

grace notes

October 2018



TAKE ANOTHER
STEP...
OR A LEAP!

Take Another Step...or a Leap!

Why do we give? **How** do we give? and what are the **possibilities** that emerge when we give gratefully and generously? As a follow-up to the *Take a Step* challenge two years ago, you'll be invited (as you're able) to grow your own giving to Grace.

We'll look at our giving through three lenses:

Priority – Along with prayer, worship, reading Scripture, service, and being in relationships for spiritual growth, **giving is a faith practice**. Biblically, it's meant to be “first fruits” – given first, “off the top”, not giving what may or may not be leftover. This takes both faith as we trust that we'll have “enough” after we give, and it grows faith.

Percentage – Intentionally giving a percentage of our income most fairly represents us and what we are capable of. While not a law we must fulfill, **tithing (giving 10% of income) is considered a good and biblical Christian practice**. Certainly, some among us face financial difficulties. At such times, even the thought of tithing may seem crazy. But growing towards and even beyond tithing is probably possible for most of us, at least over time, when we believe in it. It can be accomplished by taking intentional steps...and sometimes leaps! Will you dare to set out on a journey to make this faith practice part of your discipleship?

Possibilities – What happens to our own faith and joy when we grow our giving? What are the possibilities to strengthen Grace's vitality and expand our outreach in the community and world, when we grow our giving to what really represents us?

On Reformation Weekend – October 27/28 – **you will be invited during worship to offer an Estimate of Giving card**. This will be an estimate of what you intend to give to Grace in the future. Prior to that, you are challenged to: 1) Calculate the percentage of your income you currently give as your offerings to God's work in and through Grace; and 2) Calculate the percentage of your income you'll give to Grace going forward as you challenge yourself to **take another step...or a leap!**

– Pastor Bruce Arnevik, Pastor Delwayne Hahn, and Grace's Stewardship Team: Greg Ackerson, Scott Christensen, Jackie Glockner, Chad Hadler, Doug Hanson, Beau Haugrud, Stacy Lenz, Kate Morpew, Mike Russell

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

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Visitation Pastor.....Delwayne Hahn
Ext. 105 .. delwayneh@graceandover.org

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Administrative Assistant.....Kris Miller
Ext. 101 krism@graceandover.org

Bookkeeper.....Beth Clarstrom
Ext. 111 bethc@graceandover.org

Parish Nurse.....Lily Tunby/ Lori Ackerson
Ext. 100.parishnurse@graceandover.org

Head Custodian.....Mark Kempenich
Ext. 117 markk@graceandover.org

Dir. Of Golden Rule Child Care Center
Sandy Schmoll...sandys@gracandover.org 421-1996

If you would like to contact any of the Vision Board members, please visit graceandover.org and click on

Vision Board Members

Scott Christensen (Pres.)
Johnna Rohmer-Hirt (V.P.)
Vickie Meade (Secretary)
Chad Hadler

Alden Riley
Dave Trapp
Carla Renner



Transition Team Presentations and Listening Sessions

As part of the process of calling a new senior pastor, the Transition Team will hold meetings to present a summary of the congregational survey results along with key demographic information and trends identified in our area. The Transition Team seeks to define who we are as a church, who is our neighbor and what attributes we need in a senior pastor. The sessions will include time for feedback from, and discussion among attendees.

Attendees do not need to register in advance. The agenda and presentations will be the same on both dates, so attendees need to attend only one session.

**September 30th
11:45am - 12:45pm
Fellowship Hall**

OR

**October 3rd
6:45pm - 7:45pm
Fellowship Hall**

Vision Board Message

As President of the Vision Board, I come to a lot of meetings at Grace and am also involved in many of our ministries. I am often amazed at the beehive of activity I see here every day of the week. It is like we turn the page on the calendar to September and we are off and running!

Grace really shifted into “High Gear” with a successful Rally Day weekend in true Grace tradition. We welcomed back our SONday School students and teachers, blessed kid’s backpacks, handed out angel pins and had a welcome-back party. On Wednesday nights, our church is filled with catechism students and mentors, our “Kids Night Out” program, and even the choir rehearsing in the “Nap Room”! There isn’t a square inch of space at Grace that isn’t used on a Wednesday evening! I’d like to say a special “Thank You” to Kristin, Annie, Kristi and Tom, who have worked hard to kick off our children and youth programs this fall with the support of a great staff and so many teachers and volunteers.

