

January 16,
2022

KOST CHURCH

An Evangelical Free Church

37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, Minnesota 55056 (651) 583-3281 kostchurch.org kostchurch@gmail.com



Love God. Love people. Make disciples.

Welcome to worship, whether in-person or online!

If this is your first time worshipping with us, thanks for visiting! Please fill out a contact card (in the pew rack or online) and let us know a little about yourself.

Did you miss a service? All of them are available to watch or re-watch on Kost's YouTube page, at kostchurch.org and on Facebook as well.

Welcome back to worship! The omicron variant of Covid-19 is still very much a real thing in our area. Physical distancing and mask wearing are perfectly acceptable and even recommended practices during this time.

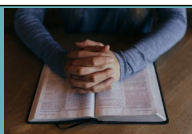
Today is Sanctity of Life Sunday!

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered."
- Jesus (Luke 12:7)

Protect the Priceless Sanctity of Human Life

Options
for Women
CHICAGO
COUNTY



Would you be willing to pray for your Kost family members as needs arise? Text ADD [your name] to 715-681-1208 and we will be sure to pass on prayer requests to you as they come in. If you are already on the prayer chain, there is no need to sign up again.

TRUE Love IS AN ACT OF THE WILL

a conscious decision to do what is best for the other person instead of ourselves.

Billy Graham

THIS WEEK AT KOST

Sunday	9:30 am Worship Service NO Fellowship Time NO Sunday School
Monday	9:30 am Women's Bible Study NO GriefShare
Tuesday	6:00 pm Worship Team rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00 am Men's Bible Study
Thursday	6:00 pm Weekly Prayer 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study
Friday	5:00 pm Respawn
Sunday	9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Fellowship Time 11:05 am Sunday School

Thank you for your faithful financial support of Kost Church.

Gifts can be given online @ kostchurch.org/give, dropped off in the offering plate in the lobby, or sent to the church's regular address.

You are loved!

Please let us know what you need:

Pastor Josh Jensen
pastorjoshjensen@gmail.com
kostchurch@gmail.com
(715) 681-1208



I and my family would like to thank each of you for your wonderful gifts and generosity to us for Christmas. We love being part of this church family!

Pastor Josh



Did you think the Christmas Eve service was TOO EARLY, JUST RIGHT, TOO LATE? If a second identical service

was offered earlier in the day (say early afternoon), would that fit your scheduling needs better? And while we're asking, do you think we should have Sunday morning worship on December 25th this next year? Please text your answers to 715-681-1208. If you don't text, you can add your tally marks to the survey on the table in the lobby.

The annual January Congregational Meeting has been

rescheduled for Sunday February 13th during the Sunday School hour. Please plan on joining us for this time of encouragement as we celebrate what God did in 2021 and look forward to what He will do in 2022!



Please be praying for...

Those with Covid-19

Also...

Lori Barsness

Joan DeMunck

Darlene Heilig's Family

Chris Allen

Kevin Grinnell

Kathy Anton

Marjie Benson

The Benson family

The end of the pandemic

Gospel inroads with our neighbors

Kost's impact for Christ in our area



Is Olivia's video from the sermon accurate?

Yes, this state-of-the-art animation was reviewed and certified by leading OBGYNs and medical professionals: Dr David Bolender, PhD, Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy, Medical College of Wisconsin | Dr Donna Harrison (AAPLOG) | Dr Tara Sander Lee (Charlotte Lozier) | Dr Katrina Furth (Charlotte Lozier) | Michelle Cretella, MD, Executive Director of the American College of Pediatricians | Jeffrey Barrows, DO, MA, (Ethics) Senior VP Bioethics and Public Policy

Recommended sanctity-of-life resources:

Abort73.com

Desiringgod.org (search "abortion")

Pro-Choice or Pro-Life by Randy Alcorn (copies available in the lobby)

"Ordinary Christian Will End Abortion: Eight Ways You Can Help" by Tim Counts (copies available in the lobby)

