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## The Cost of a Life

“Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, *“What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.*” *Matthew 26:14-15*

What is the cost of a human life? That’s a question with drastically different answers depending on who is answering. The question arises, at times, like when you go to purchase a life insurance policy, or in the unfortunate instance of a lawsuit involving a death.

That was the question Judas asked of the chief priests: “What is Jesus’ life worth to you?” They agreed on a price: thirty pieces of silver. Judas – one of the 12 Disciples that had been with Him since nearly the beginning of His ministry – would betray Jesus with a kiss. Those 30 pieces of silver would be a handsome payment for his betrayal.

In Jesus’ day, a piece of silver was worth about a days’ wage. Thirty pieces is over a month’s worth of work. In the Old Testament, that was the cost of a life. If an ox killed a slave, the owner of the ox must make restitution of 30 pieces of silver, and the ox would be killed (*Exodus 21:32*).

For a month’s wages and the value of a slave, Judas betrayed his Lord. That is what Judas thought Jesus’ life was worth. But what of you? What is your life worth?

To Jesus, the answer is everything. He would willingly give up His very life in order to save you from your sins.

Perhaps it is fitting that Jesus was betrayed for the cost of a slave, especially considering what Jesus said about Himself: *“The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).”*

Jesus would do anything for you. He saw you dead in your sins, but He would not leave you there. He took your sins upon Himself and bore them to the cross.

In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther describes this gracious act of God in the explanation of the Second article of the Creed. Luther writes: *Jesus “has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”*

Your life is far more valuable to God than any amount of money. For you, Jesus willingly entered the city of Jerusalem knowing that death awaited Him there. For you, Jesus suffered, bled, and died in order that your sins would be forgiven. And for you, Jesus rose from the dead to declare victory over death.

In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate Holy Week. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Palm Sunday as Jesus enters the City of Jerusalem as the crowd shouted, “Hosanna!”

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, we gather at 7:00pm for services. On Holy Thursday we remember the Lord instituting the Lord's Supper for us. On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death on the cross for us. On Holy Saturday, we gather for the Easter Vigil as we await the Lord's Resurrection. And then on Easter Day, we gather at 7:00am and 10:00am as we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection from the dead to redeem us from our sins and bring us into His eternal Kingdom.

Join us during Holy Week as we hear the story of your salvation and see how much our Lord loves you – so much that He sacrificed everything to save you.

In the Peace of Jesus,  
*Pastor Jonathan Schultz*

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## **MAY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE**

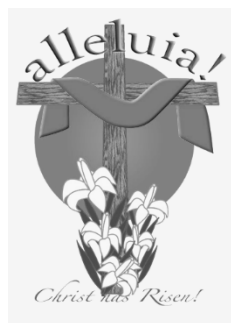
*Please have your newsletter items into the church office by:*

**Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>!!**



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## **WEE DISCIPLES**



*And the angel said, "He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee."*

*Luke 26:6*

***CHRIST IS RISEN!***

***HE IS RISEN, INDEED!***

***ALLELUIA!***



The Wee Disciples children have been learning Lenten and Easter songs and Bible verses in preparation to celebrate Easter. The **Wee Disciples' Easter Family Chapel** will be held on **Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Wee Disciples will be closed on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in observance of Good Friday.

Wee Disciples is currently registering for the 2025-2026 school year. Contact Debbie Lee for more information concerning what openings we have available.

Plans are being made for the *2025 Wee Disciples Summer Program*. Unfortunately, due to lack of staffing, we are unable to take older school age children this summer. Included in our summer program will be attending Vacation Bible School at Peace Lutheran Church. We will have more information in May about the summer program. Contact Debbie Lee for enrolling your child/children in the Summer Program.

Our fundraising evenings continue the third Tuesday of each month at Fuddruckers'. Our next evening will be April 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 9:00pm. Fuddruckers' donates 20% of your total ticket purchase to Wee Disciples. Coupons are available on the announcement board by the church office. Thank you to everyone who has attended these fundraising evenings!

***HAVE A BLESSED EASTER!***

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Did you know that Trinity has scholarships available for families of Trinity who have, or would like to have, their children attending Wee Disciples Preschool and Day Care? The application is available on our website ([www.trinity-mt.org](http://www.trinity-mt.org)) or in the church office. **NOTE ~ The congregation is encouraged to contribute to the scholarship fund just as we do the roof repair or any other special fund. There are special envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary to place your donations in.**



### FOOD PANTRY FLOAT PARTY

Join us for a Food Pantry Float Party hosted by LWML and Thrivent during fellowship time **following Palm Sunday worship services on April 13, 2025.** Throughout the Lenten season, Trinity members and LWML ladies are collecting non-perishable items for the school food pantries at West Elementary School and Mountain View Elementary School. A list of items needed is posted on the collection box in the Narthex and on the bulletin board by the church office and in the *Grace Notes*. Thank you to everyone who has brought food items already! We would really like to have that big box filled to overflowing with food items by Easter Sunday! Holy Week gives everyone additional opportunities to bring your donations—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Saturday’s Easter Vigil and then Easter Sunrise Services and the regular Easter Service. Please help us fill up that box!



