The Anchor



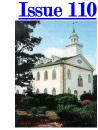
The Great Lakes

Restoration Branches

Magazine/Newsletter

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Holy Scripture



Winter 2020



News From Around the Region

Algonac-Atlanta-Dowagiac- Garden City- Lima-Oakwood Otter Lake-Port Huron-Sanilac St. Johns-Stoney Creek Saints Editor: J. Bradley, Email at zionswatchman@sbcglobal.net

"By faith all things are fulfilled: Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God which hope cometh of faith maketh an <u>Anchor</u> to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God." Ether 5:3b-4

Algonac Branch



By: Val Bradley

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised; And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-25



Our Children's Thanksgiving Program, directed by Cory Eliason, took place at 10 a.m. on November 24. She welcomed us, the congregation sang, "Come, Ye Thankful People Come," and Nina Powers offered the opening prayer. Various readings were brought by Ava Nagy, David Nagy and Cory. Kelli Williams read some scriptures, along with Laurel Yaney, and Bryer Eliason. Kelli also read an excerpt from Lincoln's

Thanksgiving Proclamation. Poems were shared by Val Bradley and David Nagy. The congregation sang. "America." All the youth were in either pilgrim or Indian costumes and Cory and each of the children did special readings. The kids sang, "If You're Thankful and You Know It," then they shared what they were thankful for. Some of those things included: God, family, parents, grandparents, friends, food, home, school, dog, dirt bike, freedom, woods, nature, animals, toys, good harvest, crayons, butterflies and monkeys (little Vivian shared that last one!). Then they sang, "Oh, I Love America" while waving the American flags. The closing hymn, sung by all, was "Great and Marvelous are Thy Works," followed by a prayer brought by Elder Eric Eliason. A big thank you to Cory Eliason, Todd Moses (keyboardist), and all others who took part and supported this program by their presence. Of course, a huge thanks to all of the youth in our congregation who took part (Ava Nagy, David Nagy, Laurel Yaney, Briggs Eliason, Bryer Eliason, Christopher McCullar, Addie Yaney, Ames Eliason, and Vivian Yaney). We are so proud of them and they always make our hearts smile! At the 11:00 a.m. service the Eliason boys brought the music ministry. They sang, "All to Jesus I Surrender." They always sing with such joy and touch our hearts. The sermon was brought by our guest minister, Elder Don Cutshall from Missouri (Cory's Dad). He read from Psalm 100 and talked about "making a joyful noise unto the Lord," as the children did in the previous program. He said we have the right to call the Lord "Father" and ask for His blessings. Although we're often quick to ask for things, we aren't always so quick to thank Him for the blessings we've received. We make mistakes along the way, but He has provided us with the avenue of forgiveness. He read from Matthew 22 regarding loving God with all our heart, mind, and soul, and loving

our neighbor as ourselves. He stated that if we are truly thankful for what the Lord has given us, we have a responsibility to pass that blessing on to others. He also read from the book of Mosiah and mentioned that King Benjamin talks about us being indebted to God. We need to be pushed out of our comfort zones from time to time ... that's where the real blessings are! Don't judge others, and help when you can. We really appreciated his ministry.

On Wednesday, November 27, a number of us met at the church at noon. There was much fun and laughter as we trimmed the tree, hung garland in the windows, and beautified the place for the Christmas season. We were glad that Cory Eliason's parents, Don and Edie Cutshall could join us. They were a big help! Afterwards we sat in a circle and had a Sharing Service led by Elder Todd Moses. He read some scriptures and stories, we sang hymns and each one of us shared the things we were most thankful for. It was a good opportunity to recall all we were grateful for and to thank the Lord for his many blessings over the years. Afterwards we met in our fellowship hall for yummy snacks and visiting.