Wardenclyffe Academy's YouTube video series "The Wrong of Abortion" (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHZkXEIuPU5TCCNFPZzHPoCel3_dIloqI)

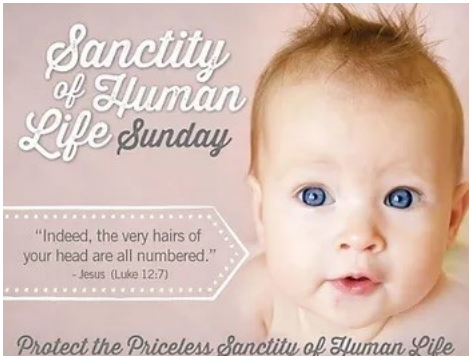
Focusonthefamily.com/pro-life

Answersingenesis.org/sanctity-of-life

Unplanned by Abby Johnson

What the Bible Says about Abortion, Euthanasia, and End-of-Life Medical Decisions by Wayne Grudem

Savethestorks.com



Every Unborn Life Matters

various

- An unborn baby at any stage of its development is a human being – the _____ says so and so does _____ (Isaiah 44:24, Psalm 139:13-16)
- Abortion is _____ (Exodus 20:13)
- Anyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ who has also participated in an abortion _____ God's grace and mercy, as _____ sin, including abortion, was atoned for by Christ on the cross (Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:9, Isaiah 43:25)
- As the followers of Christ we do not have the option of _____ (Titus 3:14, Galatians 6:9, James 4:17, Hebrews 13:16)
- A hallmark of the church of Jesus Christ is the _____
- Action points:
 - Pursue your healing if you've had involvement in an abortion in any way
 - Put an end to indifference on your part through repentance
 - Ponder all there is to know about being pro-life
 - Philosophically align yourself as pro-life
 - Pray for God to end this injustice, for those facing unplanned pregnancies, for governmental entities to make Godly choices, for those on the frontlines of the pro-life movement, for the hearts of pro-choicers to change, for abortion to become reprehensible and inconceivable, for the madness to stop
 - Provide financially to support the pro-life cause
 - Partner with local pregnancy centers
 - Proactively support anything that is about furthering God's value of all life
 - Participate by serving those who have unplanned pregnancies

Life is a gift from God and so are children. Discover the facts!

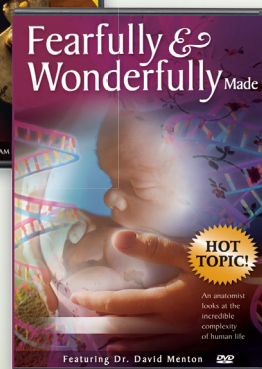
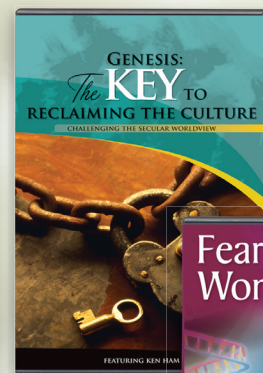
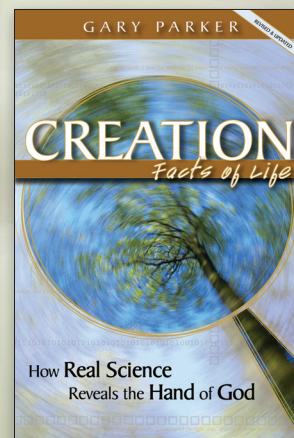
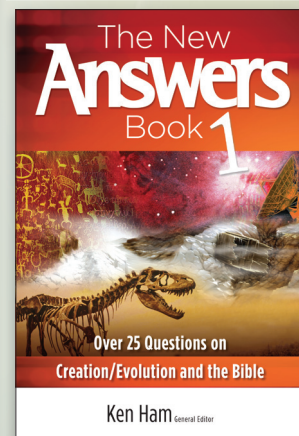
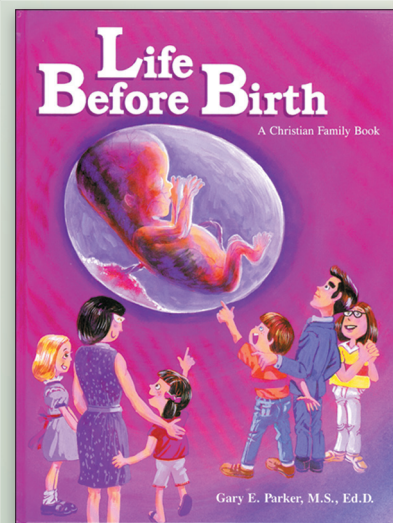
Human life begins at the moment the egg of the mother is fertilized by the sperm of the father. At this moment, the 23 chromosomes of the mother and the 23 from the father fuse together to create one new cell, which begins to rapidly divide, forming a unique human being. **For details of a baby's early development, see the attached chart.**

