

THE VOICE

St. John is called by Christ to be a Sanctuary That Welcomes and Serves All

May 2022

Does Death Lose its Sting?

Since the beginning of this year, we have lost several dear souls who have meant a great deal to the community of St. John. The fact is, we are an older congregation with a plan to grow and as a result to become younger but not through death! With that said, there is so much wisdom in our midst and it is my prayer that it gets passed down to the next generation. I am certain that this happens on an individual basis to some extent but I still wonder how much we are missing?

This past Saturday I celebrated my 70th birthday. Our family isn't that big about birthdays but we thought that the 70th was a pretty big deal. There were over 20 close family members and friends that participated and it was a day that we will not forget. A lot of love was passed around!!

I gave a little talk about getting old and am thinking more about it these days. Sadly, our North American European Society does not really honor those who are old. This is easy to see when looking at the status of nursing homes that are so understaffed creating the inability for everyone to receive dignified care. I will speak on this more in the coming months but today I wonder how much the younger generation in your life, knows your story?

Have you taken the time to write it down? Starting with birth to the present moment? If you haven't now is a good time to start.

In your story include your faith journey, education, work, family, friends and key events. It does not have to be a masterpiece but your story is in and of itself a masterpiece.

After you have written it you can then think of some ways to share it. I really hope you will share it with me! When you do, we can think about how your story might be shared. We have a challenge before us transferring information and, in a sense, faith. My belief is that this exercise will help build a bridge generating new life for our families, friends and congregation.

So, the sting of death may or may not be taken away. However, as we examine our lives and see how God has been there the whole time, there is a peace that we will be able to fall back upon and sense that we never were or ever will be alone.

Peace,

Pastor Mark



The Journey Isn't Over!

After traveling 40 days and 6 Sundays with Jesus during the season of Lent we are now invited to continue to journey with the resurrected Christ for 50 days during the Easter season!

We are REMINDED and ENCOURAGED by the words of the Sending Hymn sung in worship on April 24 that:

the risen Christ, on that first Easter morning and the days that followed, . . .

- . . . unlocked the door of grief, despair, and fear
and spoke a word of peace to his followers!
- . . . broke bread with and revealed himself to his followers!
- . . . breathed out his Spirit to abide with his followers!

And the GOOD NEWS is this:

the risen Christ continues to . . .

- . . . unlock the door of grief, despair, and fear
and speak a word of peace to us!
- . . . break bread with and reveal himself to us!
- . . . breathe out his Spirit to abide with us!

And we, in turn, are called to serve, share, and be a blessing to the world in the name of **the risen Christ** with the gifts and talents we each have been given.

The journey isn't over . . . it's just beginning!

Dr. Michael Burkhardt
Director of Worship and Music

Familiar Plants

During one of our meetings of Wednesday Nights Wherever, either during a discussion of Jesus' parables or part of our Lenten series of lectio Divina, we ended up in a conversation about joy in nature. At the time spring was still far enough away that there was very little green to our outside world. Many of the joys people shared had to do with spring coming forth from winter - the vibrant grass, the once barren trees dotted with the starts of leaves. It felt good just envisioning these things, and now they're here, an even greater joy.

Right now, the thing I notice most along my drive are the forsythia. I've never been a big fan of them. There are lots of reasons I feel I should like them, but I don't particularly. They are one of the earliest flowers of the season here. We had them in our yard when I was a kid, as did my grandma, so there's a bit of sentimentality around them for me as well. Yet, the only thing that really gets me excited about seeing them is the memory of an art project from elementary school. Using those black sponge brushes, my art teacher showed us how to paint forsythia flowers along brown tempera paint branches.

Wild yellow bush after wild yellow bush, I think about Mrs. Tregenza. I think about the art room where we made Canada geese out of clay. I think about tessellations and copper tooling. I do not love the forsythia, but I love those memories.

Soon it will be the magnolia 's turn, and I will think of Mrs. Wagner and Anne and Laura. I will think of dancing to Michael Jackson and playing Full House. And when the air is filled with cottonwood fuzzies, I'll remember more of the same - but this time with a wagon and wood bowls and a energetic dog named Magic.

There are so many memories tied to plants.

The horse tails remind me of bike rides on the Paint Creek Trail and breaking off pieces to shine pennies.

The wild grape vines take me back to fourth grade and Melodi, our fort in the trails where we would swing on the vines across the gully and pull lengths to weave into wreaths (a habit I still practice).

