**First Presbyterian Session Members**

Barb Dewey – Clerk of Session

Troy Johnson – Elder (2)

Dave Williams – Elder (1)

Betty Lou Cravens –Elder (2)

Heidi Hoff – Elder (1)

Judy Helle – Elder (3)

Jim Rylander – Elder (3)

Jim Risbrudt – Treasurer

**Shared Ministry Council**

Jim Borgrud – Chm. (3)

Val Martin- Vice Chm. (3)

Barb Dewey – Secretary (2)

Jim Risbrudt – Financial Secretary (1)

Dave Olson (1)

Pat Welch (2)



**OS-TML Church Council**

President – Pat Welch (1)

Vice Pres. – Joyce Samuelson (1)

Secretary – Christina Saurer (1)

Treasurer – Debbie Wilke (1)

Deacons – Teresa Akerman (2)

Mitchell Sterns (3)

Jerry Thormodson (3)

Trustees - Jim Borgrud (2)

Kelly Walvatne (2)

Brian Hansel (3)

**Women of the ELCA Co-Presidents**

Karen Nelson

Shirley A. Frigaard

**Board of Education**

Christina Saurer (2)

Sara Hage (1)

Ashley Lee (1)

**Endowment Fund Board**

Julie Olson (1)

Karen Nelson (1)

Lyle Skinnemoen (2)

Deb Thormodson (3)

**Our Savior’s Cemetery Board**

David Schroeder, Sexton (1)

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**The Minister’s Monthly Musings –November, 2016**

**The Law of Prayer is the Law of Faith**

**Part Two**

“Repent one day,” the great Rabbi Eliezer told his disciples. “Repent one day before your death.” But this teaching from the Jewish Mishnah confused them. “Does a man then know on what day he will die, that he should know when to repent?” they ask Eliezer. To which their wise teacher replied: “All the more so, let him repent today lest he die on the morrow. Let him repent on the morrow lest he die the day after. And thus all his days will be spent in repentance.”

A few years ago my wife shared this story with me and I’ve never forgotten it. Isn’t this the heart of faith? Recognizing we are not the center of the universe. And think about it: there will be no point during our earthly pilgrimage when we no longer need to ask and receive forgiveness. We are sinners in need of a savior every day. So that the daily practice of repentance is not about training us for the future but about “keeping fit” or “maintaining habits” in the present. Which is why we begin every service of worship with confession and absolution. To stay in practice, we have to keep practicing!

Of course there is always the danger that these practices will be forgotten; that in the hustle and bustle of daily life we will start to forget what it means to be freed from sin, death, the Devil and the world. Take the ancient Christian practice of “praying” through the Sunday service. Many of us say a prayer before our meals or before bedtime. But what would it look like if we experienced church as more than just sitting, listening, standing, and singing? What if we replaced this passive mode of participation with a more engaged one: seeing every part of the service as an occasion to pray.

Lord, help me to leave the stress of work behind to focus on your Word this morning. Lord, please forgive me. Lord, thank you for loving me. Lord, help me to understand these difficult scripture passages. Lord, speak to me through this sermon. Lord, let the words of this hymn take root in my heart. Lord, help me to forgive my neighbor. Lord, please restore so-and-so to health. Lord, send your Holy Spirit in this place. Lord, send me forth with your blessing today. And so on.

How might you experience worship differently if you turned every hymn into a prayer; every scripture verse, an occasion for meditation; every confession, an opportunity for prayerful self-examination? Has Sunday become like any other public event? Just another talking head to distract us. Or do we come expecting God to break through the chatter and make himself heard? Because He promises to. Every time. In the Word read and preached; in the bread and wine shared; in the hymns sung. He shows up.

Before creeds and the New Testament writings, the church had only its prayer and worship to guide her: what we commonly call liturgy. And it was this liturgy that led her to compile the twenty-seven books of the New Testament and draft the statements of belief that have guided us for centuries. This is the meaning of the old Christian expression, “lex orandi, lex credenda.” The law of prayer is the law of faith. The Church believes as she prays. We are formed by our worship. This is one reason we gather at the start of the week. To entrust ourselves to worship and prayer which God uses to shape, renew and reorient us around Him and His Kingdom.