The Bible teaches that God knew us even before we were formed in the womb and that we were fashioned by His hand. Consider the following verses:

“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the Lord, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself.’” Isaiah 44:24 (NKJV)

“Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalm 100:3 (NKJV)

“But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.” Isaiah 64:8 (NKJV)



To order a sturdy, 17x22, laminated version of the attached chart or to order the items pictured above visit

AnswersBookstore.com

“Before I formed you in the womb ...
I knew you.”
– Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)



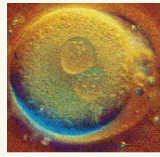
When does life begin?

This is a heavy question with dire consequences if answered incorrectly. The Bible's teaching is clear, and its authority demands our obedience.

“ I will praise You: for I am **FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE** ” —Psalm 139:14

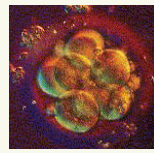
1st Trimester

Week 1



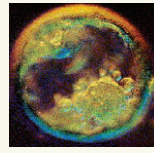
Life begins when the egg is fertilized by the sperm. At this stage the baby consists of a hollow ball of about 100 cells. Only a few cells inside the ball form the baby (embryo); those on the outside will form the placenta. Implantation occurs at this stage.

Week 2



The embryo now consists of about 150 cells arranged in three layers—the endoderm, mesoderm, and ectoderm. These layers will form the muscles, the bones, the circulatory, urinary, reproductive, and nervous systems, as well as the outer layer of skin.

Week 3



Size: 6/100 in. (1.5 mm)
The embryo is now firmly attached to the uterus by the developing placenta. The brain and spinal cord beginning to form. The thyroid gland begins to develop. A simple tubular heart has formed and circulates blood.

Week 4



Size: 1/5 in. (5 mm)
Little buds are beginning to develop that will form the arms and legs. The heart begins to beat even though it is still early in its development.

Week 5



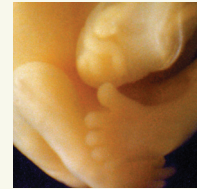
Size: 1/3 in. (7 mm)
The hands at this stage look like flat plates (no fingers). The basic structure of the brain and nervous system is now established, and the eyes and ears are beginning to develop. The mouth begins to form. Blood formation begins in the embryo.

Week 6



Size: 1/2 in. (12 mm) (about the size of a BB)
The feet, lacking toes, look like flat plates. The digestive system is beginning to develop. The head begins to take shape with small depressions where the eyes and ears are developing. The upper lip and palate begin to form.

Week 7



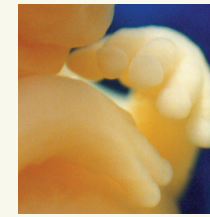
Size: 3/4 in. (19 mm) (about the size of a grape)
The lungs are beginning to form. Fingers begin to appear. Muscles and nerves now function, and the baby shows reflexes. Some formation of the vestibular system (organ responsible for our sense of balance) begins.

Week 8



Size: 1 1/2 in. (3 cm) (about the size of a plum)
The baby is now referred to as a fetus. The human appearance of the baby is now unmistakable. A protruding nose and eyelids begin to form. The basic structure of all the vital organs of the body is established.

