



36821 SUNSET DRIVE, OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066
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Introduction to Lent

by Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts

Growing up as an evangelical Christian, I experienced Lent as little more than a joke. "What are you giving up for Lent?" my friends would ask. "Homework," I'd say with a smirk, or "Obeying my parents." Lent was one of those peculiar practices demanded of Roman Catholics – another great reason to be Protestant, I figured. It never even occurred to me that Lent was something I might actually be interested in, or benefit from, or decide to keep, or come to value as a way of getting to know God better.

In the last twenty years I've discovered that Lent is in fact recognized by millions of Protestant Christians, in addition to Catholic and Orthodox believers. (The **Eastern Orthodox Lent** is longer than the Catholic or Protestant Lent, and it begins before Ash Wednesday.) Lent (the word comes from the Middle English word for "spring") is a six-week season in the Christian year prior to Easter. (Technically, Lent comprises the 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays, or 46 days in total.)

In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, all Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for penitence and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Part of this preparation involved the Lenten "fast," giving up something special during the six weeks of Lent (but not on Sundays, in some traditions.) Historically, many Protestants rejected the practice of Lent, pointing out, truly, that it was nowhere required in Scripture. Some of these Protestants were also the ones who refused to celebrate Christmas, by the way. They wanted to avoid some of the excessive aspects of Catholic penitence that tended to obscure the gospel of grace. These Protestants saw Lent, at best, as something completely optional for believers, and, at worst, as a superfluous Catholic practice that true believers should avoid altogether.

Some segments of Protestantism did continue to recognize a season of preparation for

Easter, however. Their emphasis was not so much on penitence and fasting as on intentional devotion to God. Protestant churches sometimes added special Lenten Bible studies or prayer meetings so that their members would be primed for a deeper experience of Good Friday and Easter. Lent was a season to do something extra for God, not to give something up. After ignoring Lent for the majority of my life, I've paid more attention to it during the last two decades. Sometimes I've given up something, like watching television or eating sweets, in order to devote more time to Bible study and prayer. (The television fast was especially tough because I love watching March Madness, the NCAA basketball tournament, on TV.) Sometimes I've added extra devotional reading to my regular spiritual disciplines. I can't claim to have had any mystical experiences during Lent, but I have found that fasting from something has helped me focus on God. It has also helped me to look ahead to Good Friday and Easter, thus appreciating more deeply the meaning of the cross and the victory of the resurrection. Before I began honoring Lent, Good Friday and Easter always seemed to rush by before I could give them the attention they deserved. Now I find myself much more ready to meditate upon the depth of Christ's sacrifice and to celebrate his victory over sin and death on Easter. Let me be very clear: *Lent is not a requirement for Christians.* Dallas Willard has said that if a certain spiritual discipline helps you grow in God's grace, then by all means do it. But if it doesn't, don't feel like you must do it. I'd say the same about Lent. If it helps you prepare for a deeper celebration of Good Friday and Easter, if it allows you to grow in God's grace, then by all means keep it. If Lent isn't your cup of tea, then don't feel obligated to keep it. You should realize, however, that millions of Christians – Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Independent – have found that recognizing the season of Lent enriches our worship and deepens our faith in God.

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<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/>

The Messenger

March 2020

March Worship

Jeanne Phelan and Jim Langreder, Members in Discernment will continue to lead worship until an Interim Pastor has been hired.

March 1

Jim Langreder will be the Worship Leader

Prayers for Sheri & Bob Krantz and Christine Lang

- Jim Langreder will be our Worship Leader.
- Imposition of Ashes marking the beginning of Lent.
- Food Pantry Sunday
- Place SCRIP orders

March 8

Prayers for the Langreders & Laurs

March 15

- Prayers for the Luis & Marheines
- Council meeting after Worship

March 22

Prayers for the Mayers & McGraws

- One Great Hour of Sharing offering
- Coffee Hour

March 29

Prayers for Carole & Dan Milos & Debbie Morgan

- Family Promise set-up after Worship.





Coffee Hour Committee for March 22: Kathy Zebrowski, Evelyn Faircloth, Laurie Buckett, Connie Motelet, Sandie Horne, Sharon Logemann

Church Cleaning Team: Evelyn Faircloth, Kathy Zebrowski, Sandie Horne and our friends from the Easter Seals Adult Day Center.