The willow trees will always make me think of home - the second two-story house on the right, with the big yard full of trees and the modest deck with the worn-out wood, the source of many splinters.

When I travel, I love to marvel at the plant life in my new locale - dinosaur trees in California, fuzzy rope vines in Philadelphia. The wondrous species I've never encountered before are simply novel and I get much joy in the feeling of being an adventurer a long way from home. It is a great privilege to have these experiences.

The privilege is the means to afford even the thriftiest of trips, the choice to go somewhere, and the choice to come back home - back to familiar settings, to friends, to family, to connections. The privilege to journey away for the sole purpose of recreation, and a home to return to.

Those displaced by war, conflict, disaster, refugees seeking asylum, seeking sanctuary, face a much different set of choices. Leaving under such circumstances is so much more than simply moving to a new place. So much is left behind, including familiar plants and the memories they may bring.

I've never had to uproot my life. I've never chosen to be transplanted to a drastically new environment either. I have lived in the comfort of well-known settings, with the plants that stir memories. The forsythia may not be my favorite, but it is a privilege to not have to live without them.

Ashleigh Altemann
Director of Mission Advancement



5/1 Lori Adkins
 Laurie Switzer
 5/2 Steven Pellerito
 5/4 Laura Kincaide
 5/5 Karen Boczkaja
 Kirsten Cianek
 5/9 Toni Lewis
 Nancy Schafer
 Virginia Wiessbock
 5/11 Barbara Dresden

5/12 Anthony Monico
 5/18 Grady Shipman
 5/19 Neel Patel
 5/23 Diane Dupuis
 5/24 James Grudt
 Rodney Whitbeck
 5/26 Craig Weller
 5/30 Roland Johnson
 Shirley George
 5/31 Brian Budgery
 Julie Ozar
 Joseph Varns



Help us learn how kids' brains work!

Seeking **BOYS + GIRLS**
 ages 12-19
 for a research study



study participation involves:

- 4-5 hours of your time
- answering some questions
- we use MRI to take pictures of your child's brain
- a blood draw, but it is optional

If you have a child ages 12-19 and are interested in participating,

please contact: ad3830@wayne.edu

313-577-2183

Participants get paid up to \$218



This study is approved by the Wayne State University Institutional Review Board # IRB-20-07-2526



Join us for the
Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield

CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, May 1st at 1:00 pm
OCC Orchard Ridge Campus

May 1st we will meet for a big kick off rally event.
Folks can then join in a walk around the campus
trails or walk some other time or place.

To register or donate go to:
crophungerwalk.org/farmingtonmi

Search teams for:

St. John Lutheran - Farmington Hills, MI

Questions? Contact Ashleigh Altemann at:
248-227-2918 or ms.fancyfood@gmail.com

**Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing
our world, but it doesn't have to be this way.
Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in
our lifetime. You can help make it happen.
Register for the CROP Hunger Walk, raise funds,
and take us one step closer to ending hunger
once and for all.**

**Join the movement! Bring a friend!
Put hunger to an end!**

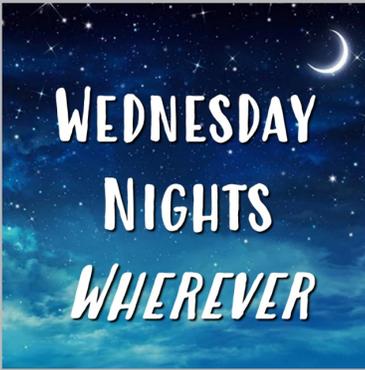
What is the CROP Walk?

In 1947 farmers donated food and seed crops to
our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe
and Asia, establishing the Christian Rural Overseas
Program - CROP.

Today communities large and small host CROP
Hunger Walk events to raise money to end hunger
and poverty. Funds support the Church World
Service which transforms communities around the
globe through just and sustainable responses to
hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster.

The CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly
gathering or event for us. It is an opportunity to
help families who are struggling with hunger,
concerned about where they'll find their next
meal. The Walk is a way to take action, to make sure
that one more person has enough to eat.

The funds raised in the Farmington area walk will
go to organizations across the globe and in our
community - C.A.R.E.S., Farmington/Farmington
Hills Neighborhood House, Salvation Army, Yad
Ezra, and Zaman.



Join us for discussion and fellowship on Zoom, Wednesday nights at 7:00.

