

Advent Lutheran Herald

***I worship at Advent
and my religion is
Kindness***

"Experience has shown me that the greatest inner tranquility comes from developing love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being. Cultivating a close, warm-hearted feeling for others automatically puts the mind at ease. It helps remove our fears and insecurities and gives us strength to face obstacles - it is the ultimate source of success in life." Dalai Lama

Dear Advent Friends;

The Dalai Lama is absolutely right and as members of Advent's faith family you know that our guiding principle is to practice more kindness than is necessary. There is such a powerful truth to that simple mantra. As you know from my messages especially the last couple of years, I truly believe that religion as a "closed community," is coming to an end. With the election of Pope Francis as the leader of the largest Christian body in the world, that change is already taking place in the Roman Catholic Church. Our own ELCA with it's compassionate and courageous stand and vote on accepting ordination for ministry candidates who are LGBT and in faithful committed relationships, is yet another example that the family of God's children is opening hearts and minds to the very essence of the teachings of Jesus. We know from both scripture and experience that God's love is unconditional and thankfully the paradigm shift among believers of all kinds is breaking down barriers that have served to divide us over the years. There is resistance of course. Our own ELCA, the largest of the Lutheran bodies lost some 500 congregations that do not want to accept the changes. Half of the Cardinals, which is the ruling body of the Roman Church are very upset with Francis and disagree with his reforms. Speaking of Francis, one of the most wonderful, scriptural and refreshing moments was when he was asked about homosexuality and his brief, Jesus-like response was; "Who am I to judge?" Indeed, who are any of us to judge others. We are in the midst of the season of Lent, the time of year in our church when we take a closer look at our lives, our behaviors, our motivations and ask ourselves are we really living according to what we believe to be true or just reacting to life as it throws things at us? Are we judging others because we harbor the same traits we don't like about them? Psychologists have suggested that if we identify characteristics in others that we find irritating it usually means we unconsciously know full well that they are the same things we don't like about ourselves. Our Wednesday evening Holden Village worship services give us an excellent opportunity to experience a more reflective and thoughtful time as we think of these important questions. Sunday morning worship in Lent offers the opportunity to speak and hear the words of confession as a reminder that we can always be and do better. Act with more compassion, empathy and kindness. Remember, confession and repentance does not mean just feeling sorry for what you have done, but knowing that you could do better you actually change your behavior. Repentance literally means to "change direction." As we look forward to the burst of energy, light and glory of the Resurrection of Jesus, the event that changed the world forever, let us use every day to find ever new opportunities to practice kindness!

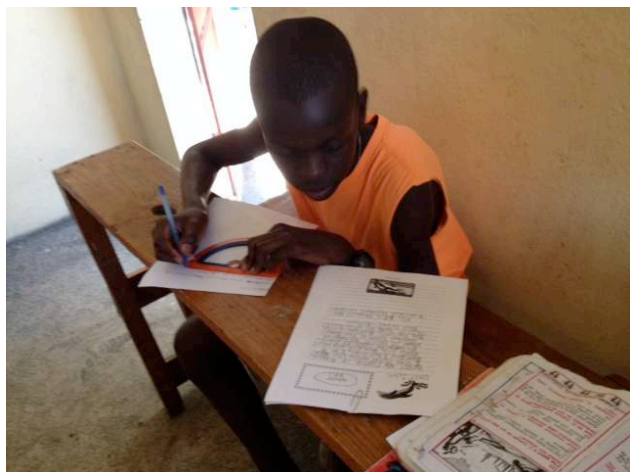
Pastor Janis and Aina.

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Music for MABO

On Sunday, April 19 at 3:00, Advent will be hosting a benefit concert to raise funds for the children of MABO. The musicians of Advent, including the senior choir and bell choir, will be joined by the Washington Brass Quintet in a musical celebration

A free will offering will be collected and all proceeds will be donated to MABO. The concert is open to the public and your help in promoting this event will be appreciated. We will share more details as the event gets closer. If you have questions or suggestions about this project you can contact Marty Gross by phone at 262-675-5017, or by email at martyandlinda144@gmail.com.



