

Sunday, September 20, 2026
Celebration of Abundance
Word & Eucharist | 10 AM - onsite & online



God Loves. We Love.
Everyone!
Dios Ama. Amamos.
Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue
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512.478.1933 church

Welcome

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church (FELC). We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are a community in and of the city where all are welcome in every aspect of congregational life. Following the example of Christ, we welcome you exactly as you are.

FELC is committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently-abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. To learn more, visit www.felcaustin.org.

Accessibility

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary (main worship area) near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for use in the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids. Connect with the minister for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on the wood pews are available in the narthex (main entrance area).

Liturgy

Worship and adoration of God is at the heart of life for disciples of Jesus. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our belonging, define our identity, and are formed as the people of God. Liturgy is a Greek work translated “the work of the people of God” as we gather. FELC holds the Word and Eucharist ordered framework in the tradition of the whole church, including from early centuries. We gather, we receive the Word of God, we give thanks and are nourished by Christ’s presence in bread, wine, and blessing, and we are sent to be active images of divine love. The Meal is known by many names: the Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We celebrate at Christ’s table, and all are welcome to receive holy communion no matter your background, faith practice, or curiosity. To learn more about Holy Baptism and discipleship with Jesus, please connect with the pastor. We utilize various biblical and contemporary images and names for God, Jesus, and humanity. The church season after Easter and Pentecost Days is half of the calendar year. Sometimes called “Ordinary Time” because of the numbering (ordinals) of the Sunday, it includes summer and fall with the primary growth color of green.

In this Sunday's bible story, Matthew narrates one of Jesus' more controversial parables. Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. This seems unfair. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh, Jonah is angry. This seems unfair. In God's economy of justice, grace and mercy abound in steadfast love. This grace of God is freely given and given to all. This is the generosity of God. We give thanks for God's faithfulness on this Celebration of Abundance Sunday. We are invited to make financial commitments to the mission and ministry of First English for 2027.

*In our call and response, everyone is invited to pray aloud the text in bold print.
We remain seated and join in the gathering music.*

Gathering Music

Sing to the Lord All My Being

Taizé, France; Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Sing to the Lord, all my be-ing, let ev-'ry-thing in me pro-claim God's sal-va-tion.

Sing to the Lord, all my be-ing, and re-mem-ber all of God's mar-ve-lous deeds!

*Singing bowls sound throughout the liturgy, calling us to prayer.
The songs and hymns are found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), the red worship book in the pew.*

We stand, as able, and face the procession.

Gathering Song in Procession

As Saints of Old | ELW 695

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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.**

Song of Praise

Gloria Pablo Sosa, b. 1933



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal and gracious God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to all your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your abundant strength, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

Welcome to Community

✝ WORD ✝

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Palabra de Dios. **Te alabamos, Señor.**



- ¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- ² **Every day | will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power.
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,**
and I will re- | count your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

Time of Wisdom & Wonder

Children and adults are invited to gather at the baptismal font.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ

Jesus because of me. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Victor Jortack, b. 1952

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! *;*A - le - lu - ya!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

We stand, as able.

Hymn of the Day

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee | ELW 836

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Prayers of Intercession

*Following each intercession: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

A list of prayer concerns and joys is found on page 19.

Sharing Christ's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

We greet each other with gentle signs of reconciliation, peace, and love. This exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice that builds and renews relationships.

Following sharing Christ's peace, we sit.

✝MEAL✝

Welcome to Communion & Offering

Your presence in worship and community is a gift. We reflect on the life God entrusts to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. Then we act through God's generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

Ministry Moment

Anthem

God So Loved the World

Text: John 3:16-17; Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

We stand, as bread, wine, money, and other gifts are presented.

Offering Song

God, Here is My Life and My Will

Refrain

God, here is my life and my will.

Give me the knowl - edge of your will for me.

Give me the pow - er to car - ry it out.

God, here is my life and my will.