The law of prayer is indeed the law of faith. As we approach the season of Advent and prepare our hearts to receive Christ anew, may we experience this ancient wisdom for ourselves. To God be all glory, honor and praise!

In Christ,

Pr. Matthew Zelie †

First Presbyterian News

**Regular Session Meeting**

**October 4, 2016**

The regular Session meeting of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Ashby met at 6 PM, October 4, 2016 at the church.  Those present were Moderator Rev. Matthew Zelie, Heidi Hoff, Dave Williams, Troy Johnson, Judy Helle, Jim Rylander, Treasurer Jim Risbrudt and Clerk Barb Dewey.  Betty Lou Cravens was absent with excuse. The meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Zelie.  The group read the Shared Ministry Mission statement.  A quorum was declared and the docket was amended and voted approved.

The minutes from the last meeting were voted approved.  Jim Risbrudt presented the treasurer’s report showing $5572.01 in general fund and $17,838.05 in various savings funds.  The $2500 insurance bill is due next month.  Per capita will be $39.80 per active member this year. The report was voted approved.

**Pastor’s Report:** Rev. Zelie led the funeral for Wallace Bullis at the Erickson-Smith Funeral Home, Elbow Lake on September 28, 2016 with visitation and prayer service the evening before.  Communion was celebrated at the Sunday worship service, October 2, 2016 with Rev. Matthew Zelie and 53 communicants.  Pastor Zelie made 9 pastoral calls, met with Pastor Tom of Peace-Grue to discuss post confirmation ideas for youth.  Dan and Andrea Ness will be starting this with a gathering at their home on Wednesday evenings. Pastor Zelie led 2 confirmation classes and attended Presbyterian boundary training event in Spicer on Sept. 11.

**Communications:**   Letter from Friends of PEB stating that the student were supporting, Merry Hanook, has moved and did not return to school so they replaced her with Tashbee Aneel.  Letters about them will be posted on bulletin board.

**Committee Reports:**

**Shared Ministry:** council will meet October 17th and membership numbers that the budget will be made with will be due then.  There is $33,000 in that general fund.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Jim Rylander has added black dirt around building to help with water leaking into basement after heavy rains.  The Session voted to go with the option to fix the furnace by having an insert made and then installed by Wayne Stierlen.

**Christian Education**: Emily Mickelson is going to be assisting with music in Sunday school and worship service**s.**

**Worship:**  November 6th is all Saints Sunday and Logan Johnson will be participating as a Boy Scout. The rotating Tuesday evening  annual Thanksgiving Service should be at Peace Church this year.  Pastor Zelie will contact Pastor Tom.  Advent services will be rotating between Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Lutheran and our church on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM starting in Ashby.  The confirmation students will be participating in the services.  Christmas Day is on Sunday.  Pastor Zelie will talk to Lori Risbrudt if we should hold worship with communion at the Ashby Living Center as the previous years.

**Stewardship:** Heidi Hoff and Judy Helle will work on preparing the budget with Jim Risbrudt.

**Evangelism and Fellowship:** Fall supper is October 26, 2016 with Lois Ellingson and Becky Amundson in charge. The committee reports were voted approved.

**Old Business**:   New member Sunday will be November 20, 2016.  Those who joined the church this past year will be recognized  An invitation will be put in the newsletter and bulletin for those wishing to join the church.

**New Business:** Membership roll was reviewed.   The Session voted approval for baptism of Hadley, Tripp and Ty Hokanson on a date to be chosen later. Pastor Zelie will look for someone to attend Presbytery meeting in St Peter in November.

Elder training was held.  “What Presbyterians don’t believe”.  We don’t believe in Reincarnation as does the Hindu religion.  We don’t ascend to God, because God has come to us. At Christmas He became one of us.   We don’t earn our way to heaven.  God frees our hands for good works, which are for one another.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 6 PM.  The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer.

