

# GRACE

For the Moment

The Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

May 2026



## Congratulations to our 2026 Confirmands!



Confirmation was on Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Pictured above are Jillian Schulte, Kyndall Walton, Jaylea Miller, Pastor Henrique Fleming, Brenna Bolte and Dawson Sattler.

### Worship

Sundays

9:00 am

### Wednesday

May 6

6:30 pm





# FROM THE PASTOR

Over the last few months, we awakened to our spiritual journey by walking together. We meditated, read devotionals, and shared meals. These spiritual practices taught the discipline of connection. We must always strive to connect to God and one another.

As the summer begins to unfold, we are also preparing to enjoy the outdoors. This long-awaited summer vacation is upon us, and I would like to offer a blessing as you prepare to head out.

May God be with you throughout your journey, and may you never lose faith in God. May you remain connected to this body in every way possible. May you share your joys and struggles with us. May we lift your concerns and celebrations to God in praise and thanksgiving. We are one within this beloved community, and I pray that we do not lose touch with that during this summer break.

While you are away, the ministry continues. We'll still have people coming to worship and fellowship. There will be people who need us to visit them and others who need us for prayers and support. These connections never stop, and I hope you never stop offering your support wherever you are.

Congratulations to all our 2026 graduates. Your hard work has paid off. May God bless you as you embark on your next adventure. Whether you are attending college or entering the workforce, please keep us posted on what God is doing in your life. Your testimony may be a blessing to someone.

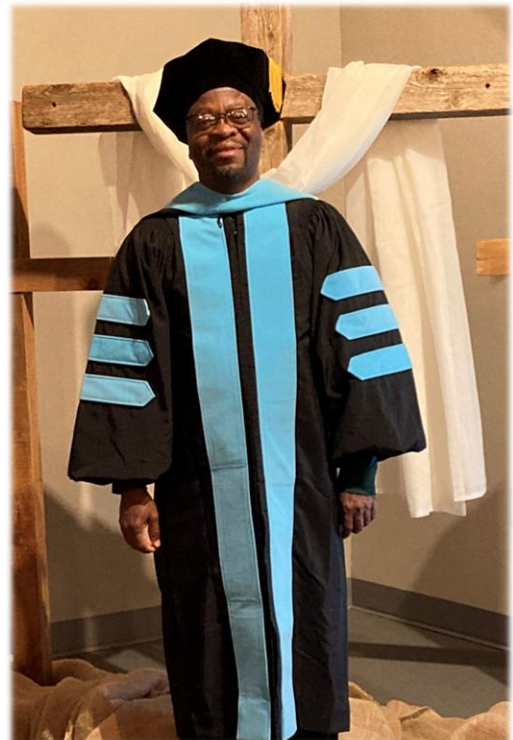
Blessings,

Pastor Henrique



**Congratulations to Pastor Henrique!**

He received his  
Doctor of Education in Leadership  
from the University of Sioux Falls.



## A Message From Council President



Blessings on your spring!

We had a beautiful week of Easter services to kick off April. We started with a special presentation of the Living Last Supper, what a wonderful chance to feel the emotion and story of something we have learned about our whole lives.

Thank you to all who attended.

We then led into Maundy Thursday, where our deacons were blessed with the chance to wash the feet of the congregation. I always love this action, as it remind me my first commitment is to be here to serve others. Good Friday ended our week, and also the amazing “Stations of the Cross” put on by our youth. Thank you to ALL who participated. It is such a blessing to walk through these stories and feel what Jesus felt along his journey.

Easter service we enjoyed the children bringing in the lilies and our celebration of the risen Lord.

We had our outside church clean up, although the wind was much to bear we had the sunshine and warmer temps to get us through. Thank you to all who participated! Many hands make for light work!

As we celebrate our confirmands and seniors we are reminded of our whole church family. Young and old. These kids have worked hard all year and we are blessed to see their faith journeys unfold. Thank you for sharing your families and children with us.

Seniors, we are so grateful for your time with Grace. We pray your next steps in life will be protected and guided by God the father. And that you always remember Grace is always a safe place and a home base for you!

We so look forward to the wonderful lives you will build as adults.

Happy spring! Blessings on your month.

Tristin

**Thank you to Ron Nelson** for creating the Baptism Memory Boxes that are presented to those that have been baptized at Grace Lutheran Church for many years.

We appreciate your skill and commitment to this project.



# Confirmation 2026



## Confirmands and Mentors.

Photos left to right-Brenna, Lori Jones, and Kyndall.

Dawson and Joel Plucker.