	Greeters	Ushers	Scripture Readers
1	Sue/Tom Stelling	Sarah Erickson-Bhatt/ Shirlene Hazelberg	Mike Ball
8	Kristen Voskuil	Laurie Buckett/ Connie Motelet	Ashley Berman-Kinney
15	Connie Motelet	Sue & Tom Stelling	Robert Zondag
22	Laurie Buckett	Carol Pfalz Shirlene Hazelberg	Julie Ball
29	Francine Langlais & Ron Blaschuk	Linda Berlin/Debbie Morgan	Sarah Erickson-Bhatt



BIRTHDAYS

Wendy Geier	5	Natalie Pakula	25
Marian Speerless	17	Taylor Zebrowski	25
Mike Ball	21	Melanie Laur	30
Pete Hazelberg	23	Rhienne Stack-Vaughn	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Betsy & Bill Welch	19
Connie & Dan Motelet	24

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES:

Sharon Perez	11,	2007	13 yrs.
Terese Leonhard	20,	2011	9 yrs.
Julia Starbuck	20,	2011	9 yrs.
Jan & Jim McGraw	22,	2009	11 yrs.
Marjore & Mark Thompson	30,	2014	6 yrs.

When we participate in the OGHW offering, we provide valuable support. Our church reaches people who suffer from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence worldwide. Among the support we give, water, sanitation and adequate nutrition top the list of resources needed. Clean water and adequate facilities improve health and give dignity to people at the same time.

Clean water is also provided to grow better gardens. A combination of water, seeds, tools and training in modern farm techniques produce a greater harvest. Lives are changed when health improves. Lives are changed when communities thrive.

Your offering to OGHS will directly help people and communities affected by disaster, violence and poverty. Your help will be an investment into the lives of people and communities who need it more. Together, we are co-workers in God's service, planting and watering seeds for God to nurture.

The special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be taken on Sunday, March 22. OGHS offering envelopes can be found in the fellowship pads.

Order SCRIP March 1st



Using the SCRIP/Gift Card system is a GREAT way to help Emmanuel raise revenue...and it costs you no extra \$\$.

Orders are taken the first Sunday of the month and delivered to you the next. A wide variety of gift cards are available for most anything you need!

Reminder that our Congregational Care Fund is always in need of \$25 grocery and gas cards. Grocery cards may also be purchased at Aldi Stores (not part of the SCRIP Program).



KIDS

Filming of "The Good Samaritan" movie is scheduled for March...be sure to attend if you want to see yourself on the BIG SCREEN!



The theme for this year's offering for One Great Hour of Sharing is "Invest in the future." The scripture reference is 2 Corinthians 3:5-9. It tells us we are servants in

the service of God, one planting, one watering, and God being the one who grows and nurtures it all.

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.
-Elizabeth Barrett Browning

THANK YOU!
 Emmanuel United Church of Christ's 2020 Collection
 raised:
176 food items

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

SUPER BOWL OF CARING
 superbowl.org

February 2, 2020



Singing Bowl for MARCH Medical Debt Release

This past Dec. 3, almost 6,000 families on the South Side of Chicago had their medical debts forgiven through a collaborative effort of the UCC and other partners. Those church donations wiped out \$5.3 million in medical debts, by buying up the debt at pennies to the dollar. When medical debt piles up, families are faced with hard decisions: buying their food and shelter and allowing their debts to balloon, or cut back on necessities, even to the point of homelessness. In a 2008 Commonwealth Fund survey, "Seeing Red: The Growing Burden of Medical Bills and Debts Faced By U.S. Families," it was found that among millions of families ages 19-64 in the study, 39% reported using up all their savings because of medical bills. Families are forced to decide between their physical health and their financial health.

March's Singing Bowl will combine with the offerings of many other churches to release more people drowning in medical debt through this buy-back program.

Ladies Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, March 10 from 1-3 PM in fellowship hall. Mary Ellen Jondle and Jan McGraw will be the hostesses.



FREE TAX HELP for 2019 taxes

LOCATION:

Oconomowoc Area Senior Center (210 S. Main St.)

APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY. Call John (262-567-3483) (Monday-Saturday, 5-9 PM). Please do not call to get answers to tax questions.

TUESDAYS: FEBRUARY 4 TO APRIL 14 9:00-3:00

FRIDAYS: FEBRUARY 14, FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 13, MARCH 27, APRIL 10 9:00-12:00

There is no cost for this tax service!

(Please make sure you bring last year's taxes, all tax documents and picture ID. Married couples are required to come together.)

Contact Mark Thompson with questions (612-616-8752).

MISSIONS OF EMMANUEL



In A message from Joe, our Family Promise Director:

The loss and brokenness revealed through poverty is deep and profound. Abuse, broken relationships, unemployment, and illness often accompany homelessness. Family Promise is an agency of healing through welcoming, compassion and acceptance.

As a volunteer, you provide these gifts to our guests. Thank you. Here are the updated stats for 2019:

- 21 families
- 88 individuals
- 3,688 nights of shelter
- 3,688 dinners
- 41% white
- 39% black
- 20% Latino
- 28- 5 yrs. of age and under
- 30- 6-18 yrs. of age
- 30 adults
- 66% children
- 53 people from Waukesha
- 60% from Waukesha County
- 5% from Walworth County
- 34% from Milwaukee County
- 730+ volunteer commitments
- 15,000+ volunteer hours

"That best portion of a good man's life, his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."
 William Wordsworth



In the event of an ice or snow storm that we deem severe enough to cancel Sunday Worship, that information will be available on Milwaukee channels 4 and 6 websites/TV broadcasts. We will also publish

it on the Emmanuel UCC Facebook page.

Kiosk Collections

The kiosk in the church foyer has drawers labeled for different things we collect on an ongoing basis. It's a great way to get rid of unneeded items and help out at the same time:

- Grocery receipts from Albrecht's Sentry store in Delafield. We receive a rebate of the total receipts we submit. Those rebates help our bottom line!
- First Aid items/new toothbrushes/OTC pain meds (unopened) are given to the Free Clinic in Oconomowoc.
- Used eye glasses are given to the Dousman Lions Club: throughout the year, Lions, Leos and other volunteers collect used eyeglasses and deliver them to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs). LERC volunteers clean, sort by prescription strength and package the glasses. Recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in low and middle income communities where they will have the greatest impact.



THANK YOU to all who regularly leave bags of aluminum cans and other precious metals outside the garage door. A reminder to everyone, our recycling of these Precious Metals helps Emmanuel's bottom line, so please save them, bag them up and leave them to the left of the garage so that the snow plow doesn't take them away. Thank you to Ron Blaschuk and Tom Stelling for taking them to the recycling center throughout the year.

This n That...



♥ Dousman Meals Drivers for February: Lorna & Jere Marheine, Shirlene Hazelberg, Sherri Krantz, Sue Stelling, Jo Quaden, Corine Mayer & Frieda Goetsch.

♥ Volunteer helpers for our March 2nd Blood Drive: Deb Morgan, Mary Edwards, Frieda Goetsch, Corine Mayer, Vera Ortmann and Donna Newland.

- ♥ Carol Pfalz, and Fran & Ken Pike who cleaned the church in February.
- ♥ Our snow shoveling team is finally getting a work out...thank you Mark Thompson, Mike Ball and Ken Pike for covering February!



♥ Judy Stanek who is in rehab following a fall in her apartment.

♥ Ann Carpenter, who is recovering from back surgery.

- ♥ Jan Wilson who fell and broke bones in her back. She is rehabbing at Linden Grove in Waukesha.

- ♥ those dealing with cancer: Shirlene Hazelberg's mother, Marie; Steve Thompson's brother, Wayne; Lisa, a friend of Julie & Mike Ball.



A thank you to all who supplied gift bags for our homeless veterans at Christmas...

On behalf of the Milwaukee Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, we would like to extend our appreciation for the donation of gift bags for homeless Veterans. The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center greatly appreciates your interest in the well-being of our Veteran patients.

To our valued Pastors and Volunteer Coordinators,

We would like to take this opportunity to say,

"thank you"

from the bottom of our hearts,

for all you do to make

Family Promise

a viable ministry that meets the tangible needs

of many people in our community.

We would not exist without you!

