

# The Northwestern

*Newsletter for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

*Volume 28 - Issue 2 - June 2015*

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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## What are Dads good for?...

A dad is good for putting worms on a hook.

A dad is good for showing you how to tie a tie-  
--when your mom makes you wear one.

A dad is good for explaining to your mom why it's not such a huge  
crime to tear your pants  
sliding into second base.



A dad is good for letting you run the power mower while your mom is sitting on the porch---  
---Praying.

A dad is good for carrying you when you are tired and your mom isn't finished shopping.

A dad is good for chauffeuring you where you want to go, especially if you can teach him  
not to talk much after you're 13 and your friends are in the car.

A dad is good for helping your mom understand why you can't be clean all the time.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Even though the teachers of long ago classes said to never start with an apology, I need to do just that. I totally missed the opportunity for the Women of the ELCA to sponsor a workshop at the "Walking Together" that was a part of the Synod Assembly weekend, so we were not among the mix of breakouts. Needless to say, I haven't yet learned to look far enough ahead when it comes to planning some of these things. If you are good at those kinds of reminders, I welcome your suggestions!

There are some verses toward the end of Ephesians 5 that I really like and am trying to practice. They talk about being filled with the Holy Spirit, about praising God in song, and then thanking God in everything. I wish I could remember where I read a suggestion to be openly grateful for at least three things every day and to write them down if that helps. Easier said than done! But here goes for today's "attitude of gratitude."

Quilts – the folks at Balsam north of Amery and Elim in Range are still having a blast doing quilts. We continue in gratefulness to the folks at Sand Creek for getting us started on the right foot. And at one of the "Walking Together" workshops, this lively gal from Lutheran World Relief was very appreciative of the work our Wisconsin ladies do to keep their warehouse supplied. An interesting fact she shared: *one-fourth of the quilts LWR uses worldwide come from Wisconsin. So thank you ladies for the wonderful work you are doing to supply the WORLD with quilts!*

Assessment – the Churchwide office in Chicago asked for an accurate accounting of the number of active W/ELCA Units we have in our Synod. Some of the Synod Reps worked VERY hard at getting these numbers together along with accurate addresses and phone numbers for contact people for each Unit. So I *thank you for your work and am happy to report that we have 160 active units which allots us 7 voting delegates and an eighth vote for the SWO President at the next Triennial.* We are one of just a handful of Synods in the whole country with more than 150 active groups. On the other side of that coin, there were 3 that never submitted a report.

"Drop Your Drawers" – sent 3 double-height pallets (4'x4' by 94" high) of goods to Lutheran Social Services of the South to use in caring for the unaccompanied minors at our southern border. The icing on the cake occurred when my stepson's company (GO-MACRO!) decided to add several cases of their protein-snack bars to the mix and then pay the entire freight bill for the whole shipment to get to Texas. *Ladies, you exceeded our expectations with your contributions for this cause!* Thank you very much! I really must thank First Lutheran for warehousing our stuff along with the insight, posters and work that Robbie Joern of that church staff did to make things happen. Carol Johnson and Sue Albright from Apple River Conference and Phyllis Grohn from Chippewa Valley worked their #\*X#'s off one day to get it all sorted into boxes and labeled correctly. After my article on this page you can find the thank you e-mail from Paul Hernandez for your donations. And when our Treasurer Audrey Severson gets a final tally, we will report to you the amount of cash that was sent as well.

Notes – we received some wonderful thank you letters from the women of our Synod who were recipients of the \$500 seminary scholarships that your generosity helped provide. *Thank you, ladies, for sending your contributions to our SWO Treasurer so that we can continue to provide things like scholarships.*

I am appreciative of the communications I get from the Churchwide office in Chicago. They even sent me a set of print-ready business cards via e-mail the other day. I wasn't expecting things like that! If you get the Gather magazine, I'm sure you have read the articles by our national director, Linda Post Bushkofsky. I got her permission to share something she said in the May issue that seems like good common sense for all of us, especially as we tend to get more set in our ways as we age. "Transformation and reformation are never easy.



