SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH **PO Box 684 CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026** CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166 WEBSITE www.sjnc.net

DIRECTORY

Members of Saint James......Ministers The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop

SAINT JAMES STAFF

Rev. Bill Ridenhour, Senior Pastor prbill@sjnc.net

Jill Irvin. Finance Administrator jill@sjnc.net

Scott F. Foppiano, Organist / Director of Music scottfop@gmail.com

Teresa Honeycutt, Custodian tfh1990@yahoo.com

Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator krad3700@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm.

OUR STEWARDSHIP Contributions and Receipts for October 1, 2023 \$7,715.85 (\$7,371.00 needed weekly) **In-Person Attendance:** 94

Stewardship Sunday October 22

Join us for a Time and Talent Fair and Luncheon following worship. Please make reservations for lunch by Tuesday. October 17-on pew pads or call the church office.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please email all information to the church office by Wednesday 10:00 am to info@sinc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

09-Oct Elizabeth Thompson **10-Oct** Hayden Burroughs 11-Oct Ann Holt Susan Miller **12-Oct** Patsy Miller 14-Oct Anna Barbara Fisher

Lector/Intercessor:

Communion Assistant:

Jodi Ramirez

Jodi Ramirez

Acolyte/Crucifer:

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP ♦ Tom Grady

- ◆ Tom Ridenhour
 - Deb Black & Family

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given

by Robert and Debbie Davis

PRAYER LIST

to the Glory of God and in

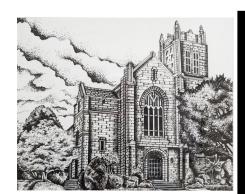
honor of Elizabeth Leigh

upon her baptism.

♦ Patsv Black

10:30 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Scouts **Tuesday**, October 10 12:00 noon Lively Leisures 6:00 pm Congregation Council Wednesday, October 11 7:00 pm Parish Choir Thursday, October 12 6:00 pm Handbells Friday, October 14 9 am—1 pm Scout Pumpkin Sale—Rotary Square Sunday, October 15 9:15 am Parish Choir 10:00 am Worship—Blessing of the Quilts 11:15 am CE Mtg w/ Parents/ G'Parents/Caregivers (F. Hall)

Bounce House Sunday, October 29 4:30 pm-6:00 pm Parking Lot



Saint James Lutheran Church

A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

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"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service"

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Welcome!

St. James is a house of praver where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At Saint James the beauty of ancient worship and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together we discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship includes ancient and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 8, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Introduction to Today's Worship

n today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vinevard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

Monday, October 9

SJLC Trunk or Treat Candy, Popcorn, Music and

••

Ushers: Brad Baker, Chip Harward, Taylor Pruette, Al Pieschel, Jon Miller`

Building Supervisor:

Greeters: Esther Circle

Videographer: Chris Miller

Lively Leisures Will meet October 10 at noon. Rev. David Sloop will have the program

Christian Education

Meeting with Parents,

Grandparents and

Caregivers of children ages

0—5th grade—please plan to

attend a meeting with CE

Committee and Pastor Bill to

discuss Nursery, Sunday

School and other

opportunities for our

children

Welcome!

Newcomers and visitors, we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

Children are most welcome in worship at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

First Aid Kits and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary, at the bottom of the stairs in the Portico area and in the Narthex. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

Pew Pads are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com @stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to www.youtube.com search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

UPCOMING DATES:

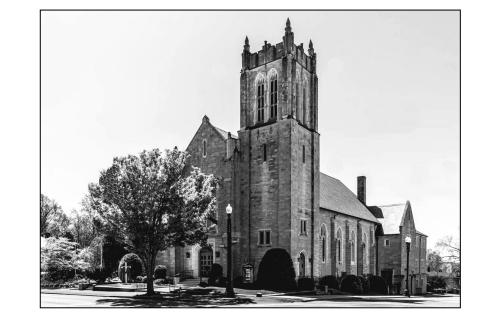
S Dct 10 I (Dct 11 F Dct 12 H	Quilting Group 10:30 am Scouts 6:30 pm Lively Leisures 12 noon Congregation Council 6 pm Parish Choir 7 pm Handbells 6 pm Scout Pumpkin Sale 9 am—1 pm Rotary Square	BLESSING BOX: Thank you to all the Saints of St. James who helped keep the Rotary Square Blessing Box stocked with food and hygiene items for the month of September. Your gift of sharing is much appreciated. Thank you too for praying for those who utilize the Blessing Box. Thanks be to God. <i>The Social Ministry Committee</i>
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!



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19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SENDING HYMN Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Walton



WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Congregational Responses in Bold

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

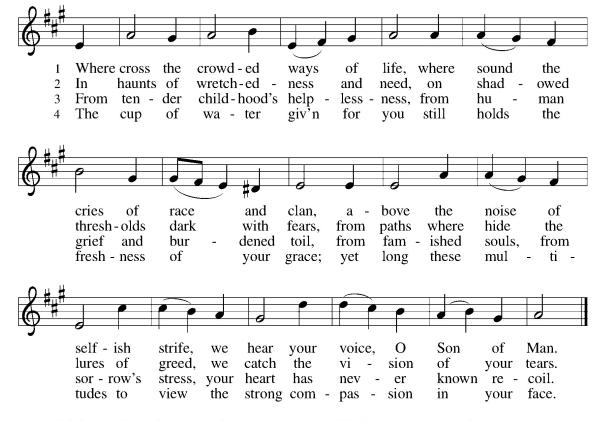
(Kneel or sit, as able) Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Most Merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

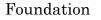
(Stand)



5 O Master, from the mountainside make haste to heal these hearts of pain; among these restless throngs abide; oh, tread the city's streets again; 6 Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod; till glorious from your heav'n above shall come the city of our God.