Bottom row-Jillian, Deb Van Hove and Jaylea.

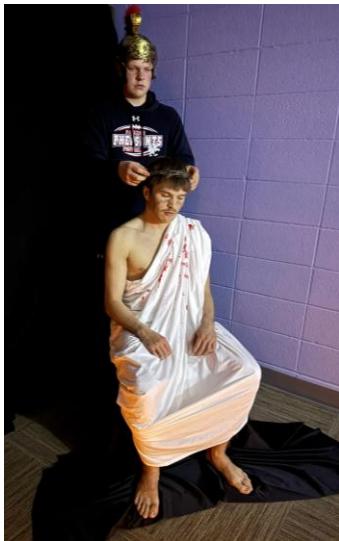


# Faith Statements and Laying on of Hands during Confirmation



# Stations of the Cross

Presented by the Youth of Grace Lutheran on Saturday, April 4, 2026



Station 1



Station 2



Station 3



Station 4

**Stations of the Cross** continued...



Station 5



Station 6



Station 7



Join us for BINGO at the ROCS Nutrition Site in Parker on **Tuesday, May 26** following the meal.

The meal is served at 11:30 am.

Call 605-297-0176 to sign up

**Lauren Patten and Lily Anderson** will be Camp Counselors at Shetek Lutheran Ministries this summer- May 25-August 7.

Please mail letters to them at

c/o Shetek Lutheran Ministries  
14 Keeley Island Drive  
Slayton, MN 56172



**WELCOME!**



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

BRANDON, KIRSTEN & ADDISON NELSON  
KERI AND BRAD BAILIFF



Sign-up sheets for fair stand workers are on the hallway bulletin board. The Turner County Fair will be August 17-20, 2026.

Please take time to sign up so you can work the shift(s) you prefer to work. Participation in the Grace Lutheran fair stand is encouraged for all church members, including childing children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up.

Any questions ask-Don Nolan or Shari Jensen



# Congratulations to Our 2026 Graduates!

## Parker High School Graduates:

Name	After High School Plans	Degree
Lily Anderson	University of South Dakota	Communication Disorders
Braelyn Berens	Dakota State University	Pre-Physical Therapy while playing volleyball and running track
Kyla Fosheim	South Dakota State University	Pharmacy
Paige Haase	South Dakota State University	Agronomy
Mara Mohr	South Dakota State University	Pharmacy
Colin Robertson	Southeast Technical College	Sports Turf Management
Jonas Sattler	South Dakota State University	Geographic Information Science while serving in the Army National Guard
Hannah Scaeffler	South Dakota State University	Human Development and Family Science
Landon Wieman	Black Hills State University	Business Administration while playing football

## Congratulations also to:

- ✚ Jovie Wirt, granddaughter of Chris Wirt, will graduate from Lennox High School on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Yesunesh (Yesi) Oswald, Granddaughter of Shirley and Ordell Oswald will celebrate her graduation from high school on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Alexis Even, daughter of Jim and Stephanie Even, granddaughter of Steve and Deone Christensen, will graduate on May 2<sup>nd</sup> with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mount Marty University.
- ✚ Landri Holzwarth, son of Todd and Jaci Holzwarth, will graduate from South Dakota State University with a major in Business Economics and minor in Entrepreneurial Studies.
- ✚ Lauren Jones, daughter of Jim and Lori, will graduate from SDSU May, 2026, with a BSN Nursing degree. Lauren plans to join a team from UNW, St Paul, MN on a Medical Mission trip to Kenya, Africa May 20-June 2, 2026.
- ✚ Ashlynn Wildeboer, daughter of Nathan Wildeboer and Niki Veldman, will graduate from South Dakota State University with a degree in elementary Education. She has accepted a teaching position at Freeman, SD to teach 4-6 English Language Arts.
- ✚ Hannahlisa Fleming, daughter of Pastor Henrique and Deacon Hannah Fleming, will graduate from South Dakota State University with her Bachelor of Science in Criminology.
- ✚ James Fleming, son of Pastor Henrique and Deacon Hannah Fleming, will receive his associate degree in Human Resources from Southeast Technical College.
- ✚ Deacon Hannah Fleming will receive her Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN.
- ✚ Christy Moncur, granddaughter of Judy and Merlin Pietz will graduate from Roosevelt High School, Sioux Falls, SD. She will attend SDSU to major in accounting/business.

## Senior FROGS

Huge thank you to all that helped with stations of the cross. High school youth helped to make nail crosses for the kids during Easter children's message.