When winds of change blow, according to a Chinese proverb, some people build walls and some people build windmills." She concluded the paragraph with a quote from our Constitution, Article III, Section 4, "An openness to change and the ability to allow for diversity in functioning shall be among the desired results of the structure of this organization." So can we really do this? And still be thankful along the way!!

Our last SWO Board Meeting was ably hosted by one of our Synod's smallest churches, that being Elim Lutheran in Range. One of the items for discussion was the cost of mailing the Northwester, so we decided to



take a survey at the spring rally days in each Conference. Your Synod Reps will be bringing the results to our July Board Meeting for further discussion. We will be trying to do more electronically FREE, but make mailed subscriptions available for \$8 per year after September. Diane Kaufmann has agreed to host a workshop on how to access and use our website which is one of the places the Northwester can be found. We are also considering e-mail notifications that are probably easier for most of us. You will be hearing more about this down the road as these plans are finalized.

Our next SWO Board Meeting is July 14<sup>th</sup> at Bethel in New Auburn. Details will be sent out to the Board probably before you receive this newsletter! Meanwhile, we would like to hear from you with comments and suggestions. Call someone from the roster on the back page of this newsletter and speak your mind!! Engage us in conversation about issues affecting the women in your church.

Our September 26<sup>th</sup> Leadership training will be held at Christ Lutheran in northern Menomonie. Details of that event will be forthcoming in the August mailing sent to all Units. We will be having at least three workshops in addition to the officer breakouts. Make plans now to send your Conference Officers to that day. Any Unit officers unable to access training in your own Conference will be welcomed as well.

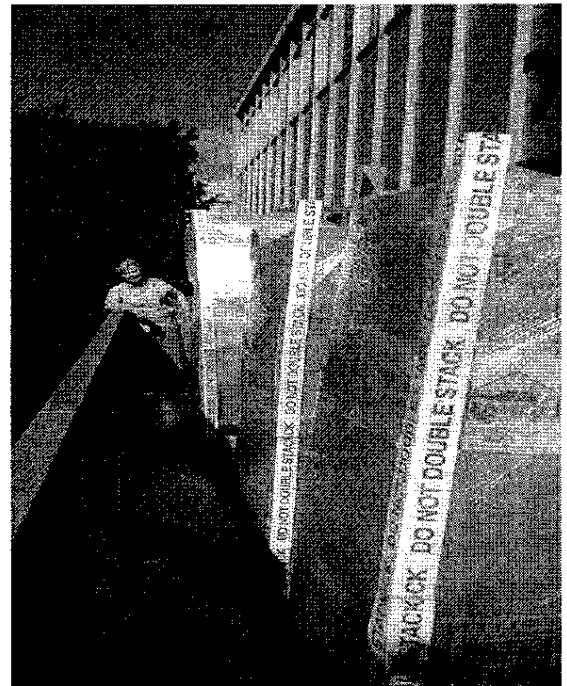
Meanwhile, keep up the good work! Someone does appreciate you!

Sue Saarem, SWO President for the NW Wisconsin Synod; 715-268-5586 or pmssaarem@yahoo.com

\* \* \* \* \*



The back hallway at First Lutheran in Eau Claire doesn't always look like this! You are looking at the result of our collection of items for Lutheran Social Services of the South and the "muscle men" that carted and carried it all to the back door. There they loaded it onto pallets that were shrink-wrapped for shipment to Texas as shown in the second picture. It was amazing to see the amount of toiletries and clothing articles that appeared at the Spring



Days of Renewal sponsored by the Women of the ELCA. These items will be used at the three shelters LSSS operates to assist unaccompanied minors camped at our southern border. *Our shipment left First Lutheran in Eau Claire on Tuesday May 19th and arrived at the shelter in Texas on the 26<sup>th</sup>!*

\* \* \* \* \*

Sue,

On behalf of our agencies' programs, we want to thank you and the Lutheran Synod Women's Organization for NW Wisconsin immensely for putting this donation drive together. As mentioned in previous e-mail, these donations couldn't come at a greater time for our programs as we are starting to experience an increase in children in care, so these items will definitely be put to good use.

