how  
Thrivent can help you!**



**Belfield Lutheran Church**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2023**

# Sunday School 2022 Christmas Program

at Belfield Lutheran Church

Thank you to our Sunday School Children and their teachers for putting on a beautiful program again this year. Sunday School is held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings at Belfield Lutheran Church.



**Congratulations to Hazel, Violet and Molli  
on their First Holy Communion  
at Medora and Belfield Lutheran Church**



Our Belfield and Medora congregations rejoice with the following young people who joined in sharing the meal of holy communion on Christmas Eve: In Medora – Hazel Kasian, daughter of Rebecca and Mark Kasian Violet Kasian, daughter of Rebecca and Mark Kasian. In Belfield – Molli Johnson, daughter of Amanda and Kwirt Johnson

# Santa Lucia Celebration

A Celebration held at Belfield Lutheran Church on December 18th, 2022.  
Thank you to Rubi Johnson, Maci Wanner and Taya Jung for celebrating as Saint Lucia.

Although Lucia's life was in Sicily, she became known and celebrated in other countries, particularly in Sweden. There is speculation that stories of Lucia's brave faith were brought to Sweden by traders and even Vikings after their journeys to Southern Europe. It is believed that Lucia and her feast day were adopted as a bearer of light at the beginning of the dark, cold Swedish winter.

Some of you may not know that Belfield Lutheran Church began as early as 1883. Rev Norby traveled about 95 miles to hold a service now and then. At the time Norby saw there weren't enough people to establish a church. He came back in 1889, when there was and did occasional services. Services were also held in Norwegian households along Norwegian Creek southeast of Belfield. At a meeting on March 4, 1907, settlers organized an official congregation which was called the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. There were 39 charter members. The first church building was built in 1909 when the first American born Lutheran minister, the Rev. Henry Thorpe started having services in English. Morning services were done in Norwegian and afternoon services were held in English. In 1963 the current structure was built.

So now you know – we celebrate Saint Lucia here at Belfield Lutheran church in honor of our Scandinavian heritage.

Santa Lucia (Saint Lucy) is a Catholic saint who was born in Syracuse, Sicily, in 283 AD and was martyred at the age of 20. Though she lived a considerably short life, she is still celebrated in different parts of the world almost two thousand years later.



*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.  
Proverbs 12:19*

St. Lucy, whose name Lucia refers to "light", suffered a martyr's death in Sicily around AD 310. Her feast day, which coincided with the shortest day of the year prior to calendar reforms, is widely celebrated as a festival of light. Falling within the Advent season, Saint Lucy's Day is viewed as a precursor of Christmastide, pointing to the arrival of the Light of Christ in the calendar on Christmas Day.

**Today's Lucia celebrations** involve the oldest daughter of the family dressing in a long white robe with a red sash around her waist, along with a crown of fresh greens and lit candles worn upon her head. The young lady rises before the rest of the family and serves them traditional *Lussekatter* (Lucia buns), ginger cookies, and coffee. In many villages and towns across Sweden, there are Lucia processions and concerts and the celebrations signify the beginning of the Christmas season.

It has been said that we should think of St. Lucia Day as a stopping point in a busy season, a time to remind ourselves that the coming of Christmas is a celebration of the spirit and not of the shopping mall. It is a time of sharing and giving of ourselves and a reminder to be that ray of light to others, family, friends or strangers we pass on the street. You never know when a compliment you give, a simple "Hello" to a stranger, a small gift or gesture of kindness, will change someone's life. Today, let this little celebration be a reminder of the light in our lives - as love, promise, hope, and joy as a beacon of light in the darkness to those around us.



*Medora Lutheran Church,  
"Eats on the Streets" during  
Cowboy Christmas.  
Photo by Sarah McLaughlin*



# UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS 2023

## CHURCH MATTERS

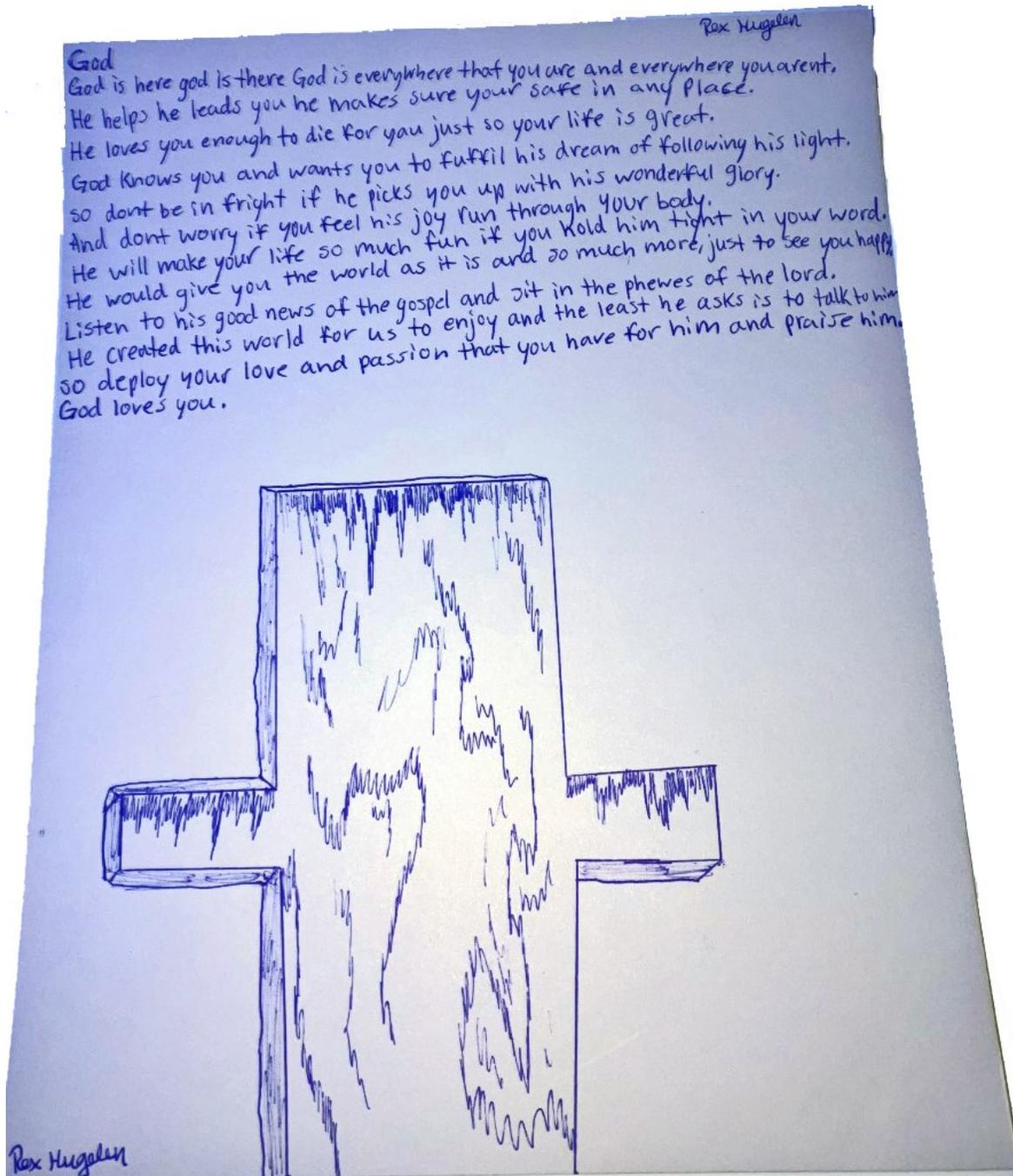
Parish Annual Meeting - January 8 11:30 a.m. at Belfield Lutheran Church

Daglum Annual Meeting - January 15 After Worship

Belfield Annual Meeting - January 22 After Worship

Belfield Annual Meeting - January 29 After Worship

The presence of voting members at annual meetings is greatly encouraged as we elect council members, discuss the future and make decisions on items important to the ongoing health of our parish.



All Belfield members are invited to assist in ushering.



It is an opportunity to get acquainted with fellow members and greet all who come to worship by welcoming every person. It is a JOY: Psalm 84:10 states, "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." You will not be alone; the rest of the team will work with you to assure you feel comfortable. You can volunteer by contacting the church office or just show up! Dale's feelings will not be hurt, and in fact it might make his heart happy to see others stepping up to help!



