



# Annunciation of Our Lady

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Magnificat

Feb 2017

## Important Date

Sunday, February 5th - Scout Sunday @ 10:00 am Service  
 Sunday, February 12th and 19th, Reaching In, Reaching Out  
 Sunday, February 26th - Fat Sunday Celebration

## From Our Rector

Elizabeth Molitors



A few weeks ago, on January 1st, the Peanuts cartoon strip of the day featured Snoopy the dog engaging in his own annual review process. Perched atop his dog house, pen in hand, Snoopy fills out the paperwork he's required to submit each year to the head beagle, answering questions about what he accomplished in 2016:

\* How many rabbits have you chased? (Snoopy is embarrassed to admit that his number is "none.")  
 \* How many cats have you chased? (Sadly, none, again.)  
 \* How many owls did you howl at? (Snoopy is pleased to report that this number is 12, although he only really saw two of them.)  
 \* Did you take part in any fox hunts? (Snoopy says he didn't want to risk getting trampled by a stupid horse, which is why he didn't participate.)

The last part of the questionnaire, though, is the most important, and it's the part that Snoopy says makes him uncomfortable, because it asks, as he describes it, very personal questions. Questions that get at the heart of what it means to be a good companion animal: How did you treat your master? Were you friendly with neighborhood children? Did you bite anyone?

Today's annual meeting and Annunciation's annual report are the church's version of Snoopy's paperwork for the head beagle. We make note of our finances and our 1 ministries, the worship services we offered, the outreach projects we initiated, the fellowship activities we planned. We answer a bunch of "how many this" and "how many that" questions. But underlying all of these pages of numbers and

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Sunday Night Live



February 19th, 5-7pm.

information is a more fundamental question: are we who say we are?  
Are we being who we believe ourselves to be - a community  
committed to warmth and welcome, relationship and true hospitality?  
Are we building on our strengths, and striving to become more and  
more who it is that God wants us to be?

My hope - and my committed belief - is that the  
answer to all those questions is and will  
continue to be (it's one of my favorite words!) a  
resounding YES!

Because what I saw and experienced when I  
had my final interview here - exactly four years  
ago today (1/29) - was a congregation that,  
when asked to face up to a challenging situation  
or embrace a new idea says, "well, sure - let's  
give it a try."



Our "Yes" gives God something to work with. Change and growth and  
transformation and justice come from saying "yes." "Yes" moves the  
story forward. "Yes" helps bring God's vision of the world into being.  
"Yes" is a Kingdom of God word.

Yes.

And with that word in mind, I began to see our annual report in a  
slightly different way: not as just a description and enumeration of  
projects and activities that took place this year, but as a celebration of  
our collective Yeses:

- \* **Yes**, I will take communion to that person at home or those people at Sunrise.
- \* **Yes**, I will feed the homeless.
- \* **Yes**, I will give my money and my time to this church and other causes that I feel strongly about, not because they need my financial support or time commitment (although they do) but because spending and giving away what is most important to us is one of the things that makes us spiritually whole.
- \* **Yes**, I will listen to the friend who lost their job or is struggling to take care of an ailing parent.
- \* **Yes**, I will help maintain this building so that lights always turn on and heat always pours out and toilets always flush.
- \* **Yes**, I will take a meal to the family with the new baby or the person recovering from surgery.
- \* **Yes**, I will work to solve that problem instead of saying, "You know, someone really ought to do something about..."
- \* **Yes**, I value the spiritual development of our children, and yes I will help with Children's Chapel or Sunday Night Live. \* Yes, I will get out of my pew at the peace, and greet the person I don't know.
- \* **Yes**, I will jump into an open-ended commitment to provide music for worship, after Ron Lemke's retirement, even though I have no idea how long I'll be asked to fill in (thank you Elaine, and Ron, and Betsy).
- \* **Yes**, I will sing my heart out, whether it's an old favorite hymn or something new that Dent is teaching.
- \* **Yes**, I will introduce myself to the newcomer at coffee hour, and try to learn something about them and help them feel at home, because I remember what it was like to be the new person in a foreign land.

