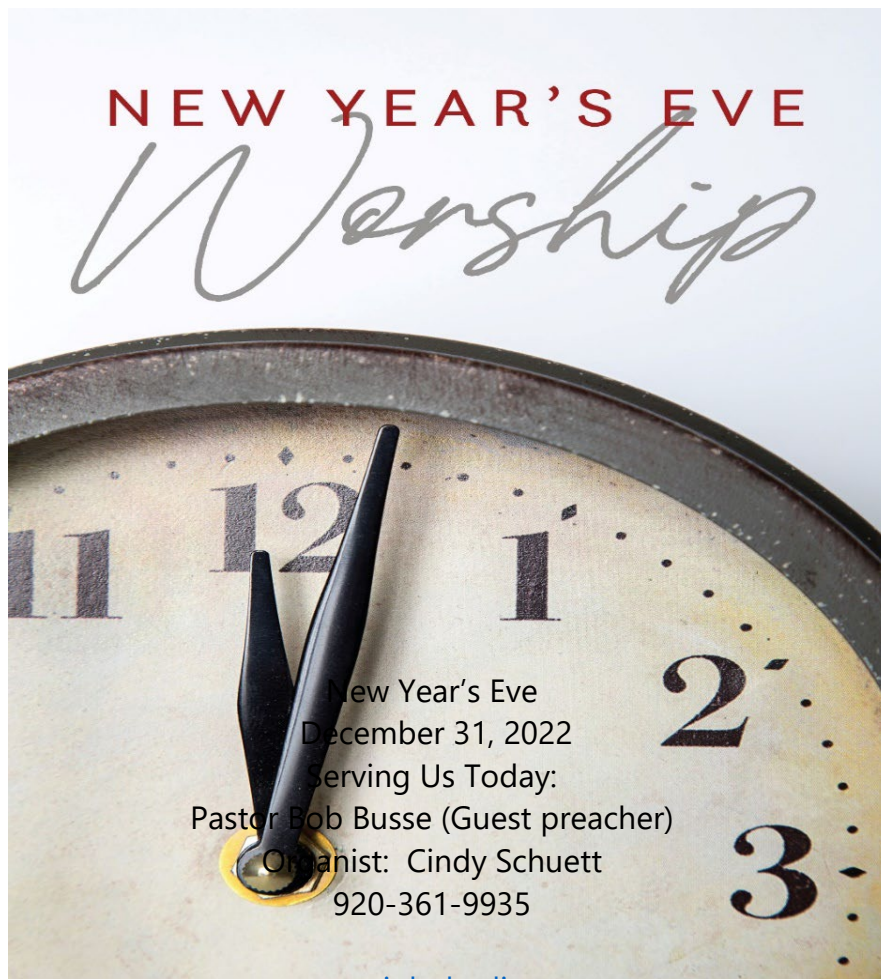


ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



www.stjohnberlin.org

(To Our Guests: The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin. In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. They show forth His death until He comes. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and so are unable to receive the Sacrament are invited to meditate on God's Word in the distribution hymn and pray for the day when divisions will have ceased. Please note that there is a cup of white grape juice in each tray which contains a drop of wine for those who prefer grape juice. Thank you!)

AS WE GATHER... In our world today it seems like there are many forces set against believers. Political correctness and wokeness seem to fly in the face of many of the Biblical truths we hold near and dear. Institutions such as marriage have been redefined in ways that are no longer congruent

with Christianity. Christians are ridiculed and belittled in the media today as old fashioned and out of touch with the ways of the world. As we move into a new year tonight we do so with a feeling of uncertainty at the direction our world is headed. But one thing is certain and never changing. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He is with us in the present and He will be with us in the future. When the devil tries his best to sabotage and distract us from our Christian walk, Jesus will be there to support us and uplift us. If Jesus is for us, who can be against us? Satan is against us for sure, but Jesus will make sure we win the day!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP HELPS... Please know we have two children's worship bulletins available for young non-readers and older children. Both bulletins have activities that go along with the weekly theme. We also have activity bags for children hanging on the rear wall of the church for use throughout the worship service. If needed we have a cry room/nursery (with changing table) behind the organ in the southwest corner of the church.

♪ PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

896 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

- 1 Now greet the swiftly changing year
 With joy and penitence sincere.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 2 Remember now the Son of God
 And how He shed His infant blood.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 3 This Jesus came to end sin's war;
 This Name of names for us He bore.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 4 His love abundant far exceeds
 The volume of a whole year's needs.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

- 5 With Him as Lord to lead our way
In want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space
In this new year of grace!
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.
- Δ7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline Your ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this new year of grace.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, who created and still sustains you, in the name of the ✠ Son, who redeemed and still intercedes for you, in the name of the Holy Spirit, who called you to faith and still sanctifies you.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: We are weary, Lord.