**Visitors to Medora Lutheran Church.**

**Photo taken by Terry Dwelle**

*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.  
Proverbs 12:19*

## *In our ongoing prayers...*

The family of Dwight Lindbo • The family of Mary Sherer • Al Urban  
The Schuhrke family • Doris Urban • Brad Johnson • Randy Mosser  
Bishop Craig Schweitzer • JoAnne Suomala • Philip Malkowski • Steven  
Cowan • Dave Kuntz • Denise Cowan • Dale Oyhus • Mary Knotts • Bryce  
Wigert • Norma Newton • Lanie Nichols • Margaret Braun • Johnny  
Syminow • Mark Hinrichs • Nicole Koegl • Lincoln Lee Johnson  
Duane Davis • Marilyn Oyhus • Carmen Ruud • Mindy O'Brien  
Becky Yadon • Monica Hushka • Mark Trechok • Janeen Nichols  
Carol Johnson • Bennette Mansfield • Chandler Nichols

Please continue to pray for those who have lost their jobs, those with mental illness, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops & those working for peace in our world.

***Please help us keep this prayer list active.***

To add a loved one to the prayer list for next month's issue, please fill out a prayer request slip during worship, making sure to indicate your desire to have the request published in the newsletter, and place it in the offering basket or email us at [newsletter@belfieldlutheran.org](mailto:newsletter@belfieldlutheran.org)



**(in) Still**  
Be still and know that I am God.  
Psalm 46:10

Keynote Speaker  
Rev. Lisa Lewton

**Saturday,  
January 21  
10am - 4pm**

Pause to recharge your spirit for the new year at this one-day event to breathe and reflect on God's blessings!

Life can be a whirlwind with the routine responsibilities of work, children, marriage, church, community, and just generally adulting! Our keynote speaker, pastor and author Rev. Lisa Lewton, will guide us through the benefits of reflection and gratitude, and the promises of grace and faith, all while giving an infusion of hope and encouragement for the tasks of daily life.

There will be time for worship, interactive breakouts, lunch, and renewing conversations. This is a great chance for women of all ages to take a break, be still, and take what you need.

Register on-line at [instillflcminot.eventbrite.com](http://instillflcminot.eventbrite.com) or by calling the church office at 852-4853. Cost is \$25 and includes a copy of Pastor Lisa's book and lunch. Register before Christmas to save \$5!

On-site childcare will be available!  
Children must be pre-registered.  
\$20/child or \$40 max/family

First Lutheran Church ~ 120 5th Ave NW ~ Minot, ND 58703  
[www.flcminot.com](http://www.flcminot.com) ~ 701-852-4853

Please join us at BLC for a Youth Gathering  
Time: TBD

**YOUTH NIGHT**

Come join the fun!

LIVE IN PERSON JANUARY 16TH  
Belfield Lutheran Church

Online Giving for BLC has just gotten easier! Scan the QR code below and you will be taken to the Belfield Lutheran Church secure Vanco payment site. Thank you to Carmen Waldo for setting this up!



Choir Sing in Medora at Badlands Ministries  
Choir members L to R: Pastor Dawn, Lantz Hurt, Anna Ross, Sherri O'Brien and Carmen Waldo. Jean Franklin plays the piano on the right.

# January

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Worship</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> 8:30 am – Medora 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	2	3 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	4 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran	5 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	6 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	7
<b>Worship</b> 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am – Belfield 11:15 am – Choir Practice 11:30 am – Parish Annual Meeting at BLC 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	9 6:30 pm – Belfield Council Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	10 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	11 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran	12 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	13 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	14
<b>Worship</b> 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 9:00 am – Choir Practice 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	16 Youth Gathering – contact Pastor Dawn for details	17 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	18 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran	19 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	20 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	21
<b>Worship</b> 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am – Belfield 11:15 am – Choir Practice 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	23	24 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	25 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran	26 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	27 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	28
<b>Worship</b> 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am – Belfield 11:15 am – Choir Practice 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	30	31 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	<b>Annual Meetings</b> <b>Jan 8, 2022 – 11:30am – BDM Parish Annual Meeting at Belfield Lutheran</b> <b>Jan 15, 2022 – 1:00 pm – Daglum Annual Meeting</b> <b>Jan 22, 2022 – 11:30 am – Belfield Annual Meeting</b> <b>Jan 29, 2022 – 9:45 am – Medora Annual Meeting</b>			

Belfield Lutheran Church  
Daglum Lutheran Church  
Medora Lutheran Church

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*Parish Visitor*  
*January 2023*

TO:

*January 2023 Worship Schedule*

1	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Worship
8	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Bible Blessing Day
15	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Worship
22	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship
29	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship

*Thank you to*  
*Ren & Laurie Baranko*  
for sponsoring this edition of the  
Parish Visitor.

*In Memory* of Ben Lawyer,  
John & Alice Meisner and Mike  
& Betty Baranko

.....  
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