Moderator Rev. Matthew Zelie Barbara Dewey, Clerk of Session

****

**November**

2nd Michael Boren

9th Harvey Hirning

17th Anita Rylander

21st Verl Martin



Ian Bertram, J.R. Caraway, Jon Heinrich, Brady Kruize, Jarod Johansen and All military personnel; Members and Friends: Delores Bullis, Marge Boren, and Whitney Gramm.

First Presbyterian News

**Disciples for November:**

Rosie Nissen

Eileen Rubish

Butch and BJ Rylander

Harvey and Joyce Hirning

Kyle Rylander

Gail and Gary Olson

Becky and Sara Amundson

Judy Bertram

**Mark your calendars!!**



The Christmas program will be December 18th at 10:30 am. More info will be provided as the date gets closer!

**Presbytery Meeting**

Pastor Matt will be unable to attend the Nov. 5th Presbytery Meeting, but encourages anyone interested in attending to do so! Talk to him for more details!

**New Members**

****Interested in becoming a member at First Presbyterian? New Members Sunday is on the last Sunday of the church year (Nov.20th)- the last Sunday before Advent. We would love to include you and/or your family in this brief service of prayer during worship. If you are interested, please contact Pr. Matt about setting up a time to meet with Session: [matthewzelie@hotmail.com](mailto:matthewzelie@hotmail.com), (603) 866-1861.

**Thank You**

Pastor Matt and Jess (and Luke) would like to thank First Presbyterian for the wonderful first birthday party they threw for Luke! We are continually touched by your kindness and generosity.

**Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who helped with food prep, auction and serving at First Presbyterian’s fall supper!

Shared Ministry News

**CONFIRMATION HAS BEGUN!**

Confirmation is a two-year program that serves 7-9th graders in our Shared Ministry and focuses on learning about Christ, his Church, and the apostolic faith. Last year we studied the distinctive practices of Lutherans and Presbyterians but also the creeds and theology they share. This year we study the Reformation and Holy Scripture. Classes are held Wednesdays, 7-8 pm, at First Presbyterian or Our Savior’s-Ten Mile Lake. During the seasons of Advent and Lent, students are required to participate in the Wednesday night services in lieu of regular class time. If you have students interested in participating, please email me so that I can send along the sign-up/contact sheet and schedule.

Nov. 2 7pm Confirmation Ashby

Nov. 9 7pm Confirmation Dalton

Nov. 16 7pm Confirmation Ashby

Nov. 23 NO CONFIRMATION

Nov. 30 7pm Advent Service Ashby

**Eagle Lake Lutheran Church**

**Election Day Stew Feed**

Nov. 8th, 5-7pm

Free Will Offering

**Thanksgiving Service**

What better way to do Thanksgiving as Christians than by gathering with our neighbors?

We will be joining with our Presbyterian ministry partners and Lutheran neighbors in Ashby this year for a joint Thanksgiving service hosted by Peace Lutheran. Pr. Tom Olson will be preaching and Pr. Matthew will be assisting. The service is Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 7 pm. Gather with the brethren to give God thanks and praise!

****

**Parsonage Open House**

Join Matt and Jess and Luke on December 3rd for an open house at the parsonage (108 N Central Ave, Dalton) from 11am-4pm! We’d love to see you there!

**Christmas Cantata**

The Christmas Cantata ‘Joy’ by Joel Raney will be presented at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church Saturday, December 3 at 7pm and Sunday, December 4 at 10:15am.

****

**Daylight Savings Time Ends!**

Don’t forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Nov. 6th!

**Youth Group Update**

Our Shared Ministry is partnering with Peace-Grue to develop a youth group that will serve our 9-12th graders. Currently we meet at Dan and Andrea Ness’ home Wed. nights.

On Oct. 26, fifteen students and five adult chaperones embarked on a night hike. We prayed a compline service atop Inspiration Peak. Took time for meditation and silence as we ended/began the day together in prayer. I led a devotional on Psalm 8. Pastor Tom shared some reflections on mountain tops and the presence of God. Then we had a cookout. Since I brought puppy Logan along for the hike, he was a little spooked by all the talk of cooking and eating hot dogs. But then he tried one for himself and quite enjoyed it.