We also give many thanks to your stepson and his company for donating freight costs to ship the donations to our site. Above all, thank you for your continued prayers and extended generosity for our agencies. They are always needed and very much welcomed!

I will confirm with you once we receive the shipment and try to share some pictures.

Many blessings,

Paul R. Hernandez, Executive Director

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

From your Vice President...June gets us to thinking about vacations. Sue Piotrowski, from New Hope Lutheran Church in Sand Creek, has written another devotion that is so appropriate for this time of the year that I've asked her permission to use it for this newsletter. Enjoy your summer! *Janet Allison*

### Devotions from Sue Piotrowski

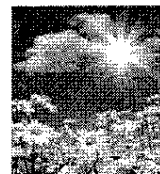
*"The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but the earth he has given to human beings." Psalms 115:16 (NRSV)*

Vacations are a needed time off from the ordinary day...maybe a week or more or maybe just part of a day. If you can't get away, just taking a break in a quiet place is refreshing.



We have been privileged to have gone on some wonderful trips to other states. We have seen the giant redwood trees in California and amazing salt flats in Utah that seem to go on and on. We've seen the power of water in small falls and the grandeur of Niagara. One of my most favorite scenes is the mountains...from the magnificent Rocky Mountains in the West to the Alleghany and the Blue Ridge ranges in the East. I will never tire of seeing the wonderful creation our God has made for His people to enjoy.

We have had to take trips that were sad occasions yet there was still beauty to behold on the roads we've traveled...unexpected flowers on a mountain side, or the acres of white of a cotton field ready to be harvested. These memories are tucked away to last a lifetime.



Short in-between or longer vacations are needed for our well-being and we can take them knowing God will be there for each moment. But do you know what the best part is? God never takes one!

Dear God, help us to trust you in our every day, no matter where we are when we stop to rest. Amen

Jan Allison, Vice President

*Take your Daily Grace with you every day*



Need an on-the-go companion for your faith journey? Daily Grace offers brief reflections every day in which you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. Be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. Ask for your Daily Grace to go. Download an app for your Apple (iTunes) or Android devices now. You can also sign up to receive Daily Grace via e-mail.

- See more at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gracetogo-pages-129.php#sthash.QcNaP9yk.dpuf>

# Discipleship

## Affirming Our Gifts

Our SWO has defined discipleship as a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Disciples are followers of Jesus who are intent on carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Command (Acts 1:8) (From Discipleship Leadership Workshop, 2014)

We all remember the Great Commission from Matthew 28:19-20: <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."<sup>[a]</sup>



As important is the Great Command from Acts 1:8: <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We will receive power from the Holy Spirit! Awesome! He gives us spiritual gifts. We all have them. But is their intensity the same? No, some gifts are stronger than others in each individual.

I have been troubled lately by what I feel is my lack in hospitality. I am envious of others to whom being friendly, warm, and responsive come naturally. I know that I also am caring, loving, and empathetic, but outwardly showing it is difficult for me. I've discussed this with my Christian friends, and prayed for guidance and encouragement. I have been taking steps to consciously change.

Since I feel that this is such an important part of being a Christian, it has taken up a lot of my energy, and so I thought it was time to assess where my strongest spiritual gifts might take me. One of the tools I