## Outdoor Spring Cleanup



### May AV Schedule

**May 3 -Chris**  
**May 10-Chela**  
**May 17-Kristen**  
**May 24-Chris**  
**May 31-Derek**

### **Weekly Worship Helpers:**

Please use the link below to check:  
<https://gracelutheranparker.com/weekly-worship-helpers>

Thank you

### **Parents of Children attending Religious Summer Camps—**

Remember to complete the Religious Camp Sponsorship form to receive assistance with camp fees -see Kristi

## **UPDATE about New Dawn Learning Center---**

-- Spirit of Joy mission partner: Liberia Mission-New Dawn Learning Center

New Dawn Learning Center Advisory Committee, Larry Schoeszler, chair

o Spirit of Joy partners –Larry Schoeszler, Jane Skaar, and Elaine Roberts

o Parker Grace Lutheran leaders—Deb Van Hove and Gerry Schnabel

o Pastor Henrique and Deacon Hannah Fleming

We meet about once a month to learn of updates and to strategize fund raising opportunities. The brochures are available for further information.

Highlights from the New Dawn Learning Center as this school year is winding down include:

The children continue to learn and grow in body mind and spirit under the guidance of their teachers. All our teachers are trained and licensed in elementary and secondary education. We currently have eight teachers and two support staff members. Our teachers and staff are paid a minimal salary of \$150 a month. Please consider sponsoring at least one teacher with a monthly donation of \$150.

The children receive meals two days a week consisting of rice and beans at a cost of \$20 per week. Rice has been purchased for the remainder of the school year but there is a need for the purchase of beans (\$80 x 3= \$240). Please consider a gift as the school year wraps up.

Education is the key to building a good life—It can never be taken for granted or taken from you.



**Congratulations to Bill Aeschlimann-  
the winner of the Faith In Action Quilt Raffle!**

\$1,420,00 was raised for the New Dawn Learning Center  
in Monrovia, Liberia.

# ***Sunday School Highlights:***

## ***Spring Sprouts and Busy Bees:***

### **A Sunday School Update**

Spring has officially sprung, and our Sunday School classrooms have been buzzing with activity throughout the month of April! It has been a joy to see our children grow in faith and service as the season changes.

Our Jr. FROGS were a huge help with service projects this month. To celebrate Earth Day, the children got their hands in the dirt and planted flowers, learning about our role as stewards of God's creation.



In a beautiful show of community gratitude, the students also crafted May Day baskets. These special gifts were delivered to our local first responders, police officers, nurses, and dedicated staff in the school and community to thank them for their service to our neighborhood.

### **Celebrating the Good Shepherd**

One of the highlights of our recent worship was seeing the sanctuary filled with stuffed animals! The children brought their favorite fuzzy friends to help us celebrate the Good Shepherd. It was a heartwarming way to recognize that we are all part of God's flock, cherished and cared for by Him.

### **Looking Ahead to May**

The momentum continues as we head into a very special month:

**Mother's Day Project:** We are currently preparing a heartfelt surprise to honor the mothers and mother-figures in our lives. We will also be creating a project on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Send-off:** Hard to believe, but our final day of Sunday School before summer break is Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see everyone there as we celebrate a fantastic year of learning and fellowship!

**May Fishbowl:** our Fishbowl offering will be dedicated to supporting the South Dakota State University Lutheran Center. Thank you for your continued support in helping students grow in their faith as they navigate university life!

Thank you to all the volunteers and families who make our Board of Education programs so vibrant. We look forward to seeing you in the halls this May!



*May Day baskets created by  
Sunday School and Jr FROGS*

# COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR VBS!**

Registration is open for participants and volunteers.

**Rainforest Falls Community VBS**  
**June 7, 2026 – June 10, 2026**

*An adventure you'll fall for!*



**RAINFOREST FALLS**  
Exploring the Nature of God

New friends 🌿 Amazing experiments 🌿 Creative games  
Super-fun snacks 🌿 Surprising adventures 🌿 Incredible music

Sun 6/7 - 4:00pm to 8:00pm CDT  
Mon 6/8 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm CDT  
Tue 6/9 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm CDT  
Wed 6/10 - family open house:  
6:00pm to 8:00pm CDT

490 East 1st Street  
Parker, SD 57053

participant and volunteer registration:  
<https://vbspro.events/p.early/9ccf95>

Registration Open NOW:



## For Further Information

Contact Chela Bolte, Shelly Paynter or Ashlynn Wildeboer



## **Building Bridges: Insights from the Holy Playground Retreat**

We are thrilled to share that two members of our Grace Lutheran Holy Playground team, Chela and Tristin, attended the Synod Holy Playground Retreat on April 24th–25th. It was a weekend filled with inspiration, growth, and fresh visions for our congregation.