Thanks to Pr. Tom of Peace-Grue and all the parents/chaperones who helped make this a memorable evening.

OS-TML News

**OSTML CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

Our Savior’s-Ten Mile Lake Church Council met Oct. 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm

**Members present:** Pastor Matt, Joyce Samuelson, Christina Saurer, Pat Welch, Teresa Akerman, Debbie Wilke, Jim Borgrud, Jerry Thormodson, Kelly Walvatne and Mitchell Sterns

**Devotions:** Pat

The Mission Statement was read in unison.

**Secretary’s Report:** The report was reviewed and accepted with the correction of the next meeting date, which should have read Oct 11. A motion was made by Jim to accept the Secretary report and seconded by Kelly. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Presented by Debbie with a balance of $10,567.12 with some outstanding bills.

**President’s Report:** Nothing to report.

**Pastor’s Report:** Activities that pertain to OSTML or Shared Ministry for the month of September include the following: 15 total visits comprised of pastoral care visits (home, hospital) or counseling sessions (office); administering last rites to Ronnie Moebius with most of his family present (9/2); meeting with Zach and Megan for their second wedding prep session after church, 3:30-6pm (9/4); attending the OSTML Threshermen’s Work Day (9/5); meeting with the Moebius family and funeral home for funeral planning (9/4, 9/5, 9/6); attending Shared Ministry meeting (9/6); met with Pr. Tom of Peace-Grue to plan post-Confirmation opportunities for a youth group (9/7); presiding at Ronnie Moebius’ funeral (9/8); working at the Threshing Grounds 8:30-4 (9/9); leading the Threshermen’s Community Service (9/11); cooking and clean-up 1-5pm (9/11); attending a daylong Boundary Training (Presbyterian and ELCA requirement) (9/13); attending Peggy Lien’s Health Board Cabinet meeting and OSTML Council on (9/13); planning and leading a special Sunday Healing Service with Peggy to offer personal prayers and distribute Care Notes on our Sunday School kick-off day (9/18); teaching Confirmation class (9/21 and 9/28); and meeting with Pastor Tom of Peace-Grue to continue brainstorming youth group (9/29). In addition to these activities were the regular monthly duties of writing 4 sermons and 2 funeral homilies; prepping children’s sermons; planning eight Sunday liturgies and two funeral liturgies; organizing and updating office files both physical and digital; decluttering the office space and finding homes for old equipment; creating agendas for Session, Council and Shared Ministry meetings; updating online denominational information; updating and maintaining our music copyrights; working with Jess to write and publish the monthly newsletter; planning confirmation curriculum, receiving and making pastoral care phone calls; reviewing Shared Ministry budget with Jess; updating/reviewing calendar with Jess for upcoming activities in both churches; and spending time in prayer and study for the sake of our church and the Shared Ministry.

**Trustee’s Report:** Jim painted the exterior church wall that was faded and cracking.

**Deacon’s Report:** Teresa will assist with communion on 11/6 and Mitchell will assist on 11/27.

Joyce made a motion to accept all reports as presented and Teresa seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** $250 from Lenten offering went to the Fergus Falls Food Shelf. The remaining $242.49 will go to the Good Samaritan Fund. A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Teresa. Motion carried. There was a question raised to the use of the Memorial Funds. It was brought up that the alter paraments are in need of replacement. This will be taken to the Alter Guild for suggestions.

**New Business:**

1) LeVonne Hanson has offered her small organ to be placed in the fireside room. We will accept this donation and her family will take care of moving it.

2) With the Annual Meeting coming soon, we need to think about new council members as Pat, Joyce and Christina have terms that are coming up.

3) The Thanksgiving Service will be done in rotation with First Presbyterian, Peace-Grue and OSTML.

4) The Christmas program at OSTML will be done during the service on December 11th.

5) OSTML will have a Christmas Eve service and First Presbyterian will have one on Christmas Day.