Looking to October, you’ll see a tremendous amount of energy coming to Grace as well! We will be hosting **Family Promise** families here **Sept. 30th – Oct. 6th**. We need volunteers to help prepare and serve meals and act as overnight hosts.

On **Sunday, Oct. 7th** we will celebrate our annual **God’s Work Our Hands** service event. We will clean up some nearby parks and yards of our neighbors, work on quilts for Rakai and blankets for Haiti and much more “inside our walls”. We will kick it off with a Taco lunch at 11:30am and then have activities from 12pm – 3pm (or for as long as you can stay). Please help serve as God’s Hands for a few hours that day!

Our **SALT Team** will be kicking off two great adult education forums led by John Anderson and Scott Lien on Monday’s and Wednesday’s in October. Please sign up for one of these inspirational programs. (see page 9 for details).

Last but not least, our annual **Oktoberfest** celebration on **Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28th**. Pastor Bruce and Pastor Hahn will be leading us in conversation about stewardship which we will celebrate at Oktoberfest with a silent auction (proceeds to Lutheran Disaster Response, earmarked towards Hurricane Florence victims) brats, hotdogs, root beer and a polka band!

There’s something for everyone going on at Grace in October. I hope you’ll join in on the action and feel His spirit through many of these ministries and outreach events!

Scott Christensen, Grace Vision Board

Dinner with the Vision Board October 9th from 6-7pm

The family of Grace is invited to attend and connect with the Vision Board and ask questions about the church. Sign up on the blue sheet or on [GraceLink](#).



4th ANNUAL

GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

OCTOBER
28
2018
9:00am-12:30pm

GREAT FOOD
ROOT BEER GARDEN
SILENT AUCTION
Lutheran Disaster
Response—
Hurricane Florence
MUSICAL
ENTERTAINMENT
& a visit from
Martin Luther

FELLOWSHIP HALL
After Worship Services

**OK
TO
BER
FEST**



Please
consider
donating an
item for the
auction.

Ideas include
craft items,
quilts or
blankets,
handmade
jewelry,
woodworking
pieces,
canned goods
and much
more.

Grace 4 Rakai Events

Guest speakers on November 10-11

We're excited to announce that Richard Mutaawe and Johnson Lwondo, who manage many ministries that Grace supports in Rakai, Uganda, will be coming to Grace in November! Richard and Johnson will speak to us at all four services the weekend of November 10-11! Also joining us will be Ann Hill, the founder of African Children Today (ACT), a Twin Cities nonprofit established to support the people of Rakai.

For the past several years, members of Grace have made a profound difference in the lives of children and families in Rakai. Through Grace4Rakai:

- ✧ Over 100 orphaned children are sponsored, ensuring they receive education, food, clothing and medical care.
- ✧ The *Amazing Grace Bakery* was built and operates 24/7, helping to feed people and contributing to the economic growth of the community.
- ✧ Funds were contributed for the construction of a boarding school, providing a safe and adequate shelter and classroom for the children.

We are blessed to have Richard, Johnson, and Ann worshiping with us on November 10 and 11 and look forward to their inspirational message.



"Friends of Rakai" Potluck Dinner!

Sunday, November 4 – 5:00-7:00 PM

Whether you currently sponsor a child in Rakai, support the Grace4Rakai ministry through your financial contributions, or simply want to learn more about Rakai and the work being done there, we hope you'll join us for a potluck dinner on Sunday, November 4 at 5:00 pm! Richard and Johnson (see article above) will be our special guests and will share stories about the difference Grace is making for the children and families of Rakai! Mark your calendars now and watch for more information to come!