Our Annunciation-specific "Yeses" continue the "yeses" we took on at our baptism - to share in the Eucharist, to share the Good News of God, to seek out and serve the Christ that is in every person, to fight for justice and make the world a place of peace where everyone has the opportunity to pursue their "yeses."

Now, "Yes" can feel vulnerable, and "Yes" doesn't come with any guarantees. "Yes" carries us out into a dim, unknowable future. But, to



**Sunday's at 9:00 am  
In the education room**

**We have GREAT discussions  
Come join us**

### **Rector's Study Groups**

The Rector's Study Groups -  
meet **Wednesday** mornings at  
**10am** and **Thursday** evenings at  
**7pm**.

**Winter:** Accidental Saints: Finding  
God In All The Wrong People by  
Nadia Bolz-Weber

### **Book Club 2017**

February - The Relic Master by  
Christopher Buckley

**West - Mon Feb 6th @ 7pm**  
**East - Mon Feb 20th @ 6 pm,**  
**Postesta's**

March - The Love Song of Miss  
April - Queenie Hennessey by  
Rachel Joyce  
May - The Marriage of  
Opposites by Alice Hoffman  
June - Mrs. Poe by Lynn Cullen

### **Lunch Bunch**



**Date:**

**Wednesday, 2/22/2017**

**Time: 1:00pm-2:00pm**

**Location:** Lunch gathering for  
women of the parish at 1 pm.

Location will rotate and date  
will be 4th Wed of each month.

For reservations contact Jane  
Schaefer at 224-372-7940 or at  
[cs.is@comcast.net](mailto:cs.is@comcast.net)



borrow and adapt the metaphor that the author E.L. Doctorow used in talking about his writing, our "Yes" is "like driving at night in the fog. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way.

" Yes, indeed we can.

Thank you for all of your past "Yeses" and those yet to come. I am grateful to be here with you, humbled to serve alongside you, and eager to join my "Yeses" with yours, 4 to continue our life and work together, in praise and gratitude to God who says "Yes" to all God's people with abandon.

## From Our Deacon



Linda Lutter

The great and fierce mystic William Blake said, There is no greater act than putting another before you. This speaks to a selfless giving that seems to be at the base of meaningful love. This act of "putting another before you" not only is a gift to those we assist, it is a gift to us. Outreach is like an exercise that strengthens our heart, mind, and spirit. There is something that is given to us when we reach out to others. It is truly hard to explain ... a joyful spirit comes to mind. For me I don't sweat the small stuff as much, I am less stressful and lower in anxiety. Which allows me to be a spirit of love and kindness more often than not. I have found that the entry for January 30 in "Jesus Calling" says it quite nicely, Whatever occupies your mind the most becomes your god. Worries, if indulged, develop into idols. Anxiety gains a life of its own ... If our intent in this life is to be who God wants us to be by loving and caring for God's people then the "exercise" of Outreach would benefit us all. Annunciation offers a multitude of ways that we can "put others before you" or to at least take steps to start including them in our lives.

- We have PADS the third Friday of every month that allows us to purchase food ... and/or cook the food ... and/or deliver the food ... and/or serve the food to the homeless people who come to St. Marks Lutheran Church on Delaney Road.
- We have a service every Sunday at Sunrise Assisted Living in Gurnee where individuals or a team of people or a family from Annunciation presides at short service for the residents.
- The last Saturday of every month we have reserved the 9am to 11am slot for Feed My Starving Children ... 2 hours of bagging and boxing food to send off to locations where people are starving.
- Three times a week picking up the day old food from Starbucks and delivering them to shelters.
- Every Sunday individuals or teams visit the parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital, or in assisted living.

If you see something you would like to try please let us know (Rev. Elizabeth, Jan Harastany, or myself) and we will be happy to assist you in making it happen. Lent is only a few weeks away ... you might want to try one or more of these as part of your Lenten journey ... and you might just want to continue ... they are a such a blessing in my life.

God's Peace and Love,

Great food this past month -  
come join us!