6) Advent schedule:

11/30 Advent 1 @ 7pm – Ashby

12/7 Advent 2 @ 7pm - Dalton

12/14 Advent 1 @ 7pm – Ashby

12/21 Advent 2 @ 7pm – Dalton

7) Pastor Matt will start a Mutual Ministry Committee. This will consist of 4 members from each church to meet with him once or twice a year to give general feedback, to share input from the congregation and to check in with him.

8) We do not have a wedding coordinator at this time. This will be looked into further.

9) Pastor Matt and Jess will be hosting an open house at the Parsonage on Dec. 3rd from 11-4pm.

A motion was made to accept old and new business by Teresa and seconded by Joyce. Motion carried.

**Next meeting:** 11/15/16 at 7pm. Devotions by Christina.

The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Matt and the Lord’s Prayer was recited in unison.

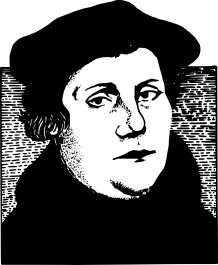
Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Secretary, Christina Saurer



**Prayer Requests:** Trevor Boe and Dale Helgeson.

**MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART EXHIBITION**

Mia would like to invite you to a special exhibition, ***Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation***. The exhibition runs from October 30-January 15. To reserve tickets, call 612-871-3000 or go online to [www.artsmia.org/luther](http://www.artsmia.org/luther).

**OSTML Worship Leaders for November:**

**Team Leaders:** Dean and Lori Thorson, and Gaylan and Marcia Thormodson

**Altar Guild:** Mary Jo Schroeder

**Our Savior’s-Ten Mile Lake Building Use Reminders**

**Ushers:** Please remember to review the table of duties posted by the entrance to the steeple bell tower. These include: turning in a Sunday morning head count to the office, lighting candles and notifying the altar guild if taper wicks are low, turning on the PA system and altar lights. But even more importantly: Thank you for serving us by ushering, greeting, and assisting in worship. We are so very grateful for you!

**Everybody else:** As we lean into the winter months, please remember to turn down the basement thermostat (if meeting downstairs, instructions posted on wall), and also to lock doors and turn out lights if you are the last one in the building. We are blessed with a wonderful building and want to be a good stewards of our resources. Thank you!

**Church Funnies**

A parent was teaching their three-year-old to pray the Lord’s Prayer. After nights of repeating line-by-line, she was ready to go solo. The parent listened with pride as she repeated every line perfectly, until the end of the prayer: “Lead us not into temptation,” she prayed, “and deliver us from e-mail.”

OS-TML News

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*"He guides me in the right paths for his name's sake"   
Psalm 23:3*

Katie Gilbert wrote the one below that is so good.

"Scripture provides us with many ways — or postures — for approaching God.

Like in yoga or ballet, we can practice these postures. Breathing, stretching, bowing, moving, reaching.

Open yourself up to embracing the many different postures that we find within Scripture.

Silence. Quiet. No noise. Not even a whisper. Do you know what that sounds and feels like?

It is easy in our world today to become so overwhelmed that the only posture we can muster is one of silence. Sometimes there is so much violence, hatred, war, and fear that it feels impossible to come up with words.

And that’s ok. The posture of silence is one that the Psalmist tells us is even considered praise by God. We don’t have to have the right words all of the time. God loves us and hears us even in our silence.

Today, find a few minutes to practice silence.

God of Zion, to you even silence is praise. Promises made to you are kept— you listen to prayer— and all living things come to you. When wrongdoings become too much for me, you forgive our sins. How happy is the one you choose to bring close, the one who lives in your courtyards! We are filled full by the goodness of your house, by the holiness of your temple. (Psalm 65:1-4)