Writing letters to our friends in Cedarburg, WI



Visiting the school the MABO children attend.

Voluntary Simplicity Course

Do you find yourself thinking that "life is crazy" or "I'm so busy!"? Would you like to slow things down and simplify?

The Great Lakes Earth Institute has a wonderful class called "**Voluntary Simplicity**". Our church will be hosting this class at Advent for five sessions. The dates are:

Tuesdays, March 31, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

Meeting time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Place: Advent "car museum" room

You don't have to attend all five to participate. The only fee (\$27) for the class is for the accompanying book. If you are interested, or would like more information, please sign up in the Narthex. People are more than welcome to share books. The limit for the class is 15, but if there is enough interest, we can have two discussion groups. We hope to see you there!



Life is Simple when you smile and love one another!

Parish Register

Burials:

Beatrice Eleanor Covert
dob, 2.6.15 dod, 2.6.15
Memorial Service 2.15.15

Brian Kuemmerlein
dob 2.9.68, dod 2.21.15
Memorial Service at Mueller
Funeral Home – 2.26.15

Evelynn Wittenberg
dob, 8.3.27 dod, 1.4.15
Memorial Service 2.28.15



March Birthdays

- 1 Larry Ehlers, Sandra Knuth, Dillon Weitzel
- 2 Jeff Blank, Doreen Lettau
- 3 Lucy Capadona, Mary Lewandowski, David Milburn, Emily Scholz, Jane White
- 4 Jim Johnson
- 5 John Dorn, Lynn Swenson
- 6 John Chapman, Eleanore Kukla, Megan Savage, Joel Trede
- 8 Michelle Hannam, Jodi Ladd, Teri Schwab, Ed White
- 9 Walter Barth, Tyler Laurin, Karen Spriggs, Judy Weiss
- 10 Ralph Duret, Sandi Eurich, Shaylin Swenson, Gavin Tietz
- 11 Kay Danielson, Paula Kiely, Zachariah Ladd
- 12 Emily Arnold, Jim Capadona, Jamie Coulson, Jeremy Laughery, Kitty Moore, Joel Schwab, Gabriel Wray
- 14 Dyan Hannam, Melanie Hannam, Christopher Janssen, Allen Kraft
- 15 Julie Birschbach, Markie Maletzke, Marc Martino
- 16 Suzy Baivier, Aliyah Cerbins
- 18 Anita Bachtel, Kailey Janssen
- 19 B. J. Homayouni, Kristin McGraw, Emily Wrobbel
- 20 Erin Livingston, Drew Partridge

March Birthdays

- 22 Paul Kimmel, Janet Schade
- 23 Kersten Wuebben
- 25 Lori Adams, Kendra Griffin, Jan Perry, Jeff Ruehl, Charlie Schmelzer, John Schultz, Eli Schwab
- 27 Sara Cogsil, Patricia Gylland, Kayla Meyer
- 28 Wesley Anderson, Lisa Gonzalez, Norma Klimpke, Valerie Kukla
- 30 Steven Blank, Jamie Schmelzer
- 31 Alan Kindt, Noah Cerbins

March Anniversaries

- 21 Roger & Fran Bentz (45)
- 24 Mike and Shelly Riehle (14)



EMBRACE – With Love and Prayers
 In Your Prayers Please remember:

Margaret Anderson, Jean Schulz, Doris McMahon, John Stahmer, Bertha Surges, Ray Norene, Connor Wolosz, Dennis Bjorge, Marian Jones, Ellen Haynes, Nikki Walters, Millie Czarnecki, Sue Blankenheim, Bob Cenar, Mary Dommer, Steve Lettau, Richard (Dick) Heinzelmann, Pat Chase, Courtney Wolosz, Bonnie Wegner, Lowell Weber, Christina, Allison Nolan, Sonja Kalgren, Olivia Stern, Wendy Rauwerdink, Chrissy Sunter, Jack Zbiegen, Deb Volkert, Fr. Roger Veik, Mary Ann Wirth, Dillon Weitzel, Wendy Rauverkink, Barbara Else, Sandy Lange, Magnus, David Wihowski, Jessica Taft, Linda Mehlum, Olivia Gaschk, Sammy Herkert, Marco and family, MABO Orphanage and all Haitians, all men and women serving in the armed forces, all victims of natural disasters, and the volunteers committed to their relief and our homebound and those in homes away from home.