Sincerely,
Susan Klein- Congregational Liaison, &
Joe Nettesheim- Director
Family Promise Waukesha County



Planning ahead for our

We will once again be seeking donations of candy-filled plastic eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt after Easter Sunday Worship.

Please tape the filled eggs shut so that they don't open up and spill! You

may bring your donations to the church office.

We will also need a volunteer to take some of the eggs to the residents at Lad Lake sometime during Holy Week...please speak to Donna if you are able to do this.

Please, no candy containing nuts...thank you.

Stephen Turley is selling a 2001 Honda CRV (green) for \$1,800. It would be a good 2nd car or appropriate for a student. Please call if interested: 262-593-8087 or Stephen's cellphone: 262-443-1379





We CANNOT survive without you!

Opportunities Include:

- ♥ Being a Sunday Greeter! Can you be here by 9 AM and smile? If yes, you qualify!! The sign-up for Sunday Greeters is posted in the Gathering Area.
- ♥ Cleaning the church...the building does not clean itself! Please help one month this year...we furnish all the supplies and equipment. Again, the sign-up is posted in the Gathering Area.
- ♥ Deliver Dousman Area Home Meals. Emmanuel delivers 2 routes every 4 weeks...it will take you 1-1 1/2 hours....you just need to have your own transportation and be available from 11:15 AM until the route is finished. Speak to Donna and she'll pair you with a seasoned driver who will show you the ropes.hours....you just need to have your own transportation and be available from 11:15 AM until the route is finished. Speak to Donna and she'll pair you with a seasoned driver who will show you the ropes.



Adult Fellowship	Corrine Mayer	431-4046
	Donna Newland	965-4022
Christian Education/Church School	Peggy Hazelberg	470-2181
Council	Gary Phelps	646-3920
Deacons	Kristen Voskuil	608-698-3777
Financial Secretary (counts offering & keeps records)	Laurie Buckett	965-2545
Family Promise	Charlotte Voigt	646-2701
	Sue Stelling	965-3498
Prayer Requests	Donna Newland	965-4022
Programming ideas (at church- check calendar) (\$\$ needed- check w/ Council)	GO FOR IT! Donna Newland	965-4022
SCRIP program	Gary Phelps	646-3920
	Mary Branson	567-1493
Singing Bowl- same info as Social Concerns		
Social Concerns	Shirlene Hazelberg	470-5907
Stewards	Sue Stelling	965-3498
Treasurer (issues checks)	Kathy Zebrowski	646-8882
	Jeanne Phelan	414-940-4464
Trustees	Ken Pike	262-347-6779
Ushering Team- same info as Deacons		



Worship each Sunday at 9:30am

Mon	Each	Choir rehearsal 5:00 PM
Sun.	5	PALM SUNDAY! Choir Cantata "Walk Worthy" Order SCRIP Food Pantry Sunday
Thurs	9	Maundy Thursday
Fri.	10	Good Friday
Tues.	14	Ladies fellowship meeting in fellowship hall, 1-3 PM.
Sun	12	EASTER SUNDAY! Easter Egg Hunt after worship!
M-F	13-17	Emmanuel delivers the Dousman Area Home Meals

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com



We are, each of us, angels with one wing, and we can fly only by embracing one another. - Luciano De Crescenzo

Treasurer's Report for January 2020

PLEGGED Income received	
(January 2020)	\$9,660.00
(January 2019)	\$7,560.00
Difference	\$2,100.00
NON-PLEDGES & PLATE Income Received	
(January 2020)	\$1,584.00
(January 2019)	\$1,493.00
Difference	\$91.00
Total INCOME for (January 2020) *	\$13,080.07
Total INCOME for (January 2019)	\$10,022.65
Difference	\$3,057.42
Total EXPENSE for (January 2020)	\$9,534.21
Total EXPENSE for (January 2019)	\$12,229.01
Difference	-\$2,693.80
Checking Account Balance as of January 31, 2020	\$12,605.33
Checking Account Balance as of January 31, 2019	\$3,377.24
Difference	\$9,228.09

*TOTAL INCOME includes funds received that are designated funds for:

Singing Bowl	\$138.29
WI Conference offering income (OCWM, Christmas Fund, etc)	\$385.00
SCRIP sales	.00
Fund Raiser	\$497.78
RBC Investment Account Growth for January 2020	-\$1,874.85
Capital Funds Campaign	\$16,000.89
Income	\$155.00
Expenses	.00
Interest	\$.68
TOTAL	\$16,156.57

Please direct questions or comments to Kathy Zebrowski (262-646-8882) or Jeanne Phelan (414) 940-4464.