## Outreach Opportunities

### Feed My Starving Children

for I was  
**Hungry**  
and you  
gave me food...  
Matthew 25:35

If you would like to be a part of this ministry of feeding the hungry please join us. Mark your Calendars ... Here are the Saturday dates,

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**  
**+February 25, 2016**  
**Last Saturday every**  
**Month**

God's Peace and Blessings!  
After the packing session for FMSC, Sat Dec 31 New Years Eve, there will be a New Yeras Eve Party for all the people who attend. The party will be just down the street from FMSC @ Deacon Linda's house. Please let her know if you are planning to ovolunteer that Sat and come to the party afterward.

[lindalutter@hotmail.com](mailto:lindalutter@hotmail.com) or  
text/call @ 847-340-3253



**PADS**  
LAKE COUNTY  
Helping the Homeless Find a Way

### Meal for December

Our next PADS meal will be  
**Friday, February 17th.**

The dinner menu will be Baked  
Chicken, Red Potatoes and Gravy,



## From Our Sr. Warden

Deb Gallinger

2017 has begun with a bang. It started a bit early, on New Year's Eve, when 30 parishioners and friends met at the Feed My Starving Children site to be part of a team that produced over 21,000 meals for hungry children. They then enjoyed a wonderful New Year's Eve lunch at Deacon Linda's home. On New Year's Day, Dent Davidson, our new Leader of Song, officially joined the congregation for the first time. In the middle of January we were pleased to welcome Reverend Karen King back to our church while she was on leave from Tanzania. Rev. Karen gave stirring sermons and informed many of us at the adult forum about the challenging life in Tanzania and the service was enriched by inspirational hymns in honor of the Martin Luther King holiday. We were pleased to be able to donate over \$800 to assist her in her ministry in Africa. We also welcomed our seminarian, Shay Craig, to Annunciation, and while we hope to offer her experience in a small but thriving parish, we also look forward to benefiting from her considerable experience in congregational development. Our enthusiasm was tempered with the loss of two of our parishioners. We mourned the sudden death of a kind and gentle man who had dedicated himself generously to our parish community and who had just retired to enjoy his post-work life in Florida. We also lost a strong and feisty long time parishioner after a lengthy illness, an outspoken, enjoyable lady who offered her opinions quite frankly at our SIS meetings. As we embark on the year to come we look forward to new projects in the capital campaign, creative and inspiring worship with our expanded worship team, many and varied outreach initiatives and enjoyable fellowship with each other. I am convinced that new possibilities and experiences will present themselves and we will be encouraged to deepen our commitment to God, to our community and to each other. I believe we are an exceptional parish and we will rise to any opportunity we find. The future will be exciting indeed. As Dent says, Buckle Up!



Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables and Applesauce.

*We will begin cooking at 2:00 in the church kitchen. Sign-up sheets are posted on the PADS easel for donations to contribute to this meal, along with cooking, delivering or serving. Thank you! See you in the kitchen!*

~ Cheri Johnson

## RECAP

### HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

#### Cookie Walks



#### Ornament Exchange Party

## From Our Leader of Song

Dent Davidson

### As seasons change

One of the great things about the Episcopal Church is the fact that we observe and live a liturgical calendar; a cycle of seasons that are intended to focus our lives in certain ways. We are in mid-Epiphany now, and our focus is on light and the call to discipleship. The climax of this season is always the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, in which we experienced the Christ, transfigured in glorious light and splendor: A mystical vision of our Lord conversing with Moses and Elijah - He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Immediately after that mountaintop experience, the story changes, with Jesus leading the way to Jerusalem during the season of Lent. The first Sunday finds Jesus in the wilderness being tempted. The remaining Sundays bring us the stories of people whose lives were



changed when they encountered Jesus. It's clear this season is designed to help us meet Jesus and open ourselves to transformation as well.

Our liturgy at Annunciation will shift in Lent as well, in order for us to make room for more transformation in our lives personally, and as a congregation. Keep in mind that, while Lent is indeed the only penitential season of the Church Year, when we gather on Sundays we are still celebrating and proclaiming Jesus' Resurrection.

We will begin in silence, with a simple procession from the side. (except for Lent I, when we will chant the Great Litany in procession) By the time we get to Palm Sunday we will be **READY** for a big parade!

The first music we will sing each week is a glorious Russian Orthodox **Kyrie**. Rich 6 part harmonies give this Kyrie its full meaning, both as a song of penitence (Lord, have mercy upon us) and as a shout of praise (Lord, have mercy!!!)