In Homes Away from Home

Marcy Rasmussen, at Lasata; Doris McMahon at The Crossings; Arlene Saltzmann, The Heights, Mildred Trede at McKinley Place; Dennis Bjorge at Heritage in Port Washington; Jean Schulz at Luther Manor

Pastoral Care

Hospital stays are brief these days; be sure to notify the church office of hospitalization, so pastoral care may be provided. The Federal Privacy Act may require you to give permission for church staff to visit. Check with your doctor or hospital admissions regarding visitation policies.

Pastor Kinens Cell Phone

(262) 573-9027

Advent Prayer Chain



Advent has an active prayer chain whose members are dedicated to add their prayers to yours upon request. You may call the church office with your request (262) 377-2710), or contact any member of the prayer chain. Members are: Fran Bentz, Aina Kinens, Jean Schulz, Linda Herkert, Jessica Zappia, Laurie Bell, Kay Walters, JoAnn Nennig, Marcy Mattson, and Heidi Lundgren.

EMBRACE MINISTRIES

Everyone Ministers By Reaching out, Affirming, Caring, Encouraging

THE PURPOSE OF EMBRACE, THE COMBINED MINISTRIES OF EVANGELISM, MEMBER CARE, SOCIAL MINISTRY AND HEALTH MINISTRY, IS TO EFFECTIVELY ASSIST GOD TO DIRECT THE ENERGIES OF ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH AND FOCUS ON THE RESOURCES OF FAITH – ABILITY TO PRAY, SHARE, SERVE AND WORSHIP AND IDENTIFY WITH THE HELP AND HEALING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

FAMILY SHARING

Continues to need our help. Currently they are in need of the following items:

Cold Cereals, Spaghetti-O's, Jam/Jelly, Ravioli, Canned Sloppy Joe Mix, Peanut Butter, Paper Towel, Toilet Paper, Diapers, and Toiletries.

There is a collection basket in the church narthex. Share your bounty with those who have little. Thank you for your help.



Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in March at 7 pm

Maundy Thursday- April 2 at 7 pm

Good Friday - April 3 at 7 pm

Easter Sunday April 4, 8:00 & 10:30 am

Easter Brunch at 9:15 am between services. Sign up in the Narthex or by calling the church office.



The Mt Meru Coffee Project continues to improve the standard of living as well as economic and social justice to the Meru Diocese in Tanzania.

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good! Coffee orders may be submitted in the church Narthex.

Worship assistants, ushers, and greeters are always needed. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Cheri Hesse with dates and times you are able to assist.

Smile and Say New Advent Directory!

A new directory committee is working on updating our directory and we need your pictures please. John and Teresa Dorn will be taking pictures of our Advent families in March and April to use for a new directory. Look for them between services and after the 10:30 service to get your picture taken. As in the past it is optional if you want to be listed in the directory, but it sure helps to get to know our friends at church if you are listed and pictured.



Flower and Rose sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Thank you to all who contribute on a regular basis. We can always use others to sign up.



Reminder: Soup's On

Wednesdays – 6 pm, before the Lenten service. Bring something to share.