Text: Michael Cotter and Jeremy Young
Music: COTTER, Jeremy Young

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of the One who offered himself to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

San - to, san - to, san - to, *es* el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, *es* el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, *es* el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, *es* el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, gracious God . . . do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Awaken in us and in this meal your life-giving Spirit, whose breath revives us for abundant life, and whose fire rouses us to love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through Christ, with Christ, $\mp$ in Christ, in the unity and power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, most gracious God, in the church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by God's life-giving Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

We break this bread to be the body of Christ.

We will love one another as Christ loves us.

Be seated.

Song of Response

Lamb of God Victor Jortack

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da-nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da-nos tu paz, grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion & Blessing

This is Christ's table. Christ is the host. All are welcome. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating online, a minister will offer the invitation to receive any bread and juice in your home. For those onsite, you will be guided to receive bread in your hand to eat, then receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/ grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station to receive a blessing. Return to your seat by a side aisle. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

All offering a financial commitment of stewardship to God's mission at First English for 2027 are invited to bring their commitment card during communion distribution. You may place it on the Abundance Table as you receive holy communion or a blessing.

Communion Music

March Viktor Korda, 1900-1992

Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad | ELW 583

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875-1955

Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, thank you for blessing and nourishing us with the riches of your grace. Send us to proclaim your love in a hurting and beautiful world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

✝ SENDING ✝

Welcome to Hospitality

Sending Song

Siyahamba | ELW 866 Text/Music: South African traditional

Text: marching, dancing, praying, singing, living

Prayer of Dedication

Blessing & Sending in Mission

May the blessing of God, Creator, ✝ Redeemer, and Sustainer, continue with you, and all those you love, serve, and pray for, now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

Hospitality Time | Lunch & Learn

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC faith community. To subscribe to a weekly email newsletter or connect with ministry leaders and staff, contact office@felcaustin.org. If you are new to the FELC community, use the QR code to connect.



PRAYER | SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP THEME: GIVE & RECEIVE

From the light of God that I am, from the love of God that I am, from the power of God that I am, from the heart of God that I am, may I give and receive God's abundance in all of life. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF ABUNDANCE SUNDAY! | TODAY, SEPTEMBER 20

We give thanks to God for the infinite ways in which we are blessed. Thank you for sharing from your abundance and for the financial commitments we prayerfully dedicate in worship today toward God's mission at FELC for 2027. We are grateful for the gift of Deacon John Dellis, who is with us in worship today.

Following today's worship service, all are welcome to a Lunch & Learn event about legacy generosity. Signe Fredrickson of the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest will present information about legacy giving and planning. Learn about the benefits of estate and legacy plans that provide forethought and encourage maximizing funds that will be shared with family members and the ministries of the church. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall with a provided lunch then transition to the Parlor for the presentation.

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee: Michele Hockett-Cooper, Erin McCracken (Chair), Monica Lund, Pastor Katie Rode, Kate & Stefan Wanstrom, Pam Williams, and Frederick Woody.

WELCOME DEACON JOHN DELLIS

Deacon John Dellis, a native of Mabank, Texas, began his baptismal journey at Four Mile Lutheran Church, the oldest ELCA congregation in Texas, founded in 1848. Growing up in Mabank with deep Lutheran ties, receiving early encouragement from his home church, and later experiencing formative moments in Lutheran Campus Ministry at Baylor University, John received the Master of Theological Studies degree in 1986 from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Though John never felt called to be a parish pastor, he discerned his vocation as a deacon—a rostered role in the ELCA that emphasizes ministry of word and service, especially at the intersection of church and community. His ministry has included communications roles at St. Luke's Lutheran Hospital in San Antonio and Texas Lutheran University. This year, John celebrates his 39th anniversary of ordination as a deacon. Deacon Dellis serves as Director of Legacy Planning with Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. He and his spouse, Johnnie Jordan, reside in Universal City, Texas and are members of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in San Antonio.