People: Stay with us.

Pastor: Remain by our side,

People: for we are so tired at the end of the year.

Pastor: We do not know what the future holds,

People: but we know that You hold it.

Pastor: Increase our faith in You,

People: and bring us safely to Your side.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. So often, though, we forget that the God who thundered at Sinai still thunders at our sin. The God who gave the Ten

Commandments remains just as serious about them today as He was then. We confess our forgetfulness.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. Just as He protected the nation of Israel and brought them out of Egypt, He has promised to protect us. Yet we ignore His promise, and we worry and fret. We confess our anxieties.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. He tells us that as long as it is today, we should repent. Yet we hold on to our sins. We confess our unrepentance.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. Yet we constantly give in to our sinful natures. We promise faithfulness to God and run back to old sins. We confess our sinful natures.

People: Lord, we confess our sin.

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. The same Jesus who chose to die for His people died for you. The same Jesus who loved you at your Baptism loves you still. The same Jesus who fought to win you from sin, death, and Satan still fights for you.

People: Lord, we thank You!

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. The same Jesus who died to take away your sins still declares you to be His forgiven children. By His authority as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Your sins of forgetfulness, your sins of habit, your sins of choice, your sins of thought, your sins of word, your sins of deed: They are all forgiven.

People: Lord, we thank You!

Pastor: People of God, our Lord remains unchanging. Just as He loved you then, nothing can separate you from His love now. Live in that unchanging love, from this year and into the next.

People: Praise be to God! Amen!

INTROIT *Psalm 98:1–3; antiphon: Psalm 124:8*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;
People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE

Pastor: O God of the Ages, as we leave the year that is past
People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord Jesus whose blood was shed for us
People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: Triune God in whose name we are baptized
People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord of time and eternity, as we enter this new year
People: have mercy on us. Amen.

♪ **HYMN OF PRAISE** "All Glory Be to God on High"

St. 1 & 3 **LSB #947**

1 All glory be to God on high
And thanks for all His favor;
No harm can touch or terrify
A child of God forever.
God shows His good and gracious will
And grants His peace, the world to fill—
All strife at last has ended.

3 O Jesus Christ, the only Son
Begotten of the Father,
Your saving death has made us one
With God and with each other.
O Lamb of God, to You on high

In our distress we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, amen!

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SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray...

All: Unchanging God, You have watched over us from eternity and set our lives so that all things happen at the proper time. In the new year, grow our trust in You as the One who provides all we need at the proper time, and who has already given us our salvation through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 30:15-17* (God promises rest and salvation.)

¹⁵ For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,

"In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

But you were unwilling, ¹⁶ and you said,

"No! We will flee upon horses";

therefore you shall flee away;

and, "We will ride upon swift steeds";

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

¹⁷ A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;

at the threat of five you shall flee,

till you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,

like a signal on a hill.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ **PSALM HYMN** *Psalm 90* "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

LSB #733

1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

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EPISTLE *Romans 8:31b-39* (God is for us always!)

If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 12:35–40 (Remain ready!)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN 724 *If God Himself Be for Me (Stanzas 1,3,4,5,10 sung to the tune of #644)*

1 If God Himself be for me,
 I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
 My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master,
 Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
 Can drive me from His love?

3 Christ Jesus is my splendor,
 My sun, my light, alone;
Were He not my defender
 Before God's judgment throne,
I never should find favor
 And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
 As darkness by the light.

4 He canceled my offenses,
 Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses
 My soul from sin through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful,
 Courageous on my way;

In Him I am not fearful
Of God's great Judgment Day.

5 For no one can condemn me
Or set my hope aside;
Now hell no more can claim me:
Its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me,
No guilt destroys my peace;
For Christ, my Savior, loves me
And shields me with His grace.

10 My heart with joy is springing;
I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing;
Your sunshine makes me glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit
Makes me rejoice and sing.

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SERMON "God Is For Us" (Romans 8:31b)

CREED HYMN "We All Believe in One True God"

LSB #953

1 We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.

2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us

In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord God, You bless us with friends and families. We praise You for this blessing! Remind us of the happy times we have shared this last year. Forgive us for the times we have failed to love our friends and families the way You would have us love. As we go forward into the new year, continue to remind us that friends and families are Your blessings to us. Dear Lord,

People: We praise You for the blessings of this year.

Pastor: Sovereign of heaven, You give us every authority for our blessing. Forgive us for the times we have refused to obey our leaders. Bless them with wisdom. Be with Joseph, our president, Tony, our governor, Joel, our mayor, our police, firefighters, and others You use to protect us. We thank You for the safety You gave through them this past year. Send Your angels to protect them. Move us to obey those You have placed over us. Dear Lord,

People: We praise You for the blessings of this year.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, be with those who cannot stand. Encourage the sick. Stand with those who despair. Warm the lonely. Use Your Word to strengthen those weak in faith. Forgive us for the times we have been callous to the needs of others. This year, open our eyes to see how we can serve and be Your hands. When we are weak, remind us that you are the Lord of time; You are ever with us. Dear Lord,

People: We praise You for the blessings of this year. Amen.

