WE HAD THE BEST SUMMER-HIGHLIGHTS FROM 3,178 CAMPERS!

NEW LINE UP OF RETREATS, GET REGISTERED!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS INSIDE!

PLUS

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND UPDATE ON ZION RETREAT CENTER, GALVESTON

CELEBRATING OUR PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

ST FRANCIS OF THE ISLAND-GALVESTON

DONOR RECOGNITION
The summer of 2015 has come and gone. While it brought with it the same great spirit, rowdy laughter and loving community that Lutherhill has embodied since 1954, something new also came to life. This summer, campers lived into a new expression of Micah’s call to “Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). The words of the prophet found new life through Lutherhill Ministries this summer ...

- Campers **ACTED JUSTLY** as they gathered supplies and assembled 1,000 backpacks for kids in low-income schools throughout the Houston area.
- People of all ages **LOVED MERCY** as 3,178 campers, sponsors and volunteers lived in intentional community.
- And 70 young adult staff members **WALKED HUMBLY** with God as they gave their summers to pass faith on to the next generation.

These new expressions of faith extend past the fun-filled week of camp. They extend into congregations, homes, schools, friendships, families and more. The mom of Will, a ten-year-old camper, shared one such story with me as the family talked through their nightly devotional. Will connected the bible story to a familiar camp song, his favorite, called Blindman. He then started to sing, “I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life, the way to go Home.” The joy of camp extends far past the summer; it extended into Will’s nightly devotional, his home, his family and into his community.

We invite you to join us this retreat season as we explore the ways in which our faith extends out into the world. As our Lutheran worship concludes, and we are sent out into the world - we hear the words: “Go in peace, serve the Lord!” Everyone responds - “Thanks be to God.” With camp, we add a little extra flare as we declare “...and we will!” This proclamation of faith sends us out into the world in peace to serve!

Peace.

Matt Kindsvatter  
Executive Director

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**ZION RETREAT CENTER**

Progress with the Zion Retreat Center on Galveston Island is coming right along. The island retreat center is following suit with our summer’s theme: Act Love Walk. Donors, volunteers, staff, and partners in ministry have joined us in the process of renewal.

**ACT** - Our generous donors acted faithfully and donated or pledged $985,000 for the Zion Renewal campaign.

**LOVE** - All of our supporters have shown their love for Lutherhill through sustained interest and continued patience as this project takes longer than expected.

**WALK** - Lutherhill staff, our contractors and key leaders have walked humbly (sometimes with baby steps) through the permitting and planning process.

We are awaiting our final construction permit and expect to have it in hand by the end of August. The next step is to begin demolition and remodeling of the Zion Retreat Center. We are ready to extend the unique ministry of Lutherhill into this new setting.

As we continue to move forward with this wonderful project, be on the lookout for more information on our progress and dates for the Dedication Ceremony and Grand Opening. To learn more about this project visit www.lutherhill.org.

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*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.  
Micah 6:8*
Go in peace...

This past year Lutherhill has been blessed with three very talented Program Assistants. Their internship at Lutherhill is now over and they are moving on. Keep an eye out for these young professionals, they are on the move and ready to take on the Nonprofit and Outdoor Ministry worlds!

From all campers, staff and volunteers, we would like to thank Curtis Bradbury for the gifts he has shared with Lutherhill the past 24 months. From leading adventure campers to hosting retreats, serving as Summer Site Director to getting our online store up and running, Curtis has showed hospitality and a willingness to take care of camp and campers since he arrived from California two years ago. Curtis is looking forward to continuing a career in outdoor ministry and we are looking forward to seeing what an impact he will have where God leads him. Thank you Curtis for adding so much to Lutherhill!

Lutherhill has been blessed to have Megan Myers as a Program Assistant for the past eight months. This spring she shared her gifts with us through several significant summer projects including a face lift of arts and crafts and countless hours preparing the summer staff manual, a key document in the training of staff. After ensuring that there was a smooth start to summer, she transitioned into her role as the Ropes Course Coordinator. In this role, Megan has cultivated opportunities for growth for individuals, cabins, and villages as they have overcome fears and challenges. She has witnessed the leap of faith becoming a holy space as middle school campers raise their voices in support to a village mate standing 35 feet in the air. After spending the past five summers at Lutherhill, Megan is continuing her passion for outdoor ministry as a Program Assistant at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado. Thank you Megan for the time, energy and love you have shared with Lutherhill. You have positively impacted numerous campers, summer staff members, and year round staff members. Best wishes and our prayers surround you as you continue your journey!