God's Work Our Hands



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sunday, October 7

"Build Your Own Taco Buffet"

at 11:30am

Activities 12pm – 3pm

For several years, Grace has celebrated "God's Work, Our Hands," a day set apart by congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to celebrate who we are – one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

This year, we'll be serving neighbors near and far through both outdoor activities as well as a variety of indoor activities at Grace! And, there is something for EVERY age! Here are the activities to choose from:

- Cleaning up a local park
- Working on a variety of outdoor projects for neighbors near Grace – e.g. raking, trimming trees and bushes, washing the exterior of windows
- Assembling hospice kits and rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries
- Tying quilts for children in Rakai, Uganda and those in need closer to home
- Making "tie pillows" for children in Haiti
- Writing thank you notes (and coloring pictures!) for veterans at Eagle's Healing Nest

Activities will wrap up by 3pm (which means that Vikings fans can make it home in time for the 3:25pm kickoff!). Don't worry if you can't stay for the entire time – just join us for the time you're able and know that *anything* you do to help our neighbors in need will be appreciated!

Please sign up in [GraceLink](#) so we have an idea of how many people will be participating and how many tacos we'll need!

Children's Ministries

Bible Weekend October 6th and 7th

At Baptism, we make the promise to give our children a Bible. We will be presenting Bibles to **our 3-year-old & 2nd Grade Children** on Saturday, October 6th at the 5:00pm Service, and Sunday October 7th, at the 9 & 10:30 Services. Come celebrate your child's faith journey as we give you a Bible to place in the hands of your child. 3 year old children will receive the Spark Story Bible and students in grade 2 will receive a Spark Bible. Let's celebrate the Word and share God's story with your child!



Trunk-or-Treat

October 24 @ 5:30-6:15pm

Trunk-or-Treat is returning this year. Children will Trick-or-Treat in the safety of the church parking lot. The event will take place before Catechism and KNO. People are encouraged to participate by bringing cars and passing out candy/treats, donating candy ahead of time, and by showing up to trick or treat. Cars need to arrive by 5 pm to get set up. Family Pizza will be available from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Bring your family and friends. Questions? Contact Annie annief@graceandover.org

Baptism Class

Sunday, November 11th at 11:45 am

Baptism is an important part of faith journey. We will discuss how God is at work in baptism and share insights to help you as you raise your child to know and love God. Register online through [GraceLink](#), or call the church office to sign up. Baptisms may be scheduled during most services. Contact Kris Miller to confirm availability.



**Kids Night
Out @ Grace
Wednesdays,
6:30 – 8 pm**

It's not too late to
join us on

Wednesdays! This year children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 can sign up to attend Kids Night Out @ Grace. We will get to KNO the Bible and Jesus's love for us through songs, Bible stories, crafts and games. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Lowe at kristinl@graceandover.org.

Family Worship: October 6th

children will begin in worship with their families and will be dismissed to SONday School after the Bible presentation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Nerf Night with Pizza Dinner (3rd- 5th Graders)

November 11th, 5 - 7 pm

Students in 3rd - 5th grade are invited to meet at Jam Hops for an evening of Nerf Wars, Trampolines, Ninja Warrior. Cost is \$20 per student, including pizza.

Contact Kristin Lowe for more information

kristinl@graceandover.org.

First Communion Class

November 17th, 9-11am

Pastor Bruce and Kristin teach students in 3rd grade and up about the Sacrament

of Holy Communion. Children are invited to receive their First Communion during worship on November 17th at 5:00pm service, or November 18th at 9 or 10:30 service. Bring a Bible, a parent, and a smile! Register through [GraceLink](#) or at graceandover.org. There will be another class on April 27, 2019.



Christmas Program

December 9 at 3:30pm

Information for Grades 2-5 will go home at the end of October. Kids wanting a speaking or non-speaking part for the program need to return their request by November 7th. Scripts will be given to kids by November 18.

Dates to remember:

Rehearsal: Sat. 12/1, 9-11 a.m. This rehearsal is for children with parts only.

Rehearsal: Sat. 12/8, 9-11a.m. All kids will join at 10am for a full rehearsal.

Program: Sun. 12/9 at 3:30 p.m. (Please have children here by 3pm)

All Children will rehearse during SONday school and during KNO. More information will come home in November.