CHARLES HILL INTERRED

On Thursday, September 10, we interred the remains of Charles L. Hill, December 1, 1930 – July 5, 2000, in the Chapel of the Saints Columbarium at First English Lutheran Church. Richard “Dick” Davis, the widowed partner of Charles, gathered with loved ones as we commended the earthly remains of Charles into the everlasting love and tender mercy of God. Dick and Charles were long-time, active members of FELC. The Rev. Katie Rode officiated at the committal service. *All of us go down to the dust, yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia!*

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic American Heritage Month 2026 takes place from September 15 to October 15. The starting date of September 15 honors the independence anniversaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile, and Belize also celebrate their independence days shortly after (September 16 and 18). This celebration began “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and expanded to a full month under President Ronald Reagan in 1988. We give thanks for the unique histories, cultures, and ongoing contributions of all people with these ancestral roots. In our worship for September and October, we will experience language and music from these various traditions.

AUSTIN VOCAL COLLECTIVE | SINGING TOGETHER | SEPTEMBER 26

On Saturday, September 26 from 5 until 8 pm, FELC joins with music partners from Austin Vocal Collective and hosts a one-day choir! We welcome a mix of confident and less experienced singers to provide a choral experience that is both satisfying, epic, and beautiful. This one-day choir is accessible and can be a learning experience for all types of singers. Healing is needed in our communities, and music is a vehicle for healing. Being together matters. Come, sing! Register and connect at the QR code.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY | SEPTEMBER 27

On Sunday, September 27 we encourage all to wear Orange to remember the thousands of Native American children who were removed from their families and forcibly placed into church and government sponsored boarding schools. The trauma caused by this action has affected generation after generation. You are invited to wear Orange again on Wednesday, September 30 as a witness and to remember as you go about your day.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION | OCTOBER 4

Adult Faith Formation will resume October 4, 2026, at 9:00 am in the Parlor! All are encouraged to attend and participate in a conversation which will explore areas of interest for future Adult Faith Formation classes. Don and Donna Wright and Bob Karli will present possibilities and hear suggestions from you for future planning. We look forward to continuing our journey of learning with our faith community!

ST. FRANCIS & BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS | OCTOBER 4

On Sunday, October 4, everyone is invited to bring their leashed and contained pets for a blessing of the animals during the worship service, a St. Francis Feast Day tradition. Dogs, cats, frogs, gerbils, snakes, birds, and hamsters, among others, will be invited for an individual blessing. Animal toys, photos, and mementos will also be blessed.

MICAH 6

Plans for hiring a chef for the Micah 6 drop-in center should be available within the next 2 weeks, as we are waiting on University Baptist Church to sign off on our proposals. Until then, volunteers are needed to help serve the meal and hand out clothing on any of the upcoming Saturdays, September 12, 19, or 26 from 2-4 pm at the Drop-in Center. We can carpool from FELC for any of those opportunities. If you prefer Thursday 7-8 am time slots, you can sign up at micah6austin.org to help unload donations. Contact Andy MacLaren, 512-947-4186.

PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

As a community of faith, we pray for:

the family & friends of Leon Noren, upon his death;
the family & friends of Jon Mogonye, upon his death;
Oliver Rajamani, on the death of his friend, Bear Eagle;
Margaret VanAntwerp, for healing and wholeness;
Henri Atkinson, for healing;
Rory Kelley & family, son-in-law of Donna & Don Wright, as Rory is in cancer treatment;
Barbara Wiederaenders, as she continues to heal & adjust to new ways of living;
Micah 6 food ministries & Drop-in Center;
those recovering from earthquakes, fires, & flooding;
FELC community, as we give thanks & celebrate God's abundance;
places experiencing violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict, & recovery;
those affected by gun violence;
those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, peace, & equity;
citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States;
all in need of safe shelter & nourishing food & for those who offer it;
all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & spiritual, health, & employment needs.

LEADERS IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care Server	Nancy Neuse
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Council Stewards	Charlie Boas, Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Hospitality Hosts	Stewardship Committee
Lector	Pam Williams
Livestream Minister	J.P Northcutt-Benson
Ministry Moment	Signe Fredrickson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Eli Aguirre, oboe; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Michael Marty, Maria Straight, trumpet; Cantor Bryan Rust
Preaching	Deacon John Dellis
Presiding	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Charlie Boas, Terry Porter

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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Michele Hockett Cooper, Vice President
Mari Ward, Secretary
Betsy Appleton
Charlie Boas
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