19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING HYMN How Firm a Foundation



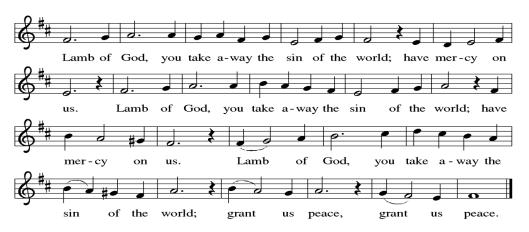


Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

LAMB OF GOD Choir and Congregation



POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,
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.

DISTRIBUTION

(Sit)

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, give to us Christians to eat and to drink. Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words 'for you" and 'for the forgiveness of sins." By these words the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord.

Amen.

(Sit)

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING ISAIAH 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. **PSALM** 80:7-15 (Read Responsively, congregation in bold) ⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. ⁸You have brought a vine | out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and | planted it. ⁹You cleared the [|] ground for it; it took root and | filled the land. ¹⁰The mountains were covered | by its shadow and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. ¹¹You stretched out its tendrils ⁺ to the sea and its branches | to the river. ¹²Why have you broken | down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes? ¹³The wild boar of the forest has [|] ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it. ¹⁴Turn now, O | God of hosts, look | down from heaven: ¹⁵behold and | tend this vine: preserve what your right | hand has planted.

SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

A reading from Philippians, the third chapter.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Blessed are you,

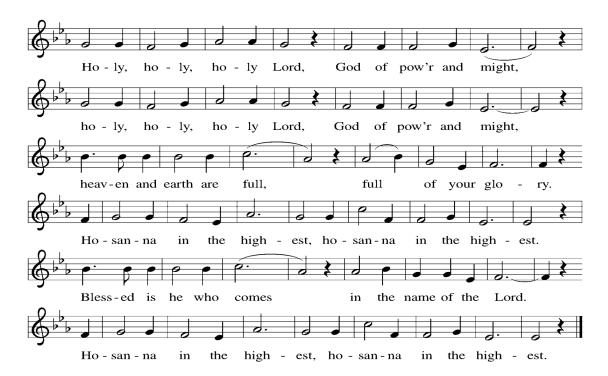
O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; won this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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For the unbaptized and for those who have ceased to worship, for our lips to be willing to invite them. Form us to be a people ready to welcome, listen and change. Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

For a Spirit of healthy discourse and disagreement, for the power of the Spirit to raise up among us a common vision for your church in this place. Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression and disgrace; Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses; Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

That we may end of our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach. Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

For all the saints now resting form their labors; Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

The Pastor concludes the prayers.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

(Sit)

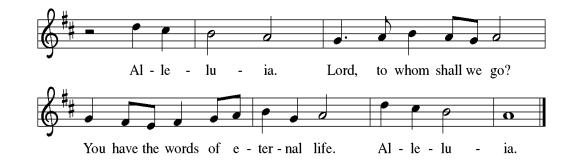
ANTHEM The Heavens Declare the Glory of God Benedetto Marcello

OFFERING (Offering plates presented at the altar)

(Stand)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Stand)



HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-first chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eves'?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

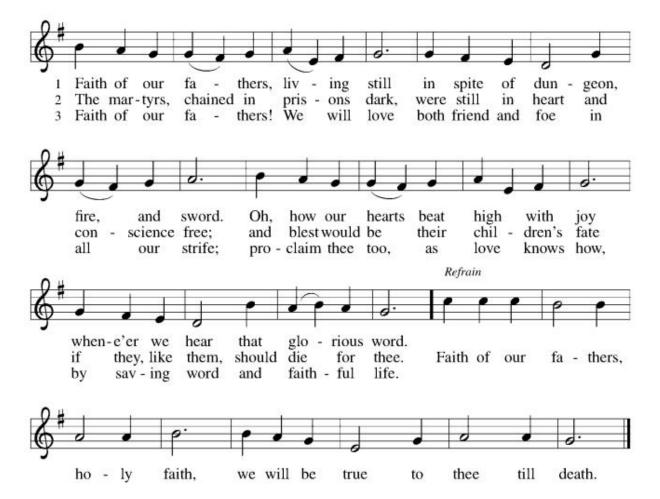
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(Sit)

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

HYMN OF THE DAY Faith of our Fathers

St. Catherine



APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy" and the congregation responds "hear our prayer."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy church of God, and for the unity of all peoples; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the civil authorities, for leaders of nations that their leadership may serve and protect all people and foster compassion and justice. For our city of Concord, for every city and community and for those who live in them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and the will to conserve it; Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

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