PROCEDURE FOR HIRING A NEW PASTOR:

The UCC works it in this way: An Interim Pastor is hired to serve the church while a Council-chosen Search Committee looks for a permanent Pastor. Emmanuel is in the process of seeking an Interim at the present time. Candidates' Profiles are sent to the church by the Conference and Council decides if an interview will be conducted. Council has so far conducted two interviews and has voted to offer a 6-month renewable contract to one of the candidates; however, at this time, nothing has been finalized, so sharing details will be done once we know more information. Council will strive to choose a Search Committee that represents all aspects of the make-up of our congregation.

ADVERTISE YOUR CHURCH FOR FREE!



Have you **LIKED** Emmanuel's FB page? By doing this, information posted will appear on your timeline. You can help our church become better known by hitting the **SHARE** button when you see Emmanuel posts. **Share to your own timeline** and this will enable all of your FB friends to see our posts, thus increasing our visibility! The more people will know about our church....so Like and Share away!!



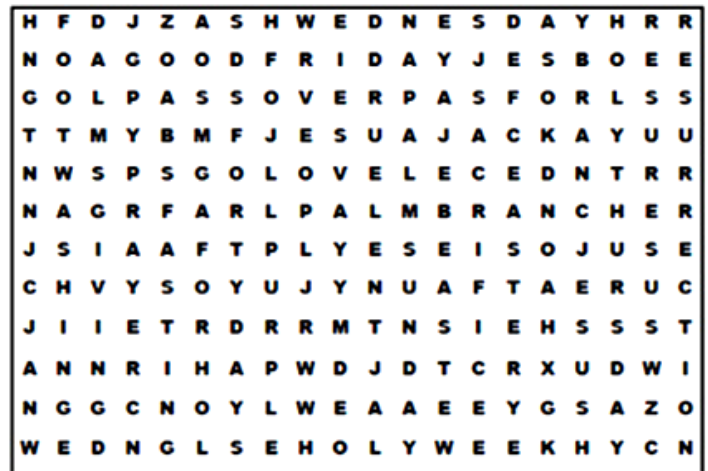
You can write a positive review of Emmanuel on Facebook, Google or other search engine sites. This improves our placement when people are doing searches for churches in our area!

Also, each Sunday we ask everyone with a smart phone to turn on their phone and check in on Facebook with your location (Emmanuel). This helps increase our exposure in the community!!



Sunday Services are available on Facebook Live! Check it out AND tell your friends!!

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |



Wake Up With God February 2, 2020

Thank you to all who made this annual event successful...for food donations...Kristen Voskuil, the Kinneys, Laurie Buckett, Donna Newland, the Pikes and the Kerrs. Thank you Peggy Hazelberg and Kristen Voskuil for organizing and our outstanding kitchen crew/cooks...Sherri & Bob Krantz and Laurie & Buck Bucket!!





Worship & Nursery Care
each Sunday at 9:30 AM
Sunday School meets during worship following
Time With the Young Disciples

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
1 8:15 AM Choir rehearsal Worship Leader: Jim Langreder Imposition of Ashes Service Order SCRIP/Food Pantry Sunday Set up F/H for Blood Drive after worship	2 Blood Drive in fellowship hall 1:30-5:30 PM 5 PM Choir rehearsal	3	4	5	6	7 Set clocks ahead one hour before going to bed!																																																																																				
8 8:15 AM Choir rehearsal Daylight Saving Time begins 2 PM PFLAG meeting	9 5 PM Choir rehearsal	10 1-3 PM Adult Fellowship meets in fellowship hall	11	12	13	14																																																																																				
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15 8:15 AM Choir rehearsal One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Moment Council meeting after worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 5 PM Choir rehearsal	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																				
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29 8:15 AM Choir rehearsal Set up for Family Promise after worship	30 5 PM Choir rehearsal	31	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>February 2020</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>April 2020</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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