We will pray the **psalms** in a new way as well. We will start with chanting on a single pitch, learning to listen to one another, and take the words of the psalms into our bodies in new ways. Listen for the sound of the shruti box (literally, *Breath Box...and instrument from India*) which will accompany us as we chant.

We will return to reciting the **Nicene Creed** in unison. And the **Prayers of the People** will have a sung refrain between petitions, with words in Spanish and English. (*Oyenos, Señor* = Hear us, Lord) We will pray the *contemporary* version of the **Lord's Prayer**. You'll find it side by side with the traditional version. This will prepare us for a lovely sung version of the newer translation during the Great Fifty Days of Easter, before we return to the beloved Albert Hay Malotte version in Pentecost and beyond.

The **Sanctus** and **Fraction Anthem** are both from recent American tradition known as "Paperless Music." This refers to music that is easily sung by all, because they are "lined out." This is an oral tradition as old as time itself. A line is sung to the congregation, and the congregation echoes each line: simple, and beautiful!

As the seasons change here at Annunciation, may our worship call us into deeper relationship with our Lord, with one another, and with the world.



## Meet Our Seminarian

Our New Seminarian  
Shay Craig



Dear Friends and Future Friends,  
I am so thrilled to be doing my field education work at Annunciation! This congregation has a reputation for warm hospitality, deep and meaningful worship and a congregation that embodies a joyful discipleship. In addition, as a woman entering the priesthood, I cannot imagine

a better role model or mentor than Elizabeth Molitors. Thank you, thank you for welcoming me into your midst.

I am currently a "postulant" for the priesthood. There are a lot of steps along the road to becoming an ordained leader in our church. There is the discernment process in the parish level and then some steps and tests required by the diocese culminating in a "discernment weekend." Following that weekend, you are made a postulant and asked to do some "formation" to help further your understanding of your life as a leader in the church. As part of my formation, I am taking preaching and liturgy classes at Bexley-Seabury and Garrett-Evangelical this spring and next fall. Also as part of my formation, I



**BUNCO**



have been placed here as your seminarian for my field education work. After my field education, I will hopefully be made a "candidate" and then in January 2018, I will take the General Ordination Exam. Believe it or not, there are more steps after that exam. You'll have to forgive me if I just can't face enumerating right now.

I live in Evanston with two high school freshman children, Caden and Jamie, and two cats, Pea and Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.



I have two college sophomores as well, Sam at Lake Forest College and Emma at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. I work full time as a church fundraiser on the Bishop's staff and in my free time I travel, read, and

dance swing and lindy hop, when I get the chance. I do not know how to play Bunco, but I don't imagine it will be very long before I do!

Over the course of my time with you I hope to be involved in your church family in every way. I look forward to sitting in on the Confirmation classes this spring and to attending SNL. I hope to play a role in adult formation plans both this spring and next fall and to participate in vestry, finance and stewardship committees. If there is something we do here that you are passionate about, I would love to hear about it and to learn from you about what brings you joy in that practice, program or activity.

Please feel free to stop me and introduce yourself. I am trying very hard to get to know names. And please feel free to reach out to me at [Shay.Craig@Yahoo.com](mailto:Shay.Craig@Yahoo.com).

Faithfully and with great joy!

## NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Dale Sanders, RN



### RESOLVE

My current nursing assignments are to "wellness" clinics for various organizations. We check Blood Pressure, Body Mass Index, Cholesterol, Triglycerides, and Blood Glucose. Our suggestions for maintenance and improvements in these important

"numbers" include: consulting a physician, losing weight, improving diet choices, managing and coping with stress, and appropriate physical exercise. It's important to note that EXERCISE can improve all these areas of our lives.

SO Nurse Dale says consult your physician to determine any restrictions on your exercise, THEN DO IT!! Walking is a great way to exercise. A few thing to remind you are: go skiing with Dale, use the stairs not the elevator, and buy a dog--the dog will remind you when you need to go for a walk.

Please make walking your resolution and have a HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!