Chela and Tristin participated in several transformative workshops, including:

- “*Messy Church*”: Exploring creative, hospitable ways to experience church outside of traditional structures.
- *Narrative4 Listening*: Learning the art of empathy through story-sharing.
- *Team Building*: Developing strategies to strengthen our internal collaboration.

### The Power of Intergenerational Connection

One of the most powerful takeaways from the retreat was the importance of authentic, mixed-age relationships. While age-specific groups have their place, studies show that church members feel a deeper sense of belonging and stay with their congregations longer when they form genuine bonds across generations.

The retreat served as a beautiful reminder that we are called to be a community that shares faith stories and quality time together—not just in the pews, but "in all places" beyond our church walls.

### Join the Effort

The Holy Playground Team is energized and ready to begin creating new ways for everyone to feel truly welcome at Grace. We are looking for people who are passionate about building a church family where lasting, meaningful relationships can flourish.

Interested in helping? Please reach out to the Holy Playground team to learn more about our upcoming projects and how you can get involved in strengthening our connections.



## **Two Volunteers Needed!**

**We are looking for representatives to attend the Annual Synod Assembly.**

**May 29–30 • Sioux Falls**

**If you're willing to serve, please let Pastor or Tristin Plienis know!**

## **Grace Lutheran Church Council**

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 4, 2026**

#### **Council Members Present:**

Tristin Pleinis, Chela Bolte, Jim Johnson, Shelly Paynter, Ashlynn Wildeboer, Lori Jones, Marci Leberman, Bill Leberman, Pastor Henrique and Kaylyn Andersen

#### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Tristin Pleinis.

#### **Devotion**

Devotion led by Pastor Henrique.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda made by Jim Johnson, seconded by Bill Leberman. Motion carried.

#### **Reports**

##### **Secretary's Report**

Motion to approve made by Ashlynn Wildeboer, seconded by Lori Jones. Motion carried.

##### **Deacon's Report**

- Fishbowl offering will support the school mentoring program.

##### **Board of Education Report**

- Vacation Bible School: June 7–9  
Sunday: 4–8 PM  
Monday & Tuesday: 6–8 PM  
VBS kit has been purchased.  
No additional updates.

##### **Trustees' Report**

- Fans-on going. Waiting for extension pieces.

##### **Treasurer's Report**

Motion to approve made by Marci Leberman, seconded by Lori Jones. Motion carried.

##### **Pastor's Report**

- New member recognition: April 19, 2026.

##### **Congregational Input**

No items recorded.

##### **Ongoing Business**

## **Bank Accounts**

- Continue working on logistics for bank accounts.
- Take the approved Secretary's Report (3/4/26) to First Savings Bank for name change.

## **Sunday School**

- Ongoing discussion.

## **Senior Frogs**

- In process.

## **Audio System**

- Microphones and speakers – ongoing discussions with Midstates Audio.

## **Church Fans**

- Rob will complete installation when he is able

## **Curtains**

Curtains needed for:

- Storage room
- Library
- Will check if the sewing group is willing to make them.

## **Confirmation Sunday**

- May 3, 2026

## **Banquet – Sioux Falls**

Possible 2026 volunteer dates:

- April 16th, 20th, 27th and 28th

Volunteer needs: total 20 volunteers: 5 people: 2–5 PM, 15 people: 5-8 PM

## **Treasurer Transition (2027)**

- Proposal to begin budget discussions in September each year.
- Training and transition to occur after the annual meeting.

## **New Business**

## **Communication**

Use Google Docs for council communication and shared document

## **Easter Planning**

### Easter Breakfast

- Group 1 responsible.

### Maundy Thursday

- Deacons – foot washing

### Good Friday

- Community service

### Walk to Easter

- Walk begins at 5:30 PM

### Saturday

- Stations of the Cross

## **Strategic Planning**

- The planning process will begin with the Holy Playground Committee.
- A congregational survey will follow.