Meredith Massey joined Lutherhill as a program assistant in September of 2014. During the past year, Meredith shared her incredible leadership skills and positive attitude with our staff, campers and guests. The new Zion Retreat Center in Galveston as well as the 2015 Daily Bread Project have significantly benefited from Meredith’s dedication to ministry and philanthropic passions. This fall Meredith will be using her experiences abroad to help prepare other Young Adults in Global Mission as an orientation alumni team member. After sending off this year’s church missionaries, Meredith will be actively pursuing a career in the non-profit world while she is enrolled in non-profit management courses at Team A&M University. Meredith has accepted a position with Souperbowl of Caring headquartered in Houston, Texas. With glad hearts, we send Meredith off with many thanks and praise for the time and talents she has given to the Lutherhill Ministries family. Best Wishes Mere!

and serve the Lord!
2015-2016 Retreat Theme: ...and we will!

When worships end we are sent out into the world with the call to, “Go in peace and serve the Lord,” to which the congregation replies, “Thanks be to God!” At Lutherhill, we joyfully follow this with “…and we will!” Join us this year as we explore what it means to go in peace, serve the Lord and agree as a body of believers that WE WILL!

**Big Bend Retreat • September 23-27, 2015**
Prices vary, see website for options, [www.lutherhill.org](http://www.lutherhill.org)

Lutherhill heads to west Texas for an adult adventure in the desert! Adults 18 and over can join us for fun, faith and fellowship. For this extended weekend you can choose your preference of transportation options, lodging style, and recreational activities. Hiking in the Big Bend Mountains, canoeing the Rio Grande and relaxing in the hot springs are just the beginning of this September 2015 retreat.

**Fall Family Retreat • October 9-11, 2015**
$80 13 years ‘n older  $45 12 ‘n under

Come and Grow in fellowship and community with your own family members and fellow campers of all ages. Enjoy camp activities like the high ropes course, arts and crafts, archery, and much more while also experiencing age specific Bible studies for youth and adults. This retreat will begin Friday evening with family activities and an opening devotion. On Saturday, we will continue with morning worship and Bible study and an activity filled afternoon. Sunday, we will wrap the weekend up with a closing activity, a community brunch, and a sending worship. A perfect weekend for your family to spend some time away in community with God and others.

**Spring Retreats**

- **Big Bend Retreat**
  - September 23-27, 2015
- **Fall Family Retreat**
  - October 9-11, 2015
- **Creation Care Retreat**
  - November 6-8, 2015
- **Junior High Retreat**
  - November 13-15, 2015
- **Advent Retreat**
  - December 4-5, 2015
- **Advent Family Retreat**
  - December 11-13, 2015

**Spring Retreats**

- **Mother Daughter Retreat**
  - January 29-31, 2016
- **Senior High Retreat**
  - February 19-21, 2016
- **Women’s Pampering Retreat**
  - March 4-6, 2016
- **Elementary Retreat**
  - March 11-13, 2016
- **Creative Distractions Retreat**
  - April 1-3, 2016
- **Spring Family Retreat**
  - April 22-24, 2016

We also welcome your group for a personalized retreat! Contact us today to reserve your date and plan your retreat. Email us at office@lutherhill.org
CREATION CARE RETREAT - November 6-8, 2015
$30 per person
Join us for a weekend filled with learning how to be effective advocates for our environment while also enjoying the beauty of God’s handiwork. Through environmental education, Bible study, service projects, and worship, we will focus on what it means to be good stewards of God’s creation. This retreat is open to adults and youth ages 10-17, when accompanied by an adult.

JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT - November 13-15, 2015
$130 per person
Spend time in fellowship and learning alongside fellow junior high campers with our speaker Justin Rimbo. Lutherhill’s energetic staff will lead activities and small group community time. To further explore what it means to be the body of Christ, hear from Justin about our church’s commitment to living in community with one another. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are invited to attend this impactful weekend. This retreat will begin on Friday evening with music and community time lead by Justin Rimbo and Graham Peterson. On Saturday, we will further explore the weekend’s theme and spend an afternoon filled with activities. We close the weekend on Sunday with a community brunch and a sending worship. A great weekend for youth to grow in faith and friendship in a unique setting!