(Reported by Elaine King) Another Algonac Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale has come and gone! This year's event took place at our branch on December 6 and 7. Wendy Holmes and Elaine King were at the helm once again, assisted by Tim Holmes, Connie Burns, and Tina Yaney. There was a good turnout with many repeat customers, along with some new "characters!" We had the opportunity to answer several questions about our church and had great fellowship. Our bag sale was a big hit, especially the sweaters Kelli donated. One lady even called her friend (who lives in Pt. Huron) to come over and check it out, as she makes mittens out of wool sweaters. The lady ended up

buying 5 bags of them! She then proceeded to check out our bake sale and bought \$35 worth of baked goods! She said she was thrilled she wouldn't have to do any baking for the holiday season. Our bake sale always plays a big part in this event, and this year was no exception. There was a wide array of delectable goodies, home-baked by Wendy, Elaine King, Connie Burns, Tina Yaney, Elaine Harm, and Nina Powers. Good job, ladies! We made over \$600 in sales (including online sales) and more importantly, enjoyed good fellowship and was able to be a presence in the community! Thanks again to all those who assisted in the sale, donated baked goods, helped with the setup, or clean up afterwards. All the support was greatly appreciated!



The Children's Christmas Program took place on Sunday, December 15. Kelli wrote and directed the pageant, which was entitled, "The Star." The props were great, and David Nagy handled those. The Christmas story was portrayed with Kelli as the narrator. The participants were as follows: Angels (Ava Nagy, Addie and Vivian Yaney), Wisemen (Briggs, Bryer and Ames Eliason), Mary (Laurel Yaney). The children sang, "Away in a Manger." The 3 wisemen sang, "We Three Kings." The congregation sang, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Daynna Harm read a poem. Todd Moses played "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" while David Nagy and Daynna Harm handed out pretty silver star tree ornaments to everyone in the congregation. Following the pageant there was a music concert,

directed by Todd Moses. All of the children took part in it. Ames Eliason played "The First Noel" on the keyboard and Briggs Eliason played "We Three Kings," "Silent Night," and "Away in a Manger" on the keyboard. The three Yaney sisters (Laurel, Addie, and Vivian) sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Everyone sang "Joy to the World" while the youth played the handbells. The bell choir also played "Silent Night" and everyone's favorite, "C'mon Ring Those Bells." A big thanks to Kelli, Todd, and the children. They all did such a wonderful job and we were blessed by their ministry. What a great way to celebrate and honor our Savior's birth! At our 11 a.m. service Analyn Powers brought the music ministry. She played "O Come All Ye Faithful" on her violin. We appreciate her talent and always look forward to hearing her play. Elder Eric Eliason brought the message and his topic was "The Star." He read passages from Mosiah, Matthew, Helaman, and III Nephi ... all places where the Star is mentioned. He stated that there are many signs being given for Christ's return. Are we paying attention? He said there are still angels going to and fro on this earth. We need to repent while there is still time! He left us with these thoughts: "As we enter this Christmas season, let's take care of our neighbors as we do ourselves. Let's look for the lonely, hurting, brokenhearted and bring joy to them!"

Our Algonac saints met at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 12, at the Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch. It was a special Baptismal service for Ames Eliason and Fred Kahosed. The Charge to the Candidates was given by Elder Eric Eliason. He spoke about Jesus' baptism, the authority of the priesthood, and that the first step to inheriting the Kingdom of God is by being baptized into His church. He shared scriptures from Matthew and III

Nephi. Ames was baptized by his Dad, Elder Eric Eliason and then Fred was baptized by Elder Todd Yaney. The Charge to the Congregation was then brought by our pastor, Elder Gary Holmes. He spoke about the Corinthian letter and how Paul writes about the body of Christ and how we each have a part to play. We are all a necessary part of Christ's church. We all suffer together and are honored together and we need to help each other along life's path. He invited us to join together in unity, harmony, and peace ... to become of one heart and one mind in establishing the cause of Zion. Todd and Liz Moses brought the ministry of music ("Afar in Old Judea"). Ames was then confirmed by his grandfather, Elder Don Cutshall, assisted by Elder Eric Eliason. Brother Fred was confirmed at a later date. The keyboardist was Kim Gilchrist. It was a beautiful service and the Lord's Spirit was there in abundance. We thank the Pt. Huron/Sarnia branch for the use of their lovely sanctuary and appreciated their support. We welcome Ames and Fred into our Algonac church family! Our prayers and support are with them as they continue their journey in Christ.