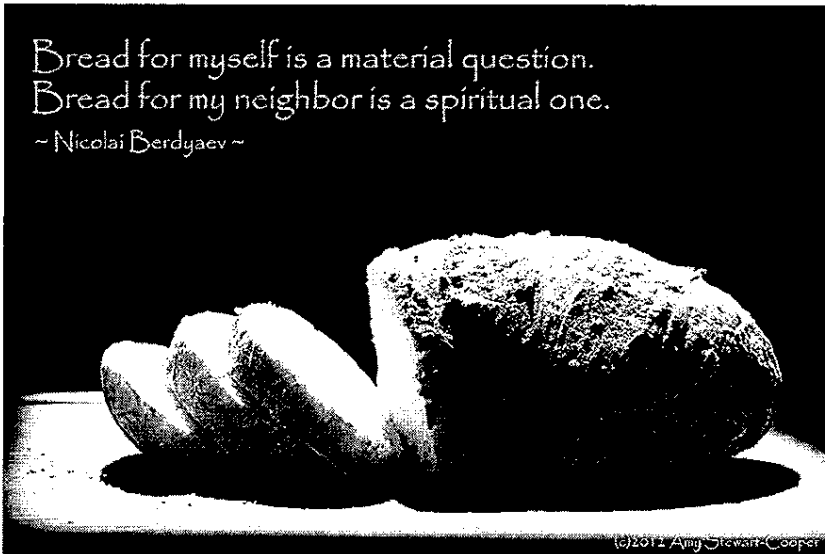
found was the spiritual gift inventory. It can be found at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and is called "Gifts for You; Opening your spiritual gifts." I would highly recommend this as an activity for your unit. Or you can do it by yourself. I'm sure you will learn something about yourself!

I learned that even though I struggled with hospitality, I found that I was blessed with six other gifts that I had probably taken for granted. I can now ask myself, how will I use these gifts to further grow in maturity as a Disciple of Jesus? How will my gifts be used to their fullest in the community of faith? What has been in the way of using these gifts fully?

Discipleship is a lifelong journey. It is studying, learning, praying, and doing. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in your journey of discipleship and go forward knowing that all you do is to the glory of God.

Brenda Wheeler, Heart of the North Conference Rep

Bread for myself is a material question.  
Bread for my neighbor is a spiritual one.  
~ Nicolai Berdyaev ~



"A true friend can hear a teardrop"



## FROM THE TREASURER



I have just returned from the Synod Treasurer's meeting in Chicago where they had all new treasurers of Synod Women's Organizations meet for two days of training. Twelve new treasurers met and learned and shared procedures and problems.

The most important thing to tell you - the W/ELCA unit treasurers - is the change of address to send Thankofferings and Katie's Fund and other W/ELCA special ministries on FORM B. The Chicago office could not keep up in a timely manner all donations to ELCA and W/ELCA, so an outside company was found that will do it faster and inexpensively for the whole church. Please use this address starting NOW!

New forms are on the W/ELCA website. The **FORM B** address is:

Women of the ELCA  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield VA 22116-8009

*This is ONLY for sending in FORM B for Thankofferings, Katie's Fund, LWR quilt shipping, and World Hunger and other special ministries of the W/ELCA Churchwide.*



Continue using FORM A to send me a portion of your regular offerings. Many are calling it dues on the form but we do not charge units dues, but we appreciate your donations of preferably half of your regular offerings at meetings, quilting, or Bible studies. You can certainly round off the amounts you send me. Also you can send me money for the Malawi Literacy Fund and Synod Malaria Campaign.

My address is Audrey Severson, N6059 530th Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011-5107

We do ask churches to help keep the cost of convention registration down to a minimum by donating \$30/year to the Convention Expense Fund. Please write that on the open line on your FORM A. On off-convention years we do not take a convention offering as many of you write the \$30 on that line. I am assuming you would want it toward the convention expense fund so it is deposited in that fund. In 2016, we will hold our next synod convention in Eau Claire. So, next year I will be depositing both CONVENTION EXPENSE FUND money and CONVENTION OFFERING money into two different funds so please indicate carefully what one you are sending.

We have been receiving the Malawi Literacy Project money from units and now have \$2,546.00 in this fund. We thank the units and conferences for their generosity. Your regular worship donations have been put to work already this year. We donated \$500 to each of the Bible Camps in our synod: Luther Point and Luther Park Bible Camps. We gave out 7 Seminary Scholarships of \$500 each. The Synod Resource Center received \$500 from our SWO. We sent to W/ELCA Churchwide \$3,694.00 which was one-half of your worship offerings to May 15. We thank our units for being faithful stewards.