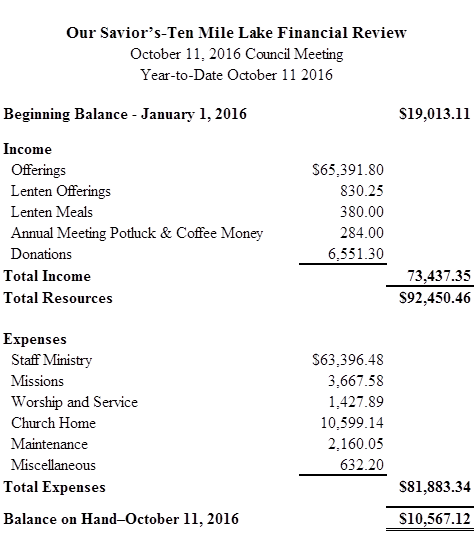
Peggy, Parish Nurse

**New Council Members**

OSTML is looking for three new Council members in January. Think about it… Pray about it…



**Congratulations** to Scott and Brandi Mounts, married September 24th, and Joel and Stacy Thormodson, married October 1st!



****

**NOVEMBER:**

1 Mary Moebius

2 Tammy Heeter

3 Roric Hage

4 Paula Staff

8 Ardel Sterns

9 Trevor Boe

11 Lori Thorsen

14 Greyson Ecker

16 Kelly Walvatne

18 Marwood Rude

18 Joshua Schroeder

20 Seth Anderson

23 Robert Sterns

23 Gaylan Thormodson

25 Angela Nelson

26 Reagen Anderson

26 LeVonne Hanson

28 Shirley Jensen

28 Eric Mounts

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**SHARED MINISTRY STAFF**

Pastor Matthew Zelie

Office Administrator: Jessica Zelie

OS-TML Office & Pastor’s Study: 589-8454 - 105 S. Central Ave.., PO Box 158, Dalton, MN 56324

First Presbyterian Church: 747-2744 - 202 Nelson St., PO Box 14, Ashby, MN 56309

Office Email – [ostml@prtel.com](mailto:ostml@prtel.com)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ~ TIME CHANGES

**9:00 am – Our Savior’s-Ten Mile Lake Worship**

Holy Communion the 1st and 4th Sunday

Coffee Fellowship – 3rd Sunday

**10:30 am – First Presbyterian Worship**

Holy Communion the 1st Sunday

**Make Worship A Part of Your Life**

**October 2016**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  | 1  All Saint’s Day  Parish Nurse 10-12  12 pm Brown Bag | 2  9 am Quilting (OSTML)  7pm Confirmation (Ashby) | 3  Shared Ministry Meeting 6pm (Dalton) | 4 | 5 |
| 6  *(All Saint’s Sunday- White)*  9:00am OS-TML H.C. Worship  10:30am First Presb H.C., Worship | 7 | 8  Parish Nurse 10-12  12 pm Brown Bag  6pm Session Meeting (Ashby) | 9  9am Quilting (OSTML)  7pm Confirmation (Dalton) | 10 | 11  Veteran’s Day  C:\Users\OSTML\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UZTGK7X1\13689-an-illustration-of-a-united-states-flag-pv[1].jpg | 12 |
| 13  *(26h Sunday after Pentecost-Green)*  9:00am OS-TML Worship  10:30am First Presb, Worship  *(Children’s Sermon)* | 14 | 15  Parish Nurse 10-12  12 pm Brown Bag  7pm Council Meeting (Dalton) | 16  2pm WELCA (OSTML)  7pm Confirmation (Ashby) | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20  *(Christ the King Sunday-White)*  9am OS-TMLWorship  10:30am First Presb, Worship  *(Children’s Sermon)* | 21 | 22  Parish Nurse 10-12  12 pm Brown Bag  Newsletter deadline!  Thanksgiving Service 7pm (Peace Lutheran, Ashby) | 23  9 am Quilting (OSTML)  (no confirmation) | 24  Thanksgiving Day  C:\Users\OSTML\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UZTGK7X1\a_thanksgiving_cornucopia_0515-0910-1217-2846_SMU[1].jpg | 25 | 26 |
| 27  *(1st Sunday of Advent- Blue)*  9:00am OS-TML H.C. Worship  10:30am First Presb. Worship | 28 | 29  Parish Nurse 10-12  12 pm Brown Bag  2:30 pm Broen Home | 30  9am Quilting (OSTML)  Advent Service 7pm (Ashby) |  |  |  |