On January 26 we had a special service of confirmation. The ministry of music was shared by Briggs, Bryer, and Ames Eliason. They sang, "Lead on O King Eternal." It was with much joy that Fred Kahosed was confirmed as a member of the church by Elder Gary Holmes, assisted by Elder Todd Yaney. Elder Gary Holmes brought the sermon. He spoke about how he was "born of goodly parents" and was taught the Gospel as a child. He shared a number of amazing testimonies (about his grandmother, his parents, witnessing the gift of tongues, etc.) He also shared some personal testimonies of straying from the church in his younger years, hitting rock bottom, then returning to the Lord and once again giving God control of his life. He cautioned us to not try to run our lives without the Lord ... it doesn't work!

News & Notes

On December 7 Analyn Powers performed in a Recital (playing the violin) at the Shelby Rehabilitation Center. She also performed at a facility on Jefferson Avenue. We are pleased to see she is using her talents and bringing joy to others.

Our sister Elaine King moved to a new place the beginning of January. Her new address is: 3333 Ravenswood Road, Lot 188, Marysville, MI 48040. We wish her and family well at her new place!

Sister Elaine Harm is at her lovely place in Florida this winter for some R&R. Enjoy the sunshine, Elaine. You are missed!

Briggs Eliason entered a contest called "First Impressions" that is a county wide talent contest throughout the school districts for photography, art, writing, 3D art and poetry. He won 3rd place for photography and received honorable mention for his art work. Congratulations, Briggs ... we're so proud of you!



Ongoing prayers would be appreciated for Marge and Gary

Holmes, Marilyn Canham, Kevin & Analyn Powers, Shaynna & David Harm, Elaine King, Nina and Hod Powers, Kelli Williams, Nadine Moses, Elaine Harm, Dick Burns, and Bruce and Barb Krinkie. We are keeping you and your congregations in our prayers, as well.



By: Kurt & Susan Fishwild

Guest Ministers

Elder Mick Ruch from Oakwood Branch was our guest speaker in November. Elder Tom Essenmacher and his wife Janine visited our branch in December and Tom was the speaker for the 11:00 hour. We thank both of these men for the time they spent travelling to Garden City to share with us.

Christmas

On two of the Sundays in December, our youth shared some readings about Christmas before the 11:00 service. On one Sunday, Ethan Fishwild read a poem about Shepherds while 5-year-old Helayna Thacker (granddaughter of Jeff and Sue Stoker) was dressed as an angel. Another Sunday, Megan Fishwild shared a reading "Candles of the Sky", and Helayna held each of the eight candles as Megan read the poem. After our Christmas service on December 22, we fellowshipped with one another while we enjoyed some delicious snacks (juice, homemade baked goods and veggies with homemade dip).

Women's Department News

Our Women's Department has been busy helping members of our congregation and others. Some ladies have volunteered to prepare and deliver homemade meals to "shut ins" Joyce and George Black each Sunday for lunch. Joyce and George miss being able to attend church and we would ask you to keep them in your prayers. During the month of December, the ladies purchased a variety of items for children for Christmas (winter hats, mittens, pjs, socks, pillows and stuffed animals). These items were much appreciated by the children and their parents.

Business Meeting

On January 26, our branch held a business meeting for election of officers. Our Pastor for 2020 will continue to be Elder Kurt Fishwild. Our treasurer has changed. Elder Rex Monarch will be the new treasurer for 2020. Elders Jeff Stoker and Carl McKiddie have volunteered to look for outreach opportunities for our branch for this year. Many others have offered to do various jobs such as church cleaning, women's department leaders, organizing potlucks, helping on the building committee etc. It was so wonderful to see how quickly and eagerly the positions were filled in order to make our small branch run smoothly.