Our board discussed the use of electronic mailings of this newsletter. They voted to increase the cost from \$6 to \$8/year starting in September for postal delivery. Keep this in mind.



May you have a blessed summer.  
Audrey Severson - SWO Treasurer

Many of you may remember Edith Schultz, who was a member of the Lakeside Community Lutheran Church at Webster for many years. She was recently featured in the Washington County newspaper, The Daily News. Edith has written a book about her experiences living through Nazi occupation in Poland and her time in a Russian prison camp titled "From Riches to Rags to Riches with the Grace of God".

Ninety-one year old Schultz recalls The German tanks rolled into Lodz. Poland as the Germans took over Poland in the fall of 1939. Her grandmother was forced to leave her apartment building, her father was taken into the German army and she and her family were forced to leave their home with only the clothing they were wearing. In 1945, the Russians came from the east and many people fled again, this time to the west. When she arrived in Berlin with only the clothes on her back, she became a prisoner of the Russians for three months.

She was released from the Russian prison camp and once again returned to Berlin, trying to locate the home of a relative, and when she knocked on the door, her mother answered it.

She found work in Munich and it was there she found her future husband Bob Schultz. After a long time trying to get a visa to come to America, she finally succeed and she and Bob were married in New Jersey. They later bought 40 acres in Solon Springs and lived there.

Edith said one Bible verse in particular holds deep meaning for her, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", Philippians 4:13. She thinks of that verse as her testimony. She said, "I lost everything I had several times in my life, but I would have to say that my faith has sustained me. There were many times when I wondered what was going to happen next, but I believe that God has a purpose for everyone". Edith can be contacted at 119 Cedar Ridge Dr. – Apt S214, West Bend, WI 53095-3690.

Last month a group of home-schooled teens known as the Young Patriots, performed a play based on her book. The group has performed the play several times, and would like to take it to all the schools in the West Bend, WI area where Edith and the teens live. 'The Young Patriots of Washington County' is sponsored by the VFW Post 1393. The group can be found on Facebook.



I've never made a fortune, and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I  
sowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.  
But I've got loved ones around me and that makes me rich enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has over flowed.

---Author unknown



At a recent meeting of the Women of the ELCA at Chetek Lutheran, several women were recognized for their years of work at making quilts. Back on January 13, 1936, quilting circles began to help raise money to help replace the church that had burned down in 1934.

The new church was finished in 1938 and in October of 1943, the mortgage was paid in full with the help of the dedicated church women. In a note from the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, it stated that at the time the quilts were sold for \$5.00 each. By 1956 they had raised six hundred dollars.

After their church building was paid for, the Women of the ELCA didn't stop meeting and making quilts. By their records, over 3,000 quilts have been made over the years, all over coffee, tea, and cookies. However, these quilts aren't sold, instead, they are donated to graduating students, newborns, and families in need, but the overwhelming portion have been donated to charity organizations overseas.

The women who were present for recognition of their years of service in the quilting circles were: Vivian Stensby, 94; Mavis Dodge, 97; Emma Perry, 99; Barbara Grandy, 87; and Veronah Dalhoe, 85. Not able to be present were Norma Nielsen, 91; and Doris Ganske, 87.

Margaret Hunstad, widow of former pastor Wallace Hunstad, who was at Chetek Lutheran from 1965 to 1989, brought several quilts that the circles and Sunday school classes had given them. The quilt pictured was made in 1975 and contained the names of all the women in the seven circles at the church. The quilt was a gift for the Hunstad's silver anniversary.



#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This is the beginning of a new day  
God has given me this day to use as I will.  
I can waste it or use it for good.

What I do today is important because I'm exchanging a day of my life for it.  
When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever,  
leaving in its place something I have traded for it.  
I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure -  
in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.