ADVENT RETREAT - December 4-5, 2015
$55 per person
Awaken to the Advent season as we await for the coming of Christ. Campers in 1st through 6th grade are invited to spend a packed 24 hours worshiping, learning in Bible study, and experiencing fun camp activities like the giant swing, archery, and art and crafts. We will navigate the day largely as a community but we will break into small groups for age specific Bible studies. This retreat will begin on Friday evening with welcoming games, activities, and a devotion. On Saturday, we will have an action packed day including learning more about our theme, experiencing fun camp activities, and being sent out to go in peace and serve the Lord through closing worship.

ADVENT FAMILY RETREAT - December 11-13, 2015
$80 13 years ‘n older $45 12 ‘n under
Pack up the family and join us at Lutherhill for fellowship and community with your own family members and fellow campers of all ages. This third weekend of Advent provides an opportunity for your family to spend some time away in community with God and others. Enjoy camp activities in the Christmas spirit like the high ropes course, arts and crafts, archery, and much more with your family while also experiencing age specific Bible studies for youth and adults. This retreat will begin Friday evening with family activities and an opening devotion. On Saturday, we continue with morning worship and Bible study and an activity filled afternoon. Sunday, we wrap the weekend up with a closing activity, a community brunch, and a sending worship.

For a full schedule and details of Lutherhill Retreats please visit our website at www.lutherhill.org

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15TH ANNUAL LUTHERHILL GOLF TOURNAMENT!

SAVÉ THE DATE!
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016
CYPRESS LAKES GOLF COURSE
Thank you to the many Lutheran guests during the 2014-2015 retreat season that generously gave to the renovation of the Lutherhill Ropes Course. The ropes area is a great place for team building, working on communication and adventurous fun. The funds that were raised helped update the team course’s elements and hardware. This summer one camper said, “This should be at Disney World!” as she came off of the course. Thank you so much for your help in making sure this area of camp is the best it can be!
LUTHERHILL WELCOMES ST. FRANCIS OF THE ISLAND - GALVESTON, TEXAS

Lutherhill Ministries and the Order of Lutheran Franciscans have entered into a collaborative ministry at Zion Retreat Center on Galveston Island. This partnership is mutually beneficial for both ministry partners as we live out our Mission, Vision, and Values.

The Order of Lutheran Franciscans (OLF) is an ELCA religious community comprised of women and men, lay and ordained, who vow to follow the Way of St. Francis of Assisi by living lives of simplicity, love and accountability as they work to "rebuild Christ's Church." The Four Foundations of the OLF include: accompanying the poor and marginalized; creation care, ecumenical bridge-building, and spiritual formation and renewal of the Church.

This collaboration will allow for a new mission to be birthed by the OLF at Zion Retreat Center that exists to minister on Galveston Island. This includes weekly worship services, as well as intentional ministry with, and presence among, the people of Galveston.

As part of this collaborative partnership, the pastor for the new mission will also serve as the Director of Ministries at Zion Retreat Center. Lutherhill is excited to announce Chris Markert, pastor of St. Francis of the Island. Chris serves as the Minister General of the Order of Lutheran Franciscans. At St. Francis of the Island he is responsible for equipping God's people for ministry through preaching and the sacraments.

To learn more about the Order of Franciscans and the new ministry of St. Francis of the Island, you can visit www.lutheranfranciscans.org. To learn more about St. Francis of the Island you can visit www.francisofthisisland.org.
### 2016 Summer Programs

**Registration Opens October 15th!!!**

Visit our website for additional information about our programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open Camp Day</strong></td>
<td>All ages are invited out to a <strong>FREE</strong> day at camp!!! Saturday, June 4, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Camp</td>
<td>July 3-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW!!! Guatemalan Journey  <em>ages 7 and up</em>*</td>
<td>Extended Trip! July 9-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha’s completed 1st</td>
<td>June 12-15; July 17-20; July 31-Aug 3; Aug 7-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youngn’s completed 2nd or 3rd</td>
<td>June 12-17; July 17-22; July 31-Aug 5; Aug 7-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yearling’s completed 4th-6th</td>
<td>June 12-17; June 26-July 1; July 17-22; July 24-29; July 31-Aug 5; Aug 7-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>JHC (Junior High Camp) completed 6th-8th</td>
<td>June 19-24; June 26-July 1; July 10-15; July 24-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>June 19-24; June 26-July 1; July 10-15; July 24-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jr High Texas Adventure completed 6th-8th</td>
<td>June 12-17; July 24-29</td>
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<td>Jr High Service Experience completed 6th-8th</td>
<td>June 26-July 1; July 24-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jr High Night Owl completed 6th-8th</td>
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<td>NEW!!! Sr High Palo Duro Adventure completed 9th-12th</td>
<td>June 19-24</td>
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<td>Sr High Texas Adventure completed 9th-12th</td>
<td>July 10-15</td>
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<td>Sr High Service Experience completed 9th-12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>LYLE I completed 9th-11th</td>
<td>Session A: June 12-24; Session B: July 10-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>LYLE II completed LYLE I or 10th</td>
<td>Session A: June 26-July 8, Session B: July 31-Aug 12</td>
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**On Site Day Camp of Lutherhill!!!**