Looking Ahead

The Younger Youth/Children's Retreat was held at Garden City the weekend of February 21-23. A potluck was enjoyed after the 11:00 service. Thank you to all who were involved in this endeavor and for all the prayers and support.

Prayers

Our Garden City Prayer List is posted monthly on our website which is gardencityrestorationbranch.org. Please pray for those listed.

Otter Lake



By: Kerry Horton

"and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:19) On Sunday, December 8, our pastor, Priest Bill Sutton, presided over the service. Our guest speaker was Elder Fred Brown, Sr. Prayers were offered by Elder Rex Monarch. Rex (and Judy) were also there to help out with administrations, as was discussed in a prior phone conversation with pastor Bill. There were 14 in attendance ... instead of the usual 4-7 people. What a blessing! Sunday School was good. Then we went into the 11 a.m. service. It started with the usual announcements. Then Fred stepped up to the pulpit to speak and brought the Spirit of the Lord with him. The whole congregation was quiet the entire time. Some of what he shared is as follows: God created and made a well-defined firmament. (from Genesis) He stretched out the heavens as a curtain and spreadeth them out as a tent. I have made the earth, and created man upon it, I even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their hosts have I commanded." (from Isaiah) This firmament, vapor, cloud ... that is just how thick (great) the Spirit was in the sanctuary on that Sunday. The service continued with three administrations, two there at church, and one in a home priesthood visit. There wasn't a set of dry eyes in any of the three. The Lord opened the windows and poured out the blessings from heaven upon us. After returning from the home visit we enjoyed a potluck of pizza and over three hours of testimonies were shared by visitors and friends of

the congregation. On this Sunday, we, as a congregation, were touched by the hands of the Lord. "Therefore, seek ye to bring forth the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:34) Quoting from brother Fred, "Build my church upon a rock, the true church of Jesus Christ, and the gates of Hell will not prevail." (Matthew 16:19) "Fear not little flock, the Lord will be with you always. (Luke 12:35)

Elder Rex Monarch was our guest speaker on December 29 and we enjoyed vet another beautiful service. We had two administrations, Brother Rex spoke on justice, mercy, and grace. You would have to have been there to fully understand the spirit that he brought with him. The Lord blessed us again. We shared another wonderful potluck afterwards, but Rex and Judy were not able to stay. We (Otter Lake) were so beautifully blessed in 2019. We closed out the year with many great guest speakers, and "the windows of heaven were opened." (Malachi 3:10) Happy New Year and God's blessings to all of vou!

Oakwood



By: Kathleen Modders

11/24 Annual Thanksgiving luncheon, The Modders family hosted the annual Thanksgiving dinner for the saints. There were over 50 saints in attendance.

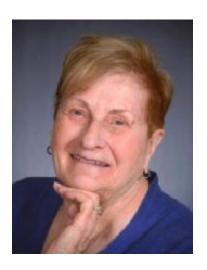
12/15 Christmas Program, the play started with the narration by Elder Jay Havener, sister Shawn Ruch shared the story of Jesus' Birth as Elizabeth, in

Elizabeth's point of view. Sister Twyla Burnard shared the story of Jesus's Birth as Mary in Mary's point of view, Elder Mick Ruch sang the song "Mary did you know." Elder Fred Brown Jr. shared the story as Joseph in Joseph's point of view, Elder Jay Havener shared the story of the Shepherd as the shepherd in the shepherd's point of view, Elder Steve Ruch shared the story as one of the wisemen in the wisemen's point of view. Sisters Bonnie Murphy and Kim Gilchrist sang a duet, "Away in the Manger" as Kim played the piano. The play ended with the finishing narration by Elder Jay Havener about how Jesus chose to come to save us.

12/07 Women's Christmas Party, Kathleen Modders and Amanda Ruch took charge of the party this year. The morning started out in the sanctuary, where Kathleen put together a movie of the entire story of Jesus' Birth starting with the Old Testaments prophecy telling of the coming of Christ, to the story of Elizabeth, Mary, and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men, to Simeon's Blessing at the temple and sang the songs of the story of Christ's birth. Once the movie was over Shawn Ruch prayed the blessing over the food. We went into the fellowship hall to enjoy lunch and games with Amanda Ruch. We played a couple different games, did a gift exchange circle, ate dessert and enjoyed fellowship with one another. It was a very enjoyable party and all who came were truly blessed.