### Closing Prayer / Adjournment

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT 3/1/2026-3/31/2026**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
101 General Offering	\$5,711.69	\$24,307.00
102 Envelope Offering	\$1,320.00	\$3,920.00
103 Quarterly Offering	\$2,905.00	\$11,100.00
104 Lenten Offering	\$1,945.00	\$2,625.00
109 Camper Savings		
202 Use of Building		
203 Misc. Income		\$357.41
205 Thrivent	\$476.00	\$734.00
208 Amazon Smile		
219 Transfer from Building Fund		
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$12,357.69</b>	<b>\$43,043.41</b>

**SUMMARY GENERAL CHECKING:**

<b>Beginning Balance 1/1/2026</b>	<b>\$4,329.47</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$43,043.41</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$43,836.23</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,536.65</b>

**MONTHLY SUMMARY:**

	<u>Offering Total</u>	<u>Misc Income</u>	<u>Monthly Expenses</u>
January	\$13,931.25	\$378.41	\$16,164.76
February	\$16,139.06	\$237.00	\$10,150.89
March	\$11,881.69	\$476.00	\$17,520.58
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
<b>Total Monthly Offering</b>	<b>\$41,952.00</b>	<b>\$1,091.41</b>	<b>\$43,836.23</b>

**OTHER ACCOUNT BALANCES:**

First Savings Campers Savings	\$5,168.05
First Savings Building Fund Savings	\$45,421.57
First Savings Bank Money Market	\$3,427.69
River's Edge Bank CD	\$42,849.95

Kristi Nogelmeier, Treasurer

<b>EXPENSES: SALARIES/BENEFITS</b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>2026 Budget</u></b>
301 Pastor Salary/Benefits/Pension	\$1,312.24	\$13,499.92	\$54,000.00
302 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$1,565.00	\$4,705.00	\$18,900.00
303 Employer Paid Pension/Retirement	\$1,307.96	\$1,961.94	\$7,500.00
304 Pastor SECA Allowance	\$466.66	\$1,398.07	\$5,600.00
305 Pastor Car Allowance	\$401.36	\$575.36	\$2,000.00
307 Employer Paid Pastor Insurance - Health & Benefits	\$3,765.62	\$5,648.43	\$22,000.00
308 Pastor Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
320 Custodian/320A Contract Cleaning Co	\$300.00	\$761.94	\$7,000.00
321 Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,560.00
322 Secretary	\$1,405.11	\$3,469.59	\$12,000.00
323 Groundskeeper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
325 Sub Pastor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
326 FICA Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-SALARIES/BENEFITS:</b>	<b>\$10,523.95</b>	<b>\$32,020.25</b>	<b>\$139,060.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES: BUILDING/GROUNDS</b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>2026 Budget</u></b>
401 Snow Removal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
402B Natural Gas	\$384.62	\$1,300.96	\$3,000.00
405 Electricity and Water	\$439.23	\$1,245.57	\$4,750.00
407 Insurance	\$3,176.73	\$3,176.73	\$12,500.00
408 Misc. Bldg. & Grnd. Exp.	\$75.70	\$622.59	\$5,000.00
409 Piano Tuning	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
409A Organ Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
413 Workmans Compensation	\$202.50	\$202.50	\$850.00
415 Audio Visual Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS:</b>	<b>\$4,278.78</b>	<b>\$6,548.35</b>	<b>\$29,975.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES: CHURCH PROGRAMS</b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>2026 Budget</u></b>
502 Bible Camp Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
503 Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
504 Confirmation Expense	\$171.95	\$171.95	\$1,500.00
506 Synod Assembly	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
507 Books and Materials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
508 Misc. Program Expense	\$357.64	\$828.20	\$2,500.00
512 Bank Service Charges	\$17.95	\$53.85	\$250.00
517 Bibles for 3rd Graders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
519 Postage	\$204.00	\$204.00	\$400.00
524 Lenton Meals	\$218.29	\$218.29	\$600.00
526 High School Graduate Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-CHURCH PROGRAMS:</b>	<b>\$969.83</b>	<b>\$1,476.29</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES: MISSIONS/BENEVOLENCES</b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>2026 Budget</u></b>
602 Augustana PACT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
603 ELCA Benevolence	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$6,000.00
604 Shetek Bible Camp	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
605 Crossroads Conference Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
615 The Banquet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES-MISSONS:</b>	<b>\$1,150.00</b>	<b>\$2,150.00</b>	<b>\$8,700.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES: OFFICE</b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Year-to-Date</u></b>	<b><u>2026 Budget</u></b>
701 Copier Lease	\$362.32	\$564.65	\$2,600.00
702 Bulletins and Inserts	\$0.00	\$320.67	\$2,000.00
703 Church Office Phone/Internet	\$163.06	\$401.17	\$2,000.00
704 Office Supplies	\$72.64	\$354.85	\$750.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES - OFFICE:</b>	<b>\$598.02</b>	<b>\$1,641.34</b>	<b>\$7,350.00</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$17,520.58</b>	<b>\$43,836.23</b>	<b>\$195,085.00</b>
------------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------------