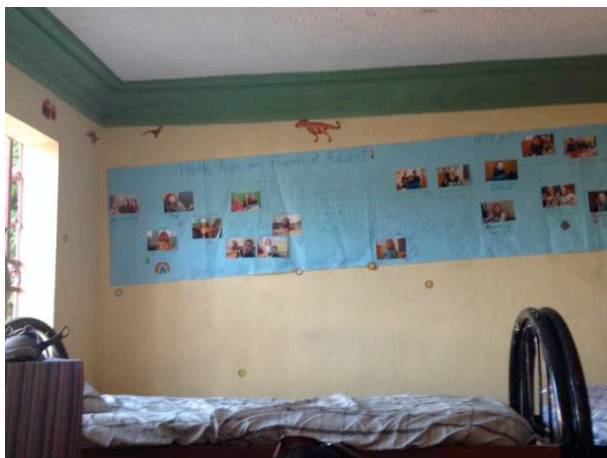


MABO Haiti Update

Sarah Slavin, Bethany Thiede Wray, Dale Waldo, Ray and Jan Perry and their friend Dick Wilkey traveled to Port au Prince, Haiti between Feb. 19 – Feb. 28, 2015, to visit and work at MABO. Our 24 children living at MABO are happy, healthy, and doing very well. They were so very excited to have us visit once again. We shared letters from children at West Lawn Elementary in Cedarburg and Madame Christy Fischer's French classes from West Bend High School. Watching and listening to the children read the letters was beyond amazing. How the kindness of someone writing a letter, including a picture and a few stickers made memories for a lifetime for the children as well as, for us.

Tony Zappia collected soccer jerseys from West Bend West High School for our MABO kids and the looks on their faces upon receiving were priceless.

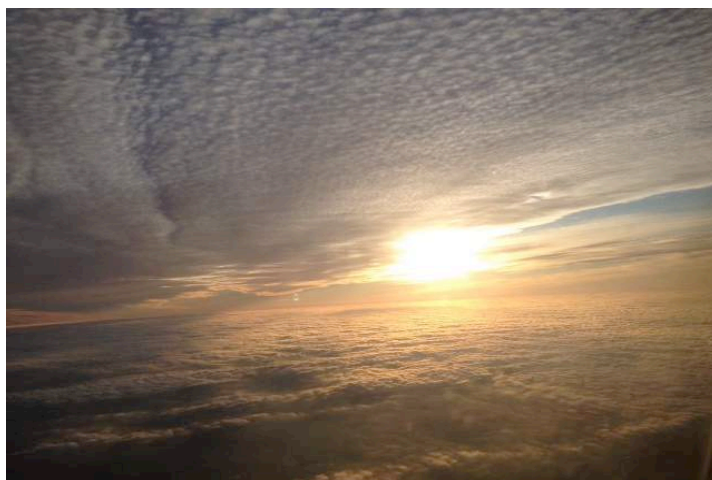
New clothing, shoes, swimsuits, and much needed bed linens were also some of the main items taken. Our Advent Sunday School sent a beautiful banner with pictures, greetings, and God's blessings. Such an important connection was made with this, the children hung it over their beds. Your friendly faces and kind words are what they will see and read before falling asleep at night. How precious your gift of friendship is.



If you want to get further involved with MABO, just make your wishes known. The team is a great group of people and it is exciting and rewarding work.

www.mabohomehaiti.org/

Reflections



Called to know, love and follow you, O God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Everlasting God, deepen your church's commitment to proclaiming the gospel, that many will hear, respond, and share in its blessings.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creator of earth's foundations, restore lands, forests, and oceans recovering from natural disasters. Protect and preserve all animals and humans who live in these places.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Everlasting God, rule over the nations and guide their paths toward the fulfillment of your purpose, nurturing the common good, protecting the weak, providing justice, and caring for the needy.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Strength of the powerless, lift up the weary and wounded, give endurance to those whose struggle is unrelenting, heal the sick, and relieve the pain of those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*(Prayers of Intercession, Celebrate February 8, 2015
Vol. 46, No. 1)*

Where's Jesus?



Lent series for children at Advent

Each week we will explore a different place that Jesus went through activities, games, Bible stories, crafts, snacks, etc. All children are invited to come and have **FUN** while their parents and older siblings attend worship. Wednesday evenings, 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall on Feb. 25, Mar. 4, Mar. 11, Mar. 18, and Mar. 25.

Don't forget Soup's On at 6:00 PM.