- Author Unknown



## If Jesus were to do His same ministry on earth today, He would be in trouble with:



The FDA for turning water into wine without a license. [John 2]

The EPA for killing fig trees. [Mark 11]

The AMA for practicing medicine without a license. [Luke 6]

The Department of Health for asking people to open graves and for raising the dead, and for feeding 5,000 in the wilderness. [John, 11, Matthew 14, Luke 9]

The NEA for teaching without a certificate. [Matthew 18]

OSHA for walking on water without a life-jacket [Mark 6] and for flying without an airplane. [Mark 16]

The SPCA for driving a herd of hogs into the sea. [Luke 8]

The National Board of Psychiatrists for giving advice on how to live a guilt-free life. [Luke 12]

There was a request from the Apple River Conference to print the recipes used at their Spring Day of Renewal at Faith Lutheran at Balsam Lake.

### Strawberry Salad with Poppy Seed Dressing

3 Tbsp sugar

3 Tbsp Mayonnaise

2 Tbsp milk

1 Tbsp poppy seed

1 Tbsp white wine vinegar

1 10 oz. pkg. Romaine lettuce

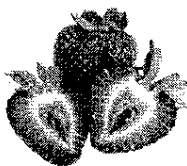
1 c strawberries, chopped

2 Tbsp almonds or pecans, chopped

Mix the first five ingredients in a bowl with a whisk.

Place the lettuce in a large bowl and add the strawberries and nuts and toss well.

Drizzle the dressing over the top and serve immediately.



### Chicken Salad

3-4 cooked chicken breasts or 1 rotisserie chicken

1 – 16 oz. pkg. of bowtie pasta

5 – 7 oz. pkg. dried cherries or cranberries

$\frac{3}{4}$  c sliced celery

$\frac{1}{2}$  c chopped red onion

1 c toasted almonds

Dressing:

1  $\frac{1}{4}$  c poppy seed dressing

1  $\frac{1}{4}$  c light mayonnaise

1 tsp salt

$\frac{1}{2}$  tsp pepper

Cut chicken into bite-sized pieces. Cook pasta, drain and rinse well.

Mix the dressing ingredients and set  $\frac{3}{4}$  c aside.

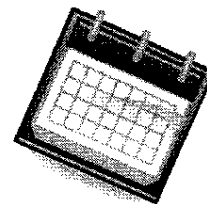
Combine rest of dressing, chicken, pasta, cherries, celery and onion.

Refrigerate salad, just before serving, add the reserved  $\frac{3}{4}$  c of dressing and toasted almonds.

Mix well.



## 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### 2015

#### JULY

- 14 – SWO Board Meeting, Bethel Lutheran, New Auburn

#### AUGUST

- 13 – St Croix Valley Conference Retreat, Redeemer Lutheran of Burkhardt, rural Hudson
- 15 – Apple River Conference Retreat, West Immanuel Lutheran, Osceola
- 19-20 – Chippewa Valley Conference Retreat at Luther Park, Chetek
- 24-25 – Heart of the North Conference Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek
- 27-28 – Dairyland Conference Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek - Guests, Praise Team of Pleasant Valley Luth. [Thur night]  
Mary Segerstrom, Friday

#### SEPTEMBER

- 26 – SWO Leader Training, - Christ Lutheran, Menomonie

#### OCTOBER

- 14 – Dairyland Conference Leader Training Meeting, Central Lutheran, Mondovi
- 17 – Chequamegon Conference Retreat, St John Lutheran, Edgar. Guest Speaker Pati Kachel
- 24 – Heart of the North Conference Leader Training, Living Water Lutheran, Cameron
- 24 – Apple River Conference, Fall Leader Training Meeting, Milltown Lutheran



*Seen on a church billboard:*

*“Free Coffee! - Everlasting Life!  
Yes - Membership has its privileges!”*

## NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN SWO BOARD MEMBERS – 2014 – 2016

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