May 4:
YouthVGov film discussion

Starting May 11:
Dialogues On:
The Refugee Crisis

Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis

Beginning May 11, Wednesday Nights Wherever will focus on refugees. Using the Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis framework from Augsburg Fortress, we will explore refugees, the church, and our local community.

Most recently, millions are fleeing war in Ukraine. They are not alone. People across the globe from Afghanistan to Myanmar, South Sudan to Columbia, Guatemala to Mozambique find themselves facing challenging decisions driven by war, crisis, and conflict. The number of refugees has been increasing worldwide for years, and experts like those at the United Nations and the Danish Refugee Council expect this trend to continue.

Through readings, videos, and discussion we will consider the experience of refugees through a historical perspective, modern times, and consider what we can do to impact the future.

Led by Pastor Mark and Ashleigh, join for an opportunity to grow closer to each other and the community as we express our thoughts and ideas about today's issues.

Get the link in the eNews or on the St. John webpage.

\$6 Pasty Baking and Sales \$6

Saturday May 14

Contact Donna Bosanko for more details
tbosanko1@hotmail.com



God's Garden May Schedule

Warmer weather means more to do! We'll be expanding our growing space with new beds, sewing seeds, managing weeds, planting flowers.

Big planting day 5/23!
Veggie start from Yad Ezra will be ready.

Monday Afternoons

weather permitting

3:00 - 5:00

May 2nd

May 9th

May 16th

May 23rd

Additional work days to be scheduled as needed.

Many garden tools available (including quality kid sized tools). Please bring your own gloves and a water bottle. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear sunscreen.



A growing ministry of St. John Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills. The God's Garden ministry focuses on **care for others** - by growing produce to share with local organizations addressing food security, **care for creation** - by focusing on and teaching growing practices that sustain and support life rather than harm, and **care of self** - by exploring and promoting the therapeutic benefits of gardening.

Other ways to get involved:

Spread the word

Tell your friends, neighbors, acquaintances about what's going on at God's Garden. Like and share the God's Garden Facebook page.

Sponsor the garden

As little as \$5 can buy hundreds of seeds!

\$25 can buy some starter plants, like strawberries!

\$50 can help us enrich the soil with compost!

\$100 can fund a whole bed for the season!



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Opportunities to brush up on stewardship skills:

Four events are scheduled in the MPR (Multipurpose Room):

1. After May 15th Sunday Service: About 11:30am (lunch provided), Introduction to Thrivent, Action Dollars and Choice Dollars Thrivent members and those interested can attend. Please register at : [Thrivent Member Benefits gathering. Sun, May 15, 2022 at 11:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)
2. Workshop: Give Now, Give Later & Receive, June 7th 6:30p – 8p (meal provided)
Learn how generosity can help you as much as those you give to Register at:
[Workshop: Give Now, Give Later & Receive. Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)
3. Workshop: Your Legacy, Family, Church and Charity, June 13th 1:00p – 2:30p. (meal provided) Are there people and organizations you care about and want to help financially? Learn strategies for sustaining your church's foundation, supplementing an endowment fund or leaving an inheritance Register at:
[Workshop: Your Legacy, Family, Church and Charity Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)
4. Identifying what's important to you can help you discover new ways to share your time, talents and treasures. Explore how to make the most of your resources and create your own generosity plan. Register at: [Making a difference: Sharing you Time, Talents and Treasures. Mon, Jun 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Serving in the Military including overseas:

Jacob Stanton
Michael Jamieson (Nader)

Members:

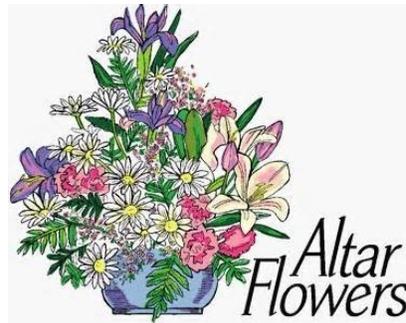
Family of Don Stauffer; Fran Copp; Larry Urevig; Bill and Sandy Kennedy; Andy Kurmas; Gene Kohli; Bev Gerhardt; Toni Lewis; Diane Stanton; Janet Caudle; Lois Makee; Earl Hagen; Mary Galloway; Marlou & Jim Grudt; Chris Janik; Diana Canup; Ward Varns; Eva Paulson; Dick Rudorffer; Audrey Riley; Ellen Zatolokin; Delores Winqvist; Carol Sterling; Eunice Gould; Tammy Kilpatrick; Lillian Niemi; Jodi Oulette.