February 25	Jesus is in the desert
March 4	Jesus is at a wedding
March 11	Jesus is on a lake
March 18	Jesus is at a friend's house
March 25	Jesus is on the beach

Photos by Bethany Thiede Wray



People often ask me if I have “favorites” among our friends in Milwaukee. I usually say no, but there are some people that I tend to worry about more than others. One of them is a gentle soul named “Alfred”. He is so meek and mild that he gives lambs a bad name. I have known Alfred for five years now, and I can’t help but worry about him. There are times in which some of the people become “grabby” with items and try to take as much as they can. I have seen people take items right out of Alfred’s hands, claiming that they need it more or saw it first. Alfred never resists; he just passively lets go and continues looking for things that he can use. He never takes more than he needs. Sometimes he comes down to the park just to say hi and grab a cup of coffee. He always tells me that he is “blessed,” no matter how cold the temperature or how disheveled his clothing is. He also makes sure to say thank you before leaving the park.

I can’t help but think that one has to be tough to survive on the streets, but somehow Alfred does. He has been the target of bullies and thieves, and last week some young (teens or early twenties) people were making faces at him and saying derogatory remarks to him and the other people we were servicing. A couple of our other park friends wanted to respond with some pretty harsh words, but Alfred simply shook his head and said, “They just don’t know.” Maybe it is this kindness and avoidance of confrontation that has made it possible for Alfred to survive on the streets for so long. Whatever the reason, I am blessed to call him my friend.

May you and yours always be Blessed.



Cathy Norene and the Mr. Bob’s Crew

*Come help sort for Mr. Bob’s
Thursday evenings, 6-7 pm
Advent Church Basement
Many hands make light work!*

This time of year items that are especially needed:

Men’s pants, socks, long underwear, shoes, winter coats, & hats, hygiene products, coffee and hot chocolate mix.



Children's Ministry News

*Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it*



Valentine Greetings

The Sunday School children used their creativity to craft Valentines for the ladies at Lasata that Pastor has services with on Fridays. Their heartfelt messages and the care they put into their cards show the loving hearts of the children. This simple outreach was meaningful to both the givers and the recipients.

Souper Bowl Success

The Souper Bowl collection and soup mix sale is once again a big success thanks to the generosity of Advent. Despite a snowy Sunday morning the Sunday School efforts brought in \$330 collected in the soup kettles and \$392 in soup mix sales. Additional soup mix sales brought the total to \$769. There are a few soup mixes left to sell at the time of writing, so our anticipated sales will bring us close to \$800. We will top that off with children's envelope money that has been building up to give \$400 to Cross Meal Program, \$400 to Ozaukee Family Sharing, and \$300 to Meals on Wheels.



Greetings to Haiti

The Sunday School children also worked on a mural of pictures and greetings to send to the children of MABO. The children here and the children at MABO love to hear from each other and send greetings back and forth. It is wonderful to have this ongoing connection between the two groups.

Ways to Pray

Throughout March the children will be experiencing different ways to pray in addition to their regular lessons. Prayer, along with fasting and almsgiving, is one of the traditional disciplines of Lent. But prayer can be very non-traditional, and children are open to trying new and different things. We will be exploring ways to pray, not by learning about them, but by praying. Having to put this together moved me out of my prayer rut. Join us on this Lenten journey by changing up *your* prayer routine.

Looking Ahead

Vacation Bible School will be July 13-17 at Faith Lutheran Church. We will be working with Faith and Immanuel to present *Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power*. It's not too early to let me know if you are interested in helping.

Lisa Wegner
Child and Family Ministry

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Thinking warm thoughts~

This month, we will focus on quiet reflection in preparation for renewal and rebirth. The Youth will attend the beautiful Lenten Services at 7pm each Wednesday leading up to Easter, participating as readers and Communion assistants. We encourage everyone to join us for Soups On prior to services, a wonderful way to warm up inside and out!

Sunday March 8th: Johnson's Garden Gift Card fundraiser taking place between services. All donations will go toward service and activities for the year. Many thanks for your support, which will enable us to serve others in our upcoming local missions projects with Next Door Foundation, Cross Church & Walnut Way.

Saturday March 14th: The cure for cabin fever...we'll head to Bounce Milwaukee indoor amusement center for inflatable sports, rock climbing & laser tag- woo hoo!