Youth Ministries

Family Pizza

Wednesdays 6-6:30pm

Families are welcome to join us every Wednesday for pizza at church! Pizza \$1.50/slice, salad only \$1.



Children's Ministry needs many helping hands this Fall, would you like to help?

- Serving in the **Nursery** is an opportunity to play, giggle, and do a little dancing as you care for the littlest ones at Grace. Sharing God's love with children Birth – Three years is rewarding for both child and volunteer.
- We need **Teachers**. Our curriculum is designed to make it easy for you. All the materials you need to teach your lesson are provided. You can teach Bi-weekly or weekly.
- **Youth Helpers** are a blessing to the teachers of our younger children. If you had fun helping at VBS, please consider being a Youth Helper.
- **Youth Leaders** for KNO on Wednesdays: this includes Small Group, Craft, and Game Leaders.

To be a helping hand, sign up on the opportunity sheets or contact Annie Fitzl annief@graceandover.org or Kristin Lowe at kristinl@graceandover.org.

**No Youth Programming
(Catechism or KNO)
Wednesday, October 17th
&
October 31st**

Own Your Faith

Our 9th grade students are well on their way in the OYF Program this year! Please hold them in prayer on October 18/19th as they embark on the OYF Retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

High School Youth Group

9th-12th grade students! Come and hang out with your friends, eat snacks, play games, and have a great discussion about God and your faith! High School Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:00pm-8:30pm! No need to sign up – just stop on by portable 2. Fun and games begin at 7PM and the discussion starts at 7:30pm. Upcoming gathering times:

10/2; 10/16; 11/6; 11/20; 12/4; 12/18



High School Retreat

October 12 (7:00 pm) – October 13 (11:00am)
Join high schoolers from other churches in the area for a retreat on "Relationships Redefined." Together we will learn how our relationship with God helps us understand how we are in relationship with our family and friends! Also – tons of games, snacks, campfire worship, and free time to hang out with kids from Grace and from around our area! The retreat will be at Faith Lutheran church where students will stay at overnight. Cost is \$15 with assistance available! Registration due October 7th! For more information, go to www.graceandover.org!

November High School Event

Sunday, November 4th, 12:30 – 4:15pm

Interested in how to describe yourself in an interview for a job? Struggling to explain how your unique self will enhance a college campus? Wondering how God uniquely made you to serve others? Parents, are you wondering how you can help your child succeed academically, in your family, in High School or beyond? Come to our Strength Finders Workshop! High School Students and parents welcome.

Habitat Recap

Vision Board Minutes



Randy Schmoll, Bruce Denney, Habitat staff
Back row: Heather Strasser, Leann Weisenberger, Dan Johnson, Alan Price, Habitat staff, Barb Anderson, Kim Brandner, Habitat staff

On August 14th, an awesome building crew from Grace worked on a Habitat for Humanity house in White Bear Lake, completing a variety of tasks such as laying a floor, painting walls and trim boards, and installing windows. Their labor of love helped to make the dream of home ownership come true for Jean Demanou and Annie Laure Ngouanet Djousee and their five children! Originally from Cameroon, Africa, they have lived in Minnesota for the past 3 ½ years and are excited and very grateful to be moving from a two-bedroom apartment into a safe and affordable house they can truly call "home."



"Working hard with one's hands at Habitat seems so right, serving with others to help somebody, and this work also allows us a new setting for listening to one another - sort of a refreshing, holy break. It sure seems that when we serve for and with Christ, God builds us up in our own 'spiritual habitat,' too."

-John Anderson, Grace member and Habitat volunteer

The September 2018 Vision Board meeting was held at Grace with all board members attending. Carla Renner hosted dinner with Dave Trapp sharing a devotional from Hebrews. Vickie Meade volunteered to fill the role of Vision Board Secretary.

Johnna Hirt reviewed the Vitality and Transition Survey results with the Board. The Congregational Presentation and Listening Sessions are scheduled for Sept 30th and Oct 3. The final report is expected in November for the Call Committee.

Pastor Bruce discussed the Call Committee process and the guidelines for the Call Committee. The Call Committee consists of eight members who will be a mixture of men/women/service times and demographics. Pastor Bruce will attend the Bishop's Theological Conference on Sept 23-25th.