12/24/19 4pm Christmas Eve services. Over 20 people attended the candle lit service.

12/31/19 New Year's Eve services. Elder Edward MacDonald presided over the service. There were over 20 members in attendance. Kathleen and Mike Modders organized a pizza party for after the service. It's come to be a tradition to start the New Year's Eve party off by pitching in to take down the Christmas decorations. Kathleen went to pick up the pizza that everyone enjoyed along with a wide variety of chips and oh so many desserts to start off the game night. At around 9:00 pm we had an early bird toast, drinking a couple different kinds of sparkling grape juice to toast to the new Year, given by Elder Jay Havener. We all played cards and board games for most of the night. We also had a couple of movies playing in the sanctuary for anyone who didn't want to play games.



Our sister Gloria Jean Smith, Age 85 of Ortonville, passed away on January 10, 2020. Loving wife of the late James; dear mother of Pamela Wild, Karen Smith, Barbara Montgomery and Julie Durant; adored grandmother of Danielle, Courtney and Sasha (Scott); great grandmother of Lexi, Taylor and PJ. Funeral Service was held on Friday, January 17, 2020 – 12 p.m. at Modetz Funeral Home, 100 E. Silverbell Rd., Orion. She will be missed dearly.

Upcoming events:

02/21-23: Younger youth retreat, Garden City, Michigan Contact Mary Lou 02/29 Raven Franks Baby Shower; 11 am, Oakwood, wear Purple, it's a princess themed baby shower 03/27-29 Older Youth Retreat at

Oakwood. Contact: PJ Fought ages 12-18 Nauvoo Trip (more info will be coming out very soon) 04/25-26: Kirtland, Ohio historic visit and communion service in the Temple. May 30 – Ladies' Luncheon, Port Huron/Sarnia Branch 06/6-7: Lima Weekend Retreat 06/21-26: In-town Reunion/Elders Conference, Independence, Missouri 07/10-12: Palmyra, New York trip-Book of Mormon Pageant Play 07/13-18 Erie Beach, Canada: Youth Week with Betty Lou Newman 07/20-26: Michigan Reunion, Vassar, Michigan 08/1-7: Temple Grove Reunion, Transfer, Pennsylvania

Oakwood upcoming Birthdays: 03/04 Jamie Moore, 03/10 Heather Mervyn, 03/14 Chet Slagor, 03/18 Cody Ruch, 03/20 Lilly Konkle, 03/28 Beth Everhart, 03/29 Jamie Modders, 03/29 Cheryl Slagor, 04/01 Michael Ruch, 04/09 Christina Mervyn, 04/14 Rebecca Servin, 04/15 David Mueller, 04/17 Gustavo Servin, 04/17 Samantha Servin, 04/18 Chris Vandenberg, 04/20 Chris Nagy, 04/24 Jackson Nagy, 04/26 Rebecca MacDonald, 04/26 Morgan Bean, 04/29 Andrew Konkle, 05/06 Jay Havener, 05/12 Mary Richards, 05/13 Noame Holcomb, 05/15 John Stokes, 05/22 Mike Danicki, 05/27 Eric Slagor

Port Huron-Sarnia Branch



By: Jennifer Milett

For God so loved the world, that he gave his Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not

perish; but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Esther Mae Hunter, 94 of Port Huron went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. She was born July 5, 1925 in Harbor Beach to the late Wallace and Mae Pease. She married William E. Hunter on January 25, 1947 in Port Hope. He died November 11, 2011. Mrs. Hunter was employed as a bookkeeper for Phillips Appliance Store and later worked for Dr. Phillips D.D.S. for many years. She enjoyed reading. Esther is survived by her brother Fred (Carolyn) Pease; sisterin-law Mildred Pease; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a sister Lois (George) Kerr; and three brothers, Warren (Elizabeth "Betty") Pease, Nelson "Hank" Pease and Robert F. Pease. A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 30, 2019 in Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch, 1404 Garfield Street, Port Huron. Elder Ed Smerer officiated. Interment was in Marquardt Cemetery, Port Hope. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

In November, several of the ladies in our branch welcomed sisters from other branches to join in a day of fellowship and crafting. The women brought fabric, sewing materials and machines to piece together quilts. They also enjoyed a sack lunch together. "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway went on his journey."