Book Drive: For the next several months we will be conducting a children's book drive to benefit the **Next Door Foundation** with whom we will be partnering for a portion of our Local Missions Week this summer. Next Door Foundation aims to empower parents and promote early literacy for at risk children in Milwaukee. In addition to the book drive, we will be reading to preschool children and assisting in classrooms at Next Door as part of our service project. Please deposit gently used children's books in the decorated box in the Narthex.

With blessings and warm gratitude for your support!

Sarah Slavin
Youth Director



The Children of MABO travel to the beach for the first time – ever. Thank you Sarah Slavin for all the cute swimsuits from your friends in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS FOR WELFARE AND NOT FOR EVIL, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE. Jeremiah 29:11

COUNCIL CORNER – Joe Kaylor attended the dedication of *Innovations and Wellness Commons* on January 22, 2015. He wanted to share this projects progress.

Several months ago Sharon Adams visited Advent Lutheran in Cedarburg to share her story about growing up in Milwaukee, leaving for 27 years and then returning. This determined lady was not going to accept the status quo and set out to change her blighted old neighborhood.

Well, evidence of that vision became a reality on January 22. A dedication was held at 16th and North for The Innovations and Wellness Commons- a six million dollar facility is being constructed on the lot that once hosted a Library and Natatorium that Sharon visited as a child. Mayor Tom Barrett and Lt Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch spoke at this event where a \$431,000 Grant was announced. There are over 30 partners and supporters involved in this endeavor- Don't mess with Sharon and Larry Adams, they get things done!! The Commons will host Outpost Foods, Juice Kitchen, a Commercial Kitchen, Jobs training and Fondy Foods. Over 20 jobs will be created. The three themes of the new Commons facility are:

Environmental Impact- a catalyst in restoring vitality to the North Ave corridor

Economic Impact- create job training and employment opportunities for residents

Social and Cultural Impact- promote individual wellbeing and cultivate neighborhood quality of life initiatives

This is another example of several local neighborhood grass roots initiatives currently underway that will result in a better quality of life and opportunities for Milwaukee and Wisconsin citizens. Congratulations to Sharon and Larry and their many supporters that made this dream a reality! It brought to mind an observation from Easter (Cross Church) two days prior to this dedication: "I did not choose to be born black but God created me in his image and likeness to do good." I think the 70-100 people (rich, poor, black, white, young, old) gathered at this dedication could not agree more with Easter!



Simplify your giving in 2015 and use our online electronic giving. Contact the church office for instructions or sign up online at our Advent website. Adventchurch.org

Advent Prayer Garden & Columbarium

The prayer garden committee is working on additional ways to move forward with this project to enhance our church property and community. If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Paul Rushing at (262) 617-6180 or Doreen Lettau at (262) 339-0546.



Giving and Attendance

	General	Expenses	Over (Short)	Average Attendance
2010 Total	\$348,270	\$343,459	\$4,811	218
2011 Total	\$327,561	\$343,339	(\$15,778)	209
2012 Total	\$323,397	\$329,103	(\$5,706)	208
2013 Total	\$335,908	\$326,881	\$9,027	188
2014 Total	\$377,827	\$317,398	\$60,428	190
2015 Through February 2015				
	\$42,416	\$59,252	\$(16,836)	161

ADVENT PARISH DIRECTORY

Officers

President	Stacie Stark
Vice-President	Tim Gergens
Secretary	Mike Schade
Treasurer	Ethel Veik
Pastor	Janis J. Kinens
Office Secretary	Cheri Hesse
Child & Family Ministry	Lisa Wegner
Youth & Family Ministry	Sarah Slavin
Organist/Handbell Choir	Sandra Knuth
Sr. Choir Director	Jackie Vandenberg
Financial Secretary	Kelly Cisar
Custodian	Krista Kinens
Wedding Coordinator	Brenda Schilke

COMMITTEES

Worship and Music	Christy Cummings
Evangelism*	Bethany Thiede Wray
Finance	Tim Gergens
Family Ministry	Bob Burmeister
Membership Care *	Kitty More
Memorials & Wills	Dale Waldo
Property	Rick Stark
Stewardship*	Joe Kaylor
Social Ministry*	Jessica Zappia
Staff Support	Mickey Else

• **EMBRACE Ministries**

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Cheri@adventchurch.org

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