## February



**Sock it to Me Sunday -**  
Thank you to everyone for helping to make our socks outreach such a great

## Sunday, February 5, 2017



### A Scout is Reverent

So what is SCOUT SUNDAY and why do we observe it?

627

*The Boy Scouts of America program (started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907), annually celebrates its founding date of February 8, 1910 on the first Sunday of*

*February. The Scout Sunday tradition is to make people in Houses of Worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live into their "Duty to God" pledge. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.*

So how does this involve Boy Scouts of Troop 627, Cub Scout Pack 1627 and the parish members of Annunciation?

Both the troop and pack are chartered by us (Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church). The Scouts will play a roles in the 10:00 am service on Sunday, February 5th as well as host coffee hour. We ask all current and past scouts within our parish to wear their uniform (if they still fit).

Yours in Scouting, Brian Penticoff

*success. We collected 622 pairs for men, women and children!! They were all distributed to PADS and to The Veterans' Closet along with our huge assortment of toiletries and it was all very much appreciated and always needed. The containers for both items will be available in the narthex for any future donations. If you have any questions, please see Sue Whipple or Miriam Berry. Thank you !!*

### Visit From Rev. Karen King



## "Soup"er Bowl Sunday

February 5



Churches and community organizations around the country unite on Super Bowl Sunday (February 5) to remember the food insecure in our communities. On Sunday, February 5th, please bring with you cans of soup (or other canned food items) to be donated to our outreach partner, The Warren Township Food Pantry. Youth who are preparing for Confirmation this spring will be in the narthex with soup pots to collect your soup or other offerings.

## Reaching In, Reaching Out

Reaching In, Reaching Out On **February 12th and 19th**, Order your Annunciation "Congregation of Yes!" t-shirts and polo shirts to help proclaim our "YES!" out to the world!! We welcome you to stop by during both coffee hours on those dates to see samples and the design and place orders. The black shirts, with blue and gold writing, are available in many sizes, from children's thru adult 5x (reasonably priced, too!). Proceeds will support our Annunciation Appalachia Service Project team (reaching in) as they travel in late April to Rainelle, West Virginia to repair homes damaged or destroyed by last summer's flooding (reaching out.). AND every time you wear your Annunciation shirt -while running errands, volunteering at Feed My Starving Children, playing golf, working out - it's an invitation (reaching out) to all who see it to talk to you about Annunciation,

and how we encounter God in worship, in community, and in service. Questions?

Please contact Miriam Berry (mamamastercard@comcast.net)  
or Sue Whipple (Mywhipp@aol.com).

## Confirmation/Reception



### I Will, With God's Help

Annunciation will be offering a five part program of instruction for Adults and Youth (8th grade and up) to prepare for confirmation (or reception) in the Episcopal church. Confirmation is an adult reaffirmation of the baptismal vows that, for many Christians, were made on their behalf as infants or young children. Reception is for those individuals confirmed in another faith tradition (i.e. Lutheran, Roman Catholic) who would like to make a formal, intentional acknowledgment of their commitment to the Episcopal church. Classes take place following the 10am service (11:30am-1:30pm); a light lunch will be provided. **Class dates are: February 5, February 12, March 5, March 12, and April 23.** (A 6th date April 30 will be a practice session for confirmands presenting at Youth Sunday on May 7th.) An areawide confirmation (or reception) by Bishop Jeff Lee will take place at St. Simon's, Arlington Heights, on Saturday, May 6, 11am. If you are interested in participating, please contact Maggie Attiyeh or Rev. Elizabeth.

## Holocaust Museum



ILLINOIS  
HOLOCAUST  
MUSEUM  
& Education Center

### Visit on Tuesday, Feb 21

We're planning a visit to the Holocaust Museum in Skokie on Tuesday, February 21. We'll gather at Annunciation's parking lot at 9am, then carpool to the museum together. We're making arrangements for a docentled tour, lasting for 2 hours, from 10am-12noon. After we finish up at the museum, we'll find a place to stop for lunch before returning to church. The cost is \$15/person (or possibly lower; we're inquiring about any large group or senior discounts). Please let Rev. Elizabeth know if you're interested in attending, so she can make reservations.