Friends, and Family:

Colleen Davis (wife of Bill Davis); Mary Buccellato, (Gransee); Val Burkhardt (Michael’s mother); Bob Niesyto; Piper Ellis, Kristin Stoneback, Jane Borsvold, Cindy & Mark Borsvold (Sailus); Erin Cameron; Patty & Pete Herman, (Brundage); Kyle Soderlund, Val Blanchett, Sue Jennings (Fisher); Marshall & Jessie Anderson (Bosanko); Steve Kramer; Jaden Henkel, Barry Shiek (Henkel); Judy Wiessbock, Courtney Dimiceli (Wiessbock); Virginia Kincaide (Kincaide); Cheryl Cottongin; Mardee Thomas, (Galloway); Rosalind McLendan (Dale); Mary Rellinger (Switzer); Carol Collins (sister of Earl Hagen); Jeffrey Wetzel (Merrell).

Please send prayer list updates to the church office at om@stjohn-elca.org.

Many Thanks to Pat Gransee for sending out cards to the people on our prayer concerns list. If you have someone on the list to whom you would like a card sent, contact the office. Thank you!



The Flower Chart will now be located in the office area. If you would like to order flowers you may sign in there or you may send an email or call in your request to the office.

The request should show the date and designation (what you would like to say in the bulletin) for flower order. Or you could complete an envelope with all information and turn in with your payment to the office by placing in the offering trays. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00.

This Summer it's all about Kids!

Each month this summer at St. John, there will be a week of fun and learning for your kids! Your grandkids! Your neighbors' kids!

- **June 20-24: Vacation Bible School**

presented by Succoth Church.

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/6e6212>.



- **July 11-15: Create and Care Camp**

presented by St. John. Kids will get to create art, explore life in the garden and learn about God's amazing creation and how to care for it. Watch for more details and information on how to register.



- **August 8-11: hearts, hands and voices Worship and Fine Arts Camp**

presented by hearts, hands and voices.

Children in grades 2-7 gather to immerse themselves in worship and the arts with their peers and an exceptional faculty led by Dr. Michael Burkhardt. Registration is open now at www.heartshandsvoices.org.



Volunteers will be needed for all kinds of tasks, so there will be lots of opportunities for YOU to get involved! Watch for more detail to come.

Helping Hands Needed August 8-11!



Greetings all! We are excited at St. John to be sharing ministry with **hearts, hands and voices** and their **2022 Summer Worship and Fine Arts Camp**. For those new to **hearts, hands and voices**, picture the halls and rooms of St. John brimming with the energy of 100 campers and staff worshipping, singing, ringing, drumming, playing xylophones and metallophone, creating art, learning to lead worship, and having a ton of fun!

We need your help for this unique camp experience which runs from Monday through Thursday, August 8-11, 9 AM – 3 PM in the following ways:

Registration Tables Monday Morning: We need a few people to work the registration period on Monday morning, greeting families and checking in campers. This is an important point of introduction to St. John. The time slot is 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM on Monday, August 8.

Food: In order to pull off this feat, we need your help. It takes a lot of food to keep this wonderful energy fueled. If you can, please consider joining one or more of the following teams:

- 1) **Kitchen Brigade** – Captained by HHAV veterans, this group is part of both the heart and the hands of camp. We need folks to help with midmorning snack and lunch on each of the four days. Sign up for what you can, one day or four. Shifts run from 9:30 AM to 1 PM. If a whole shift doesn't work, come help with midmorning snack or lunch.
- 2) **Baking Brigade** – We will provide baking mixes for you to pick up, bake and return for various days during camp.
- 3) **Reception Team** – Thursday evening (8/11) at 7 PM, our campers return to the Sanctuary to share part of what they've learned during our time together. It is a fabulous experience for all involved and we hope you plan to attend. Following the program, we will all go to the MPR for a celebratory reception. We are looking for folks to help set up, serve and clean up. We also need finger foods if you'd like to add to the bounty. Do the math – 75 campers and alumni plus 25 faculty and staff, their families and their friends. We expect to welcome 250 or so folks into our midst, many of whom are visitors to St. John. This is a great "best foot forward" opportunity!

(continued next page)

Helping Hands Needed August 8-11!

Camp photographer(s): Enjoy photography? Lend us your eye and pick up your camera to help us capture the excitement and energy of camp. These photos are shared with the campers and are our main source for future promotional material.