**JULY 10-15, 2016**

Register October 15, 2015

Do you live near Lutherhill? Do you have a younger camper that would like to spend a week at camp? Come out to our Onsite Day Camp! This week of Day Camp is for campers K-5th grade. For our parents, Day Camp runs during the day with morning drop off and afternoon pick up. For our campers, Day Camp is full of swimming, singing, arts & crafts, Bible studies and activities that you can only get from being at camp!

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**Guatemala Journey**

**Saturday, July 9, 2016-Sunday, July 17, 2016**

Let’s Go Chi B’ee?: a family journey to the Guatemalan cloud forest.

In Q’eqchi’, a Mayan language spoken in the cloud forest region of Guatemala, this word Chi B’eek means a walk, a trip, or a journey. Join Lutherhill through Lutheran Partners in Global Mission on a family experiential journey to Community Cloud Forest Conservation’s (CCFC) clean and rustic agro-ecology center during the summer of 2016, July 9 – July 17.

We will be partnering with a primary school for a few days of camp at the agro-ecology center or partnering with CCFC’s women’s program. During this journey, you will walk with CCFC learning about their work in agro-ecology and the cloud forest.

For more information about this amazing journey contact Elise Riggs, Program Director. 888.266.4613 or elise@lutherhill.org.

*This journey is open to families with children 7 years and older and individuals 18 and older.*
ELCA INTERNATIONAL CAMP COUNSELOR

In Hungary, people of the Lutheran faith greet each other with this phrase, “Erős vagy a mi Istenünk.” The words directly translate to the Luther quote, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” and is just one of the many Hungarian traditions Anita Finisz has shared with Lutherhill this summer. Anita served as an international counselor from Bükk, Hungary through the ELCA’s International Camp Counselor Program. For several years the Lutherhill community has been strengthened by the addition of international counselors like Anita that bring energy, excitement, and diversity to the summer camp program.

When asked what her favorite thing about Lutherhill is, Anita could not pick just one. “There are so many things I love about Lutherhill. All of Lutherhill’s activities, especially the pond! Sing-along with the high energy and everybody standing and clapping, and night worship is such a beautiful way to end the day.” Anita also speaks highly of the community that has welcomed her the past 12 weeks, and her experience at Lutherhill has helped shape a vision for her future plans. “When I return to Hungary, I want to help rebuild my youth group that is just as happy and loving as the community as Lutherhill. People will want to join not just because of the programs, but because of the incredible relationships within the group.”

Lutherhill is a better place because of Anita’s faithful servant heart, loving personality, and gift of building relationships with people of all ages.

PARTNERSHIP THROUGH DAY CAMPS

Lutherhill had the opportunity to partner with 29 congregations throughout Texas this summer by sending teams of summer staff counselors to lead Day Camps. It is incredible how many of these partner congregations reach out into their surrounding communities for this ministry.

One such congregation this summer was St. Martin’s Lutheran Church in Sugar Land who has hosted Lutherhill Day Camp for five years. Repeat campers as well as new ones come each year to have a traditional camp experience inside the city. St. Martin’s partnered with Fort Bend Family Promise, an organization that assists homeless families. Fort Bend Family Promise keeps families together and helps them in finding permanent housing rather than separating them into various shelters. Due to the long history between the two and a grant that Family Promise received to send children to summer camp, St. Martin’s was able to welcome nine children from Family Promise to day camp. This was an incredible opportunity for all the kids as they were encouraged and shown the love of Christ. St. Martin’s truly got to live out Lutherhill’s summer theme of Act, Love, Walk while also — Serving God. Loving all. Changing Lives.

A STORY OF CAMPERS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND LOVE

Nancy and Joel Fox, from San Antonio, along with their daughters Ashley and Laura have a long standing history with Lutherhill Ministries that we are excited to share with you.