Week 9



Size: 2 in. (5.5 cm) (about the size of a lime)
The eyes are essentially fully formed. The baby is now able to open its mouth, and the vocal cords and salivary glands are beginning to form. The hands and the feet are quickly developing.

Week 10



Size: 3 in. (7.5 cm)
The baby's head is large for its body due to the rapid development of the brain, and the ears now protrude from the sides of the head. The body is beginning to fill out with the further development of muscles.

Week 11



Size: 3 1/2 in. (9 cm) (about the size of a peach)
Weight: 1 oz. (28 g)
The vital organs are now functional and will mainly grow in size with time. The baby is capable of swallowing and urinating amniotic fluid.

Week 12



Size: 4 in. (10 cm) (about the size of your fist)
Weight: 1 1/2 oz. (42 g)
The brain begins to coordinate the contraction of the muscles so that the baby can flex arms, elbows, wrists, and fingers. The baby begins to use its facial muscle to move its eyebrows and purse its lips.

2nd Trimester

Weeks 13–17



Size: 4–5 in. (10–13 cm)
Weight: 2–4 oz. (57–113 g)

The baby's fingerprints and sense of touch have developed. Eyebrows and eyelashes appear; and fingernails and toenails are forming. The baby's taste buds are also developed.

Weeks 18–22



Size: 10–11 in. (25–28 cm)
Weight: 1/2–1 lb. (227–454 g)

True bone begins to replace cartilage. Girls will now have about 6 million developing egg cells in their ovaries. At this stage, the mother begins to feel the baby's movements. By this time, the baby clearly feels pain.

Weeks 23–26



Size: 12–14 in. (30–36 cm)
Weight: 1–2 lbs. (454–907 g)

The baby's pancreas is now starting to function, and the lungs are beginning to mature. A baby born at this stage would have about a 10–35% chance of surviving. The baby's vertebrate column is also maturing.

3rd Trimester

Weeks 27–31



Size: 15–16 in. (38–41 cm)
Weight: 2–3 lbs. (907–1,361 g)

By this time, the baby is completely formed and will continue to develop until delivery. The baby may also be able to recognize voices from outside the womb. More layers of fat are being added to the baby.

Weeks 32–36



Size: 16–17 in. (41–43 cm)
Weight: 4–5 lbs. (1,814–2,268 g)

Hard jabs and punches are evidence to the mother that the baby is continuing to grow. Hair on the baby's head, eyelashes, and eyebrows is clearly seen now. The baby's brain is extremely active. The pupils can dilate or contract in response to light.

Weeks 37–40



Size: 18 in. (46 cm)
Weight: 6–8 lbs. (2,722–3,629 g)

By this time, pregnancy is considered full-term. The baby gains weight quickly during this stage, about half an ounce a day. The baby's coordination allows it to grasp things as well. The baby prepares for delivery.

- 3) What if a woman became pregnant through rape or incest?

In these tragic situations, the baby should not be killed for someone else's immoral act. Also, rare situations like these should not be used as justification for abortion on demand at any time and for any reason.

- 4) The baby won't have a good life because they will be poor, disabled, etc.

Human value is not based on one's socio-economic status, health, or abilities. Offering the baby for adoption is a godly alternative for families who believe they are incapable of raising a child.

- 5) Pro-lifers just want to control women's bodies.

False. Many people in the movement are women, and more than half of aborted babies are female. The primary objection to abortion is that the procedure kills a human being.

- 6) It is inconsistent to be pro-life while being in favor of the death penalty.