The Vision Board created a list of 34+ potential call committee members. The list was narrowed down to 12 names. Scott Christianson will contact these potential committee members with the intent that the Call Committee will be in place by mid-October.

Kate Morpew reviewed our financial statements. Our offerings are still behind in comparison to last year's figures, but Grace is holding its expenses down in relation to income. Kate, Pastor Bruce and staff are currently working on the 2019 budget. The worship messages will focus on stewardship in the next few weeks. Our property teams have been working hard. Grace now has a flag raising and lowering ministry team for occasions when our flag must be at half staff.

Alden Riley reported that revamped construction plans are projected to be done by the end of the month. Plans are still pending for the replacement of the portables.

The next meeting of the Vision board is Tuesday, October 9th, 2018 at 6:00 pm with the Vision Board hosting a dinner for the congregation from 6-7pm followed by the business meeting.

We ended the meeting in prayer.

Submitted by Vickie Meade

Adult Education

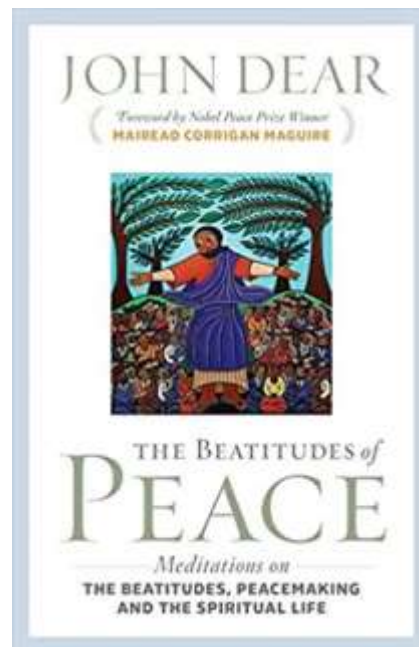
A Global Perspective on Missions

**Wednesdays, beginning
Oct 3. 6:30-8pm**

Missions have evolved over the years since the great commission, from local to global, reaching the ends of the earth with the good news of Jesus Christ. But not all view missions the same, and often we have a different perspective. At Grace, we have spirit-filled missions in many areas, locally and globally. This course is an opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves and gain better understanding of missions --- to better equip us to serve even more meaningfully. We will explore the ELCA's model of accompaniment - with its five core values of mutuality, empowerment, inclusivity, vulnerability, and sustainability – and connect these values in a practical way to our daily lives and the missions at Grace.

All are welcome! And you don't need a valid passport to travel via guest speakers to Milwaukee, Haiti, Uganda, Tanzania, and beyond! **Please join us for five weeks, beginning Wednesday, October 10 from 6:30 to 8pm at Grace.** Hope you can make it! [Register on Gracelink](#)

Led by Scott Lien



Theology on Tap: The Beatitudes of Peace Mondays, beginning Oct 8. 6:30-8pm

“Have you wondered what Jesus meant when he said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” or “Blessed are the meek”? Have you ever asked yourself if these Beatitudes are merely spiritual ideals or teachings that can ground and center your life choices?” In *The Beatitudes of Peace*, a brand new course, through four videos from author John Dear, discussion questions and creative exercises, “you will be invited to meet the challenges of our present times by reclaiming Jesus’ radical framework for the Reign of God”. Needless to say, this is an incredible walk with Christ.

Please consider joining us for this four week course about the key teachings of Jesus in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. [Register on Gracelink](#)

Led by John Anderson

*Grace SALT (Seek, Abide, Love, Trust)
Adult Education and Prayer Ministry*

Ministry Opportunities

New Members Connect Class

October 14 11:30am

Interested in becoming a member or learning more about Grace? Join us in this time to ask questions, hear about the history of Grace and connect with other new people. Sign up on [Gracelink](#) or call the church office!



Mugs, Muffins & More

Saturday, November 3rd 9:30-11:30am

Bring a mug and connect with other women over morning pastries, a warm drink, and fellowship during the next Mugs, Muffins, and More!