### LWML News

*All ladies of the congregation, including our new members and confirmed young women, are invited and encouraged to attend all LWML happenings here at Trinity. Please contact Sylvia Adams or Amy Schultz for more information.*

<b>Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:30am</b>	Group Gathering
<b>Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ 11:30am</b>	LWML Board meeting
<b>Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:30am</b>	Central Zone Spring Rally ~ Zion Power
<b>Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:30 am</b>	Group Gathering & Elections
<b>June 26-29, 2025</b> Omaha, NE	National LWML Convention
<b>Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> ~ TTBA</b>	Trinity hosting Central Zone Fall Rally
<b>April 24-26, 2026</b> Lewistown, MT	District LWML Convention

**Collection for Lent** – LWML will be collecting non-perishable food items for two local elementary school food pantries during the season of Lent (March 5 – April 20). Suggested food items include:

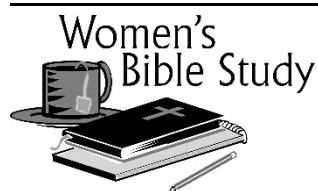
- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| boxes of macaroni and cheese  | canned meat (chicken, beef, tuna, etc.) |
| spaghetti sauce (any flavors) | Cup O’ Noodles                          |
| alfredo sauce                 | peanut butter                           |
| cereal                        | jelly                                   |
| cream of chicken soup         | powdered milk                           |
| cream of mushroom soup        | canned fruit (any kind)                 |
| chicken noodle soup           | fruit snacks.                           |
| tomato soup                   |   |

Our next Central Zone event is the **Spring Rally on April 26<sup>th</sup>**. It will be at Zion Lutheran Church in Power. Please plan to attend and spend time in Christian fellowship with ladies from throughout central Montana. **They will be taking a free-will offering to benefit Pastor and Heidi Paul** instead of an ingathering. Our upcoming Montana District LWML Convention will be April 24-26, 2026 in Lewistown. What joyful times ahead!

The **National LWML Convention** will be in Omaha, NE, June 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. *What a fun time to gather with your fellow Lutheran Ladies to hear how our Mites are used, reports from missionaries in the Harvest Field, worship together, and have great times of fellowship, Bible Study and more!* Registration opens in March. Please ask Sylvia or Amy for more information. We would love to have several people from Trinity attend this wonderful event!

**Mark your calendars:** Trinity LWML will be hosting our **Central Zone Fall Rally on October 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will be inviting ladies from all over the zone, including Chinook, Havre, Power, Fairfield, Peace/Christ for the Deaf here in Great Falls, Stanford, Lewistown, Denton and Fort Benton. More information will follow, but this is a great opportunity to serve and have fellowship with our sisters in Christ in our area.

Our next Group Gathering will be on **Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am**. We will have a Bible study and then some planning time for the Fall Rally on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The board will meet on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 am.



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**Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible study** ~ The Wednesday morning ladies' Bible study group meets every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 11:00am in the Stahlecher Room. Currently the group is using single-session studies from the 2025 *Lutheran Witness* (each of those studies is about the Old Testament), Bible studies from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, and studies from the LWML website. We have lots of available seats and would love to have you join us for a morning of fellowship together as we study God's Word. We will not meet on the Wednesday of Holy Week ~ April 16<sup>th</sup>.

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**Men's Bible Study** meets on **Thursday mornings at 8:30 am** for an hour of fellowship and study of God's Word. All the men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

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A look around the yard tells you spring is well on its way. Crocuses have already bloomed. Daffodils are showing their buds with tulips to follow soon. How exciting to see these sleepy bulb plants display their various colors after a long winter. New life is awakening in the Little Belt and Highwood foothills in the last week of April when Pasque flowers, yellow bells, and spring beauties will decorate the places that have never been plowed. Look for some of these native posies the week after Easter.

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**The Friday Ladies Bible study** ~ Friday Ladies Bible study is in recess during April but will resume in May with a new study of the *Book of Ecclesiastes*.

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**Assisted Living Ministry** ~ Assisted Living Ministry will bring hymn singing and a devotion to *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., on **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**. The no host lunch will gather earlier that day at **11:30am** at *Mackenzie River Pizza*, 500 River Dr.

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Pastor Reinke will hold worship services at *The Lodge*, 1801 9<sup>th</sup> St. S. on **Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**. He will conduct worship at *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. on **Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm**. Come and enjoy fellowship with the residents of *The Lodge* and *Highgate*, where some of our church members live. Your presence will bring them joy!