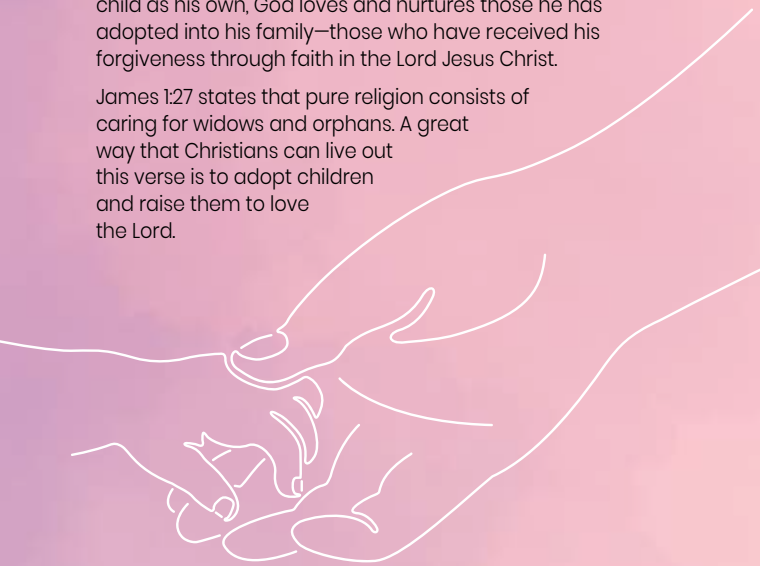
False. An abortion ends the life of the most innocent of lives while the death penalty is reserved for violent criminals.

ADOPTION—A GODLY ALTERNATIVE

Adoption is a godly alternative to abortion. It allows a mother to give her baby an opportunity to live while also blessing a family with a child they have longed for.

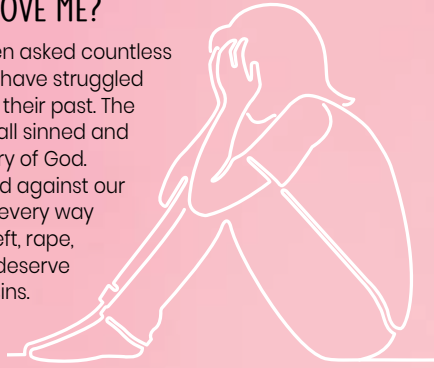
Romans 8:15 teaches that believers are adopted into God's family. Like a loving father who cares for someone else's child as his own, God loves and nurtures those he has adopted into his family—those who have received his forgiveness through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

James 1:27 states that pure religion consists of caring for widows and orphans. A great way that Christians can live out this verse is to adopt children and raise them to love the Lord.



CAN GOD STILL LOVE ME?

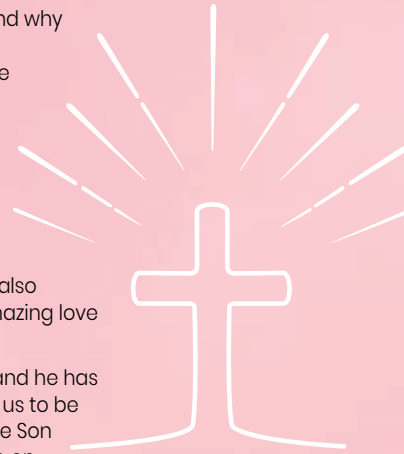
This question has been asked countless times by people who have struggled to come to grips with their past. The truth is that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Humans have rebelled against our perfectly holy God in every way imaginable—lying, theft, rape, murder, etc., and we deserve to be judged for our sins.



Other than Jesus, our biblical heroes were flawed individuals. Jacob deceived people, Rahab lived as a prostitute, and Peter denied Jesus three times. Moses, David, and Paul wrote large sections of the Bible, yet they either murdered people or condemned innocent people to death. But all these people found God's love, grace, and forgiveness.

GOD DESIRES TO FORGIVE YOU

It is difficult to understand why God would be willing to forgive people who have done terrible things. However, this notion overlooks the fact that every sin is a crime against our Creator, and the penalty for these crimes is eternal separation from God. It also fails to recognize his amazing love for sinners.



God loves us so much, and he has provided the means for us to be forgiven. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died in our place on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins. Then he demonstrated his power over death when he rose from the grave. Forgiveness of sins and eternal life are promised to "whoever believes in him" (John 3:15–18). Those who reject the Lord's sacrificial death will be separated eternally from him in a place called the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11–15).

Jesus Christ gave us this promise. "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24).