In 1986, ten years after Joel’s experience as a Lutherhill camper, he returned as a counselor where he met his future wife, the camp nurse, Nancy. Fourteen years later, Nancy would bring their children Ashley (6) and Laura (4) back to volunteer in the nurse’s station. When asked what brought their family back year after year the Fox’s shared: “When we were staff, Lutherhill helped shape our faith. It was an awesome place to express our beliefs and help impact the lives of others. Had it not been for meeting that summer, and marrying in 1990, we would not be the family that we are today. We are drawn back to a Lutherhill because of the ministry that happens here. The overall experience gained from camp cannot be replicated. The camping ministry teaches so much about being a Christian and a member of a community. The girls fell in love with Lutherhill after tagging along with Nancy when she volunteered as the nurse. Once old enough, they became campers and now both have been on summer staff at Lutherhill. Their camp experience helped shape them into who they are today.”

Not only did the Fox parents volunteer to help Ashley, in the nurse’s station this summer, but also played an integral part in the lives of a pair of new campers. Nancy works as the nurse at an elementary school in Helotes, Texas. Here she has developed a relationship with a family who has two girls, the oldest has insulin dependent diabetes. With the help of the Lutherhill Campership program and the added supervision of volunteer nurse Nancy, the girls were able to have their first ever camp experience. The mother of the girls recounted her impression of Lutherhill: “They had a great time. Really became independent over just one week. My oldest said she felt connected to God. They both loved worship and have been teaching the songs to friends. I was impressed with how well organized camp was and how confident and comfortable the girls were. We can’t wait for next year.”

Lutherhill exists because of longtime supporters and generous volunteers like the Fox’s. We give thanks to God for the volunteers, campers, staff, and parents who share their time and talents with Lutherhill and its various ministries.
SUMMER CAMP 2015  This summer Lutherhill campers learned how we are called to shape our lives around the life of Jesus by acting justly, loving mercifully, and walking humbly with God. It was inspiring to see 3,178 campers actively live out their faith both at Lutherhill and beyond. Service and adventure campers traveled out into the world acting justly as they cleaned up around Inks Lake and zip lined through beautiful views near Hot Springs, Arkansas. While exploring God's creation into the wee hours of the morning, night owl campers got to love mercifully, building a tight knit community during this program's debut summer. Lastly, we had little legs walking humbly all around site with our onsite day camp during which K–5th grade campers navigated the camp day as a village of new friends and neighbors. Campers and staff truly got to share their vibrant faith this summer with one another, with this community, and now with those back home!
**THE DAILY BREAD PROJECT**

This summer, campers practiced acting justly through participating in a service and learning opportunity through the 2015 Daily Bread Project. Lutherhill Ministries partnered with Communities in Schools of Houston and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod to provide 1,000 first graders in Houston ISD with backpacks filled with supplies. The magnitude of this project was incredible:

- 1,000 backpacks filled with schools supplies
- $30,000 gifted towards the 2015 Daily Bread Project
  - $11,000 worth of in-kind donations
  - $14,000 gifted through weekly offerings and Congregational gifts
  - $5,000 contribution from the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
- 3,178 pairs of camper hands to pack and pray for each backpack

Lizzie Nichols, our 2015 Daily Bread Project Coordinator stated, “I believe that packing the backpacks provided a great way for our campers to serve the community. Our campers were able to relate to the need for school supplies, and each week campers thought of ways each item could be used to help students grow and develop their unique God given gifts and talents.” Thank you to every camper, staff member, and supporter who helped provide this tangible opportunity to act justly. The Daily Bread Project will continue to be an integral part of Lutherhill’s ministry.

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**Mission Statement**

Lutherhill...

a place for all people, of every generation to experience the love of Christ in unique settings and new ways.

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**Our Values:**

**Hospitality**

That all are valued, cared for, and loved through their interactions with Lutherhill.

**Love of Christ**

To exemplify Christ’s Love and a desire for all to experience that love.

**Holy Spaces**

We strive to create opportunities for people to experience God’s presence in all things.

**Community**

We value relationship modeled around God’s Love and acceptance.

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**August 2015**

- David Natividad, President & CEO

Lutherhill Ministries

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- Houston, TX 77003
- Phone: 713-666-8024
- Fax: 713-666-5432
- Email: david@lutherhill.org

- Accredited by the Council on Accreditation

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