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**Easter Breakfast Volunteers Needed** ~ It is time to start making plans for this year's Easter Breakfast. If you would be willing to help plan and execute the Easter Sunday Breakfast, please contact Cheryl in the church office (406-452-2121). *Together let's make this a great celebration!*





**Easter Lilies** ~ The Altar Committee will once again be placing an order for lilies to grace our altar for Easter. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these lilies, please make a separate check payable to *Trinity Lutheran Church*, designate on the check “**For Easter Lilies**” and drop it into the offering plate. **If you would like your donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please attach a note with the details to your check or call the church office 452-2121 with that information.**

**Lenten Soup Suppers** ~ We are having Lenten soup suppers each Wednesday of Lent. As always there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please sign up for items to bring each week.



**COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2025**

For the period February 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>

February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$4,213
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$5,210
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,606
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,934
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$2,240
<b>Vanco</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

**Actual giving for report period: \$19,403**

Roof Repair Fund –through 03/23/2025 \$49,149

If you have any questions, please call me at (406) 868-2260 ~ *James Lautenschlager, Assistant Treasurer*

**Vanco’s Give+ Online**

**Vanco’s Give+ Mobile**

*The next generation of giving*



Please visit our website [www.trinity-mt.org](http://www.trinity-mt.org), go to the “Fellowship” tab and sign up for online giving. You can also download the Vanco mobile app to your smart phone for even more convenience.



**Assistant Treasurer Job Opening** ~ James Lautenschlager will be stepping down from his role as the Assistant Treasurer effective June 30, 2025. Trinity is now looking for someone to fill the role. If you are interested, please bring a resume’ and a letter of interest to the church office by **April 7, 2025**. If you have questions about the job, contact the church office (406-452-2121) or James Neumann (406-868-2570).



**Our shut-ins**

**Millie Birkholz** (The Lodge), **Ellen Carpenter** (Eagle’s Manor), **Anita Erickson** (at home). **Ed Hickel** (at home), **Arleen Nelson** (Bee Hive Homes-Pine Tree), **George Pence** (at daughter’s in California), **Lauretta Stanfield** (at home); **Juanita Winter** (Bee Hive Homes-Clover)

**Bob Blomstrom** (Helena), **Darlene Murray** (at son’s home in Kansas), **Vi-Nell** (at son’s home in Spokane, WA)

*Our members who continue to battle health issues and their caregivers*

Jim & Barb Going  
Chuck & Judy Lively, Chuck & Elsie Lorenz  
Jerry & Colleen Mans, Henry & Alice Schuman

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*We pray for those serving in law enforcement and the military*

**Sam Birkett**, Cascade County Sheriff's Deputy; **Joshua Graham**, (Blomstrom's grandson-in-law) Helena Police Department

**Scott Broberg**, USAF; **Daniel Crème**, USAF; **Ricardo Dominguez**, USAF; **Matthew Erickson**, USAF (Anita Erickson's grandson); **Landon Grosenick**, MANG (Pam Grosenick's grandson); **Chaplain Jonathan Schultz**, USAF Reserves; **Julie Timms** (Waetzig's granddaughter)

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**Rev. Dr. David & Jennifer Preus** ~ Eurasia (Romania)

**Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul** ~ Cayman Islands

**Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett** ~ Ethiopia

**John & Jenn Wolf** ~ Kenya



**Giving Online:** You can partner with the LCMS by making an online gift restricted in use to the support of these missionaries at [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

**Giving by Check:** You can also make a donation to their ministries by check. *Mail your check, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and designated in the memo line with the missionaries last name*, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, **QUESTIONS?** Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to [mission.giving@lcms.org](mailto:mission.giving@lcms.org).

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**Please make these changes to your church directory**

**Peggy & Kirk Norris**  
1109 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.  
Great Falls, MT 59405-2145



**Bob Blomstrom**  
3326 Hazel Ave.  
Helena, MT 59601-8664

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**CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE and TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES!!**



Once again with the coming of spring we look to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates of our congregation. If you or a family member are graduating this spring, please let the church office know so that we can include you (them) in our May edition of the Lamplighter. You can write a short article about the person or just give the office the information (name, birth date, parents, siblings, school graduating from, special awards, future plans, etc.) and we will write the piece for you. Don't forget to include a picture of your graduate. You can bring this into the office or email it to [trinity@trinity-mt.org](mailto:trinity@trinity-mt.org). **The deadline for the May Lamplighter is Monday, April 21, 2025.**

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Our video ministry goes out each week on our Facebook page and reaches countless people. The audio/video crew is looking for a few good people. No experience is needed, we will teach you what you will need to know. If you would be interested in helping with this very important ministry, contact Pastor Schultz or Cheryl Bauer (406-590-6460) for more information.