## Appalachia Service Project



### Outreach Opportunity

Come be a part of the effort to make homes "Warmer, Safer, Drier" for people in need in Appalachia. In 2017, we will be traveling to Rainelle, West Virginia to repair and replace homes damaged or destroyed by massive flooding last June. Trip dates are **April 22 thru April 29, 2017.** We are getting close to our deadline for committing to the number of people on the trip, so if you are interested in participating, and want further information, please contact a member of last year's ASP team: Mike Bill, Lisa Kleine, Rev. Elizabeth, Dave Schrunk, Tony Waynick, or Dan Whipple

## Capital Champaign

In April of 2015 - a little more than 2 years ago - we kicked off our capital campaign here at Annunciation. Bishop Lee was with us that evening; he preached and led the evensong service, and then we all went into Strang Hall and enjoyed a fabulous reception. It was the first





time we got to see the architect's renderings of what repairs and improvements we envisioned to help Annunciation continue to be a place of warmth and welcome and hospitality - not because we're

nice, friendly midwesterners - but because warmth and welcome and hospitality are embodiments and reflections of the way God loves us.

That evening, everyone who attended went home with one of these [capital campaign] brochures. Inside the front cover is a statement that captures the theological "why" underpinning our capital campaign, and now, two years into this campaign, I'd like to revisit part of that statement, to re-ground us as to why we're doing what we're doing. The statement is printed on the first page of the capital campaign update in the annual report.

*We exercise our faith in community because Christianity is not just about our own personal spiritual journeys or our relationship with God; it is bigger than that.*

*We are called to work together,  
to hold each other accountable,  
to discern how we can better connect,  
how we can better serve,  
how we can better welcome,  
how we can better see the God in each other,  
and the God in each person who comes through Annunciation's doors.*

That's the "why" we try to keep in mind as we discern and carry out any project, any ministry. Whether we're talking about the HVAC system we replaced, or the new handicap accessible doors we just installed or the communication walls in the narthex and Strang Hall that will be completed in the next two to three months.... those are, on the face of it, just capital building improvements. But, as a friend of mine likes to say, "the thing isn't always the thing." Every project we've undertaken, and every project still on the drawing board, is intended as a means to "better serve, better welcome, better see the God in each other and each person who comes through Annunciation's doors."

But, it costs money to bring these projects to life. And when we launched the capital campaign two years ago, we all came through admirably, pledging just shy of \$500,000. The management of the projects we've implemented has also been superb, with every capital improvement coming through at less (sometimes far less) than originally estimated. People have donated their time to do work themselves (I'm looking especially at Mike Bill and Pat Donegan), and/or come up with more cost-effective means to achieve the results we were seeking.

So, two years later, as we read that statement of purpose again, about seeking to better serve and welcome and see God in one another, we need to ask ourselves: Do we still believe this? Is it still true?

Because if it is, then we need to recommit ourselves.

The reality is that some of us who pledged have died or left our community without fulfilling their pledges.

The reality is that life happens to some of us who have made pledges and we find we cannot complete them.

But the reality also is that our community is on a journey together. Everything we do here, we do together. And we believe that where we are working on God's mission, God will provide.

So ask yourself, if you have made a pledge and fulfilled it, can you make another, in support of those people around you who cannot? If you are new among us, will you join us in our journey together as a community in service of a welcoming, hospitable God?

A word about the phrase, "God will provide." In the Old Testament, the way God provided was more of a hands-on providing: holding back the wall of water so the Israelites could safely escape from the Egyptians, raining down manna on them when they were hungry.

However, when God manifested God's self in the person of Jesus, humanity was invited to *partner* with God, to open ourselves up to allow God's power to work *through* us. So when 5000 folks showed up to hear Jesus preach one day and then got hungry, Jesus could have requested of God an Old Testament-style delivery of manna. But instead, he asked the people to bring forth what they had - the five loaves and two fish - and then called on God to do what God does: magnifying, extending, and transforming peoples' offerings, completing the miracle.

God will provide. God does provide. I invite you to join in partnership with the God, "whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine," so we may, more and more, become the welcoming and hospitable church we are called to be.

See you on Sundays!

Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church,  
5725 Stearns School Road, Gurnee, IL 60031

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