Betty and Lowell Milett (children of Joe and Jennifer Milett, grandchildren of John and Connie DeBell) entered a county wide extra-curricular contest sponsored by the Sanilac County ISD called First Impressions. The students are given a subject; poetry, short story, artistic poster or photography submissions are then accepted for judging by grade level based on this subject. This year's subject was MEMORIES. Lowell's drawing received an honorable mention for grades 5-6; Betty's painting received first place for grades 7-8. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

Congratulations to Andrew Kercher (son of Chris Kercher, grandson of John and Connie DeBell) who was recently engaged to be married to Lauren Nelson, formerly of Homer, MI. Andrew and Lauren met while working together at the Mackinac State Parks in Mackinaw City. Both Andrew and Lauren have extensive formal education in the field of history and they currently work together at the Port Huron Museums. The details of their wedding plans have not yet been finalized. "The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge." Proverbs 18:15

Ari Britz (daughter of Jason and Carrie Britz, granddaughter of Jack and Barb Tynan) has again made the Dean's List at Grand Valley State University. Cameron Britz (son of Jason and Carrie Britz, grandson of Jack and Barb Tynan) has started a new teaching job in China.

Olivia Bolt (daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt, granddaughter of Jack and Barb Tynan) is currently enrolled in a manicurist certification program.

Gillian Bolt (daughter of Scott and Amy Bolt, granddaughter of Jack and Barb Tynan) is currently in her junior year at

Western Michigan University where she is dual majoring in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Geography.

Our adult Sunday School class has started studying a new book "Did The Light Go Out" by Patriarch/Evangelist Roy A. Cheville; the book is a study of the Great Apostasy. Our youth Sunday School class is studying a book called "The Old Testament Speaks to Our Day." "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Mathew 28:18

We were pleased to join in the celebration of baptism on the afternoon of January 12 at our branch. Ames Chase Eliason and Fred Kahosed were baptized by Elder Eric Eliason and Elder Todd Yaney, respectively.

Sanilac Branch



By: Denise Rich

Greetings from Sanilac!

November 17^{th,} we enjoyed a Harvest dinner together. December 15th was our Christmas program. The program was organized by Kathleen Palmer and she created a journey through the Nativity using Christmas carols as part of the story. On January 10th, Lloyd and Denise Rich welcomed another grandchild. Jamison Lloyd Rich. 8 lbs., 6oz., 21 ¾ inches. Johnathan is very proud of his new son and Paisley loves her baby brother. Last night we had our first family fun night. After enjoying a taco/ nacho bar, we

played games and laughed together. It was a very enjoyable evening. We are hoping this will be a monthly event. Next month will be an open mic/ hymn sing.

Thank you to our guest ministry: Deacon Vernon Preston (November), and Deacon Kerry Horton (January).

Regional Activities for the next quarter (and beyond)

(Please mark your calendar for these dates!!!)

March 27-29, Older Youth Retreat Oakwood Restoration Branch Contact: P.J. Fought

May 30 (11 a.m.-3 p.m.), Ladies' Luncheon Port Huron/Sarnia Restoration Branch Contact: Sherry Purcell

July 2 – 4, Rummage and Bake Sale Algonac Restoration Branch Contact: Wendy Holmes or Elaine King

July 13-18, Erie Beach Youth Retreat Contact: Betty Lou Newman

July 20-26, Great Lakes Restoration Branches Reunion Wesleyan Woods Campgrounds, Vassar, MI Contact: Helene Danicki

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