For more information on life in the womb or to share your testimony with us, please visit CreationMuseum.org/baby.

If you seek guidance for healing or to learn about ways you can promote the sanctity of life, please visit HeartbeatInternational.org or Care-Net.org.

FEARFULLY &
WONDERFULLY
Made


CREATION
MUSEUM®



For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am *fearfully and wonderfully made*. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:13–14)

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

All human beings are made in the image of God. One of the many implications of being made in God's image is that we are distinct from the animals.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Genesis 1:26)

Every Person

Though marred by Adam's sin, every human being, both male and female, from the moment of fertilization, is made in God's image, regardless of one's level of development, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, or age.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

Immeasurable Value

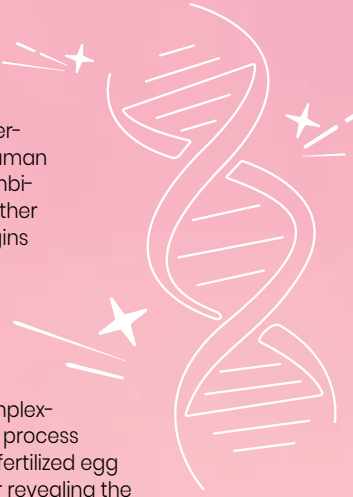
All human life is precious because we are made in God's image. This fact explains why it is wrong to curse others (James 3:8–9) and why God prescribes a severe penalty for murder.

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (Genesis 9:6)

WE ARE ALL UNIQUE CREATIONS

Every human being has been uniquely created by God. At the very moment the sperm fertilizes the egg, an individual human possessing his or her own combination of DNA, half from the father and half from the mother, begins developing inside the mother.¹

Far from being merely a clump of cells, a blob of tissue, or a parasite inside the mother, the tiny person in the womb displays incredible complexity and purposeful design. The process of human development from fertilized egg to birth is a matchless wonder revealing the Creator's awe-inspiring creativity and care.



WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN?

This question lies at the heart of some highly contentious issues in our world. From a medical standpoint, there is only one logical answer: **life begins at fertilization**, when the chromosomes from the sperm and the egg combine, forming a genetically unique individual.

This was traditionally called the moment of conception, but in the past few decades, conception has often been redefined to refer to the processes from fertilization through implantation of the embryo in the womb. Our medical knowledge of this process has caused the debate to shift from "When does life begin?" to "When does personhood begin?" or "When does the unborn feel pain?" But these questions avoid the real issue: a human being made in the image of God is growing and developing within the mother from the moment of fertilization.



WORLDVIEW IMPACT ON THE UNBORN

A person's position on origins and reality shapes how they view human life.

Since all people are made in the image of God, all human life from fertilization until death is precious. Therefore, the termination of human life through abortion and euthanasia are antithetical to the biblical worldview.

From a naturalistic evolutionary perspective, morality is arbitrary and human beings have no more inherent value than an animal, a blade of grass, a rock, or anything else. Thus, ending human life via abortion or euthanasia carries no moral implications and is consistent with the evolutionary philosophy built on death and suffering. As of January 2020, an estimated 60 million legal abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973. This is more than the population of California and New York combined.



COUNTERING POPULAR ARGUMENTS FOR ABORTION

Space does not permit a detailed answer to every argument for abortion, but brief responses are given to some in order to provide a proper perspective and illustrate how most of them distract from the real issue: the baby in the womb is a human being made in God's image (Genesis 1:26), and the Lord hates the shedding of innocent blood (Proverbs 6:16–17).

1) The embryo or fetus is just a clump of cells.

Ultrasounds and other medical advancements have shown this to be an outdated argument.

2) It's a woman's body, so it should be her choice.

The baby does develop inside of the mother whose body undergoes significant changes, but the baby is not part of the mother's body. A pregnant woman's body does not have four arms, four legs, and two heads. Abortion destroys the baby's body—not the mother's body.

¹ Identical twins initially share identical DNA, but minor genetic variations arise due to factors related to DNA replication during their lifetimes.

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