If you would like to share your talents to help with this event - either through baking or planning - please reach out to Leah Hadler at lmhadler@gmail.com or 763-350-3917.



THE "LOVE OF GRACE" BAZAAR

Saturday, Nov. 10 from 9 am – 3 pm.

This is more than a craft fair . . . more than a holiday bazaar – it's an opportunity to share God's grace with our local community as we welcome vendors and visitors into our building. THANKS for joining us as we share more of God's incredible, amazing, unending grace at the "Love of Grace" Bazaar!

There have been several groups at work in and around Grace this summer. Some of the groups have been volunteers and other have been contractors. Contractors fixed the parking lot lights and did extensive patching of the parking lot. A local business donated their time and resources, pouring all the concrete bases for the light poles as well.

The GRAMPS Team was busy striping the parking lot, touching up paint, tightening bolts on the chairs in the class rooms, replacing light bulbs with LED lights, and much more.



The Mowing teams have cared for the lawn. We have several teams of people who mow on a weekly basis to keep the grass looking nice.

The Garden Ministry team has grown this year. Many people are tending to the gardens planting flowers, pulling weeds and caring for God's creation.

We have also had volunteers come and trim the shrubs on the Round Lake Blvd. side of the building.

The newly forming Kitchen Ministry Team has been hard at work, organizing and deep cleaning the kitchen, from the cupboards to the coffee pots. This Kitchen Ministry team will continue meeting on a regular basis to keep the kitchen organized and clean. They will also be helping to keep the kitchen stocked with paper products and essentials.

We have a team of people that lower and raise the flag to commemorate various events that affect our country.

Anyone interested in being a part of these teams, please contact [Kris Miller](#) in the church office. It takes many volunteers and Grace is grateful for all of your willing and serving hearts.

Finances at a Glance



THANK YOU!!! I want to say that to all of you who offered your congratulations, left cards and gave special remembrances on the occasion of my 50th ordination anniversary observance last weekend. The prayer with laying on of hands at the close of each service was especially moving for me and my-- NOT a touchy-feely- shaker- (hands) not- a- hugger personality

---Delwayne Hahn, Visitation Pastor



Nursery childcare availability is changing starting October 1, 2018. The Nursery will be open and available to parents and children at ALL worship times. However, 9am and 10:30am services will be the only time the Nursery is staffed with volunteers for parents to drop off children.

Parents are welcome to use the Nursery during both the Saturday 5pm and Sunday 8am worship services. The service is able to be watched live via closed circuit TV. We ask those who use the space sign in to let us know they visited the Nursery. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to Annie Fitzl, annief@graceandover.org or 763-421-6520 x116.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding during this schedule change.

OFFERINGS	2017	2018
	\$550,068.71	\$470,184.05
EXPENSES	2017	2018
	\$644,360.35	\$554,935.32
<i>Total Difference</i>	<i>(24,478.52)</i>	<i>(21,435.52)</i>

Finances as of September 19

YTD Noisy Offering = \$8,677.23

YTD Benevolence paid = \$37,052.97

YTD Mortgage paid = \$59,574.35

** if you would like a copy of the current month-end report, please contact Kate or Beth.*

2019 Budgets are Due

If you are part of a ministry team at Grace, it is time to budget for 2019. Please turn in your ideas for Ministry to katem@graceandover.org



PRAYERS

We keep in our prayers those in need of healing:

Allen Montgomery, Tom & Mary Taillefer,
Pat Roettger, Lynda Leonard, Larry Caudill,
Shirley Lund, Van Bakko, Diane Walker,
Beth Passenheim, Nate Gfroerer,
Dick & Lu Henning, Sylvia Lindgren,
Logan Swedberg, Julie Swedberg, Mark Wagner,
Clint Trousil, Bill Nelson, Cara Shepard, Cathy Biggs, Irma Balaban, Roger Branville

We keep in our hearts and prayers the families with recent loss of:

Iona Johnson, Dan Fink,
Pastor Stephanie Coltvett-Erdmann,
Elsie Trapp, Pastor Molly Brown
Robert Houn, Todd Jannett,
Brock Abrahamson



Grace Lutheran Church

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A Ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!

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