**The Lutheran Witness and Portals of Prayer** ~ It is time for us to renew our *Portals of Prayer* and *Lutheran Witness* subscriptions.

*The Lutheran Witness* annual subscription is \$20.65. These subscription renewals must be into the church office by **Monday, May 5, 2025.**

*Portals of Prayer* annual subscriptions are \$13.25 for regular size; \$22.00 for digest size and \$24.00 for large print. These subscription renewals must be into the church office by **Monday, April 14, 2025**



If you are currently receiving these items and wish to continue those subscriptions, please place your renewal check in the offering plate, mail it or bring it to the church office. **Be sure to indicate WHAT you are subscribing to with specifics so that we get the products you want.**

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### **Please, check your Narthex mailbox!**

**Due to the rising cost of postage**, if you are a regular attendee and have a Narthex mailbox (most all of you do), you will NOT be receiving the Lamplighter or most other church related items via the U.S. Postal Service. Please check your Narthex mailbox each week.

**If you would prefer to receive your Lamplighter via email, please email the church ([trinity@trinity-mt.org](mailto:trinity@trinity-mt.org)) and we will switch you to electronic delivery.**

Remember that the Lamplighter and Grace Notes are posted on our web site at **[www.trinity-mt.org](http://www.trinity-mt.org)**. You can always access them there.

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**Just a reminder**, if you need to get in touch with the church office, **PLEASE** call the church (406-452-2121), the church cell phone (406-590-6460) or send an email ([trinity@trinity-mt.org](mailto:trinity@trinity-mt.org)). Both the church number and cell phone number reach me 24/7 and I have access to check email regularly. *Thank you, Cheryl Bauer*



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**Youth Group Lock-In** ~ There will be a youth group lock-in on **Friday and Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**. We will start at 7:00pm on April 4<sup>th</sup> and end at 7:00am on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Youth should bring their favorite pizza toppings, a sleeping bag, and any canned goods that they would like to donate to the food pantries. Pizza basics like pepperoni, cheese, sauce, and dough will be provided. There will also be breakfast served around midnight.

**Read through the Gospels or New Testament in Lent** ~ What better way to prepare for Easter than to read the complete story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection? So, dust off your Bible as we read God's Word through these 40 days of Lent!

<b>Read through the Gospels or New Testament in Lent</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>Gospels only</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
April 1	Luke 15 - 16	Romans 9 - end
2	Luke 17 - 18	1 Corinthians 1 - 8
3	Luke 19 - 20	1 Corinthians 9 - 16
4	Luke 21 - 22	2 Corinthians 1 - end
5	Luke 23 - 24	Galatians 1 - end
April 6	Take a Break	
7	John 1 - 2	Ephesians 1 - end
8	John 3 - 4	Philippians & Colossians
9	John 5 - 6	1 & 2 Thessalonians
10	John 7 - 8	1 & 2 Timothy
11	John 9 - 10	Titus - Philemon & Hebrews 1 - 7
12	John 11 - 12	Hebrews 8 - end
April 13	Take a Break	
14	John 13 - 14	James
15	John 15 - 16	1 & 2 Peter
16	John 17 - 18	1, 2 & 3 John & Jude
17	John 19 - 20	Revelation 1 - 7
18	John 21	Revelation 8 - 16
19	1 Corinthians 15	Revelation 17 - end
April 20	<i><b>It's Easter! He is risen! Alleluia!</b></i>	





# Birthdays

## Wedding, Baptismal and Confirmation Anniversaries

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Roy Craven	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Amanda Miesmer
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alec Jones	April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Michelle Neumann
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Myrna Philipp	April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rachel Schultz
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Trey Mans	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Shelley Rossberg
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Molly Bishop	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Carl Anderson (80+)</b>
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Frank Rossberg	April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Wes Bauer
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Amayah Hill	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Treve Mans
	<b>Colleen Mans (80+)</b>	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Heinert
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cindy Stene		<b>Arleen Nelson (90+)</b>
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lidia Neumann (80+)</b>	April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Len Christianson



April 13<sup>th</sup> Frank ♥ Shelley Rossberg (57)



April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lauretta Stanfield	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Justice
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Louise Kuki	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Cheri Zrawka
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Roy Arves	April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Jones
	Bill Sybrant	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Bob Magis
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Baranko	April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Chris Magis
	Bob Blomstrom	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Millie Birkholz
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chad Mans	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia Adams
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Brielyn Ginnaty	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Charlie Kingland
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Kessel	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Tracy Miesmer
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Jan Bicsak		Bonnie Nommensen

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Kathie Sybrant	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Schultz
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Linda Bergan		Joshua Schultz
	Louise Kuki	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Cheri Zrawka
	Peggy Norris	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Elisa Broberg
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sherri VanVleet	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bonnie Nommensen
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Kessel	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Amy Schultz
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Clarissa Shaffer		