Camp Assistants: Want to travel the day, or part of the day, with the campers? Each small group has a "shepherd" and each shepherd can use a camp assistant. This is especially true for special needs campers. A heart for kids is all that is required.

If you want to be part of this fun, there is a signup sheet in the narthex *OR* you can contact camp coordinator Ellen Batkie at (248) 497-1451 or info@heartshandsvoices.org.

Thanks so much for your support of this exciting ministry!

Dr. Michael Burkhardt
St. John Lutheran Church Director of Worship and Music
hearts, hands and voices Founder and Artistic Director





Church Directory 2022

It is time to make sure that all the correct information has been received to create the new church directory. If you have any changes to your information please let the office know. The directory is created and printed then mailed to every individual listed in the directory free of charge. This is because of the advertising that you see on our inside and front and back covers. So if you have a business or know of someone who does please invite them to advertise in our directory.

“The new 2022 St. John Lutheran Church Farmington Hills Membership Directory will be ready for publishing in June. Anyone interested in placing an advertisement for their business, or a personal message in support of our new directory should call Jake Allport at 248-545-4330 or email him

at jallport@cathedraldirectories.com.

A business card can be used in creating a new ad. Many times members have small businesses and other members aren't aware, but would love to support them. Also, advertisers do not need to be members of our church, so feel free to pass this information along to others.”

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Jake Allport
Cathedral Directories
248-545-1415 Ext. 110
248-544-1611 fax
jallport@cathedraldirectories.com
www.connectingdirectories.com

Deadline for ads is May 22nd

M A Y 2 0 2 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>10a Worship</p> <p>12p Succoth Church</p> <p>1p Crop Walk</p> <p>4p One More Step HHAV</p> <p>4p AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>10a Quilters</p> <p>3p Gods Garden</p> <p>4:30p HHAV</p> <p>6p WAZA Track</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>7p WNW</p> <p>7p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>8a Men's Breakfast</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>10:30a Bible Academy</p> <p>6p Chancel Bells</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>7p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>MOTHERS DAY</p> <p>10a Worship</p> <p>12:30p Succoth Church</p> <p>4p AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>3p Gods Garden</p> <p>10a Quilters</p> <p>4:30p HHAV</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>7p WNW</p> <p>7p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>8a Men's Breakfast</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>6p Chancel Bells</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>8a Renaissance Academy</p> <p>9a Worship</p> <p>5p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>7a Pasty Making</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>10a Worship</p> <p>11:30a Workshop and lunch in MPR</p> <p>12:30p Succoth Church</p> <p>4p AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>10a Quilters</p> <p>3p Gods Garden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>7p WNW</p> <p>7p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>8a Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:30a Bible Academy</p> <p>6p Chancel Bells</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>VOICE ARTICLES DUE!</p> <p>7p Piano Recital Sanctuary</p> <p>7p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>10a Worship</p> <p>12:30p Succoth Church</p> <p>4p AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>10a Quilters</p> <p>3p Gods Garden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>7p WNW</p> <p>7p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>8a Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:30a Bible Academy</p> <p>6p Chancel Bells</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>7p Succoth Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>5:30 MPR Private event</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>10a Worship</p> <p>12:30p Succoth Church</p> <p>4p AA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p>	<p>Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm</p> <p>For most to date calendar information see online calendar at http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar</p>		<p>Calendar key: WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices; BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center</p> <p>Bold Print= St John activities</p>	



ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH



23225 Gill Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248-474-0584 om@stjohn-elca.org
www.stjohn-elca.org



STAFF

Pastor
Office Manager
Director of Mission Advancement
Director of Worship and Music
Handbell Choir

Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Marie Cook
Ashleigh Altemann
Dr. Michael Burkhardt
JoAnn Adams

BOARD MEMBERS

John Dresden
Mark Switzer
Gilda Bingham

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Worship and Music
Spiritual Development and Outreach
Mission Advancement
Member Care
Young Families and Children
Stewardship Of Resources
Facility Needs
Communications

Dr. Michael Burkhardt
Kevin O'Brien
Ashleigh Altemann
Kris O'Brien
Karen Boczkaja
Dave Androvich
Wolfgang Henkel
Elaine Pearson

Tom Bosanko
Nancy Janik
Glen Ming

The Staff at St. John is here to serve you. If you have questions or concerns, please give us a call; we will be happy to talk to you

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And / or Current resident