♪ OFFERING

♪ OFFERTORY "Create in Me"

LSB #956

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is the Lord of Time, who has done all things at the proper time, and who has given us His Son at the right moment, so that we might be called children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

♪ **SANCTUS** (*p. 208 in hymnal*)

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

♪ **AGNUS DEI** (*p. 210 in hymnal*)

**C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

♪ **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC** 900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee
Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell,
By the angel Gabriel.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave,
"Jesus shall His people save."
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,
Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe
First He tasted here below.
- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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♪ **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** (*p. 211 in hymnal*)

**C O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As the Lord has blessed and kept you this past year, He will continue to do so in the next year.
As the Lord has made His face shine on you and was gracious to you this past year, His face will still shine on you and He will be gracious to you next year.
As the Lord looked upon you with favor and gave you peace last year, He will continue to look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

♪ **CLOSING HYMN** "The Old Year Now Has Passed Away"
6 stanzas sung to LSB #632

1. The old year now has passed away;
We thank You, O our God, today

That You have kept us through the year
When danger and distress were near.

2. We pray You, O eternal Son,
Who with the Father reigns as one,
To guard and rule Your Christendom
Through all the ages yet to come.

3. Take not Your saving Word away,
Which lights and cheers our souls each day.
Abide with us and keep us free
From error and hypocrisy.

4. Oh, help us to forsake all sin,
A new and holier life begin!
Forgive the old year's sins, and bless
The new year with true happiness,

5. Wherein as Christians we may live
Or die in peace that You can give,
To rise again when You will come
And enter Your eternal home.

6. There shall we thank You and adore
With all the angels evermore.
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith
To praise Your name through life and death.

Text: attr. Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Public domain.

Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND, *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628. Public domain.

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Attendance Last Week: 363 (includes special services)

General giving last week: \$8718.00

Budget giving needed: \$7500.00

Calendar of Activities this week at St. John

4 Wednesday

Public Confirmation

3:45 pm

5 Thursday	Worship/HC	6:30 pm
7 Saturday	Church Undecorating	10:00 am
8 Sunday	Worship Service/HC	9:00 am
8 Sunday	Bible Class	10:15 am
8 Sunday	Sunday School	10:15 am

YOUR NEW 2023 CHURCH ENVELOPES ARE IN YOUR MAILBOX! Please pick them up and plan to begin using them right away on Sunday, January 1st. **Please check the name label on your envelopes immediately as you pull it out of your mailbox.** If something is not correct, notify Pastor, an Elder or Cathy Young. Remember...your nametag is BELOW the mailbox slot. If your family has more than one envelope box, please check the table in the Narthex for additional envelopes.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Scrip has recently added Visa and McDonald's gift cards. Visa offers a 1.25% rebate in the amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards. McDonald's offers a 2% rebate in the amounts of \$10 and \$25. Please consider purchasing scrip cards for gift shopping and giving.

LIFE DATE MAGAZINE, the official publication of *Lutherans for Life*, a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, is available on the table in the Narthex. This magazine contains timely articles on "Life" issues such as abortion, end-of-life matters, care giving, etc. It also highlights to work of *Lutherans for Life* which is dedicated to support, protect and honor all life from conception to natural death.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE about good things happening at our school? Weekly copies of the *BadgerBytes*, the school newsletter, are available in the information rack in the Narthex. *BadgerBytes* features information on activities at school, articles by the students, updates on fundraisers and lots more. Check it out!

FLOWER REMINDER: If you would like to donate or have flowers on the altar at any time for special occasions such as birthday, anniversary, in honor of or memory of for example, feel free to **sign up on the Flower Chart in the card room.** Flowers can be delivered by the local florist or brought in by you and put in the Altar Guild refrigerator. The flowers will be placed on the alter for the worship services."

THE CARD ROOM: The LWML would like to share with new members and remind current members that there are cards for sale in the "Card Room" which is the room where cookies are set up on Sunday mornings. Cards are all \$0.50 each. There are also various craft items for sale. If you make a purchase there is a box in the top file drawer for you to deposit your payment in. The Card Room also has mite boxes available if you would like to take one home to collect your mites. There is also a bulletin board with information about missionaries and seminarians we support as a congregation. If you have any questions please contact an LWML member: Carol Krause, Karen Vergin Krause, Kelli Mundinger, Deb Schrader, Dawn Schroeder, Cindy Schuett, Leitha Kraus, Bonnie Sperberg, or June Richter.

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH: We'll be undecorating the church on **Saturday, January 7 at 10am**