



PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

44 CHAPEL ROAD – KENMORE, NY 14217

(716) 875-5485

www.pilgrimkenmorelcms.org

A Congregation in Mission, Community and Service

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

MAY 2025

PASTOR: Rev. David Walsh

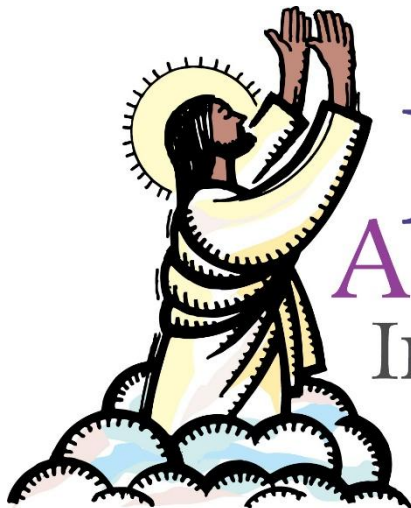
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 AM

EDITOR: Mary Werth

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY: 6:00 PM

ASSOC. EDITOR:

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM



HE
ASCENDED
INTO HEAVEN



Why so catholic? This is a question that has been asked by many Lutherans and other protestant denominations over the last 500 years or so. This question comes especially when we compare our practices and traditions with the Catholic church, which are either the same or similar. When it comes to baptism for instance we agree on every point, that through it God makes us His children, gives salvation, the forgiveness of sins, gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, makes us a new creation, and should be given to a newborn.

Now on something like communion we are close, but not quite, we both believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament, that it brings the forgiveness of sins, and restores us to our baptismal promises, but they believe something called transubstantiation, which means that due to the character of the priest, he can turn the bread into the body of Christ and the wine into the blood of Christ. Again, close but not quite the same.

We don't practice our traditions because the Catholics do it, but because they either come from Scripture or they point to something from Scripture. This though hasn't stopped us from trying to distance ourselves from them, take the Nicene Creed for instance, we have the phrase "In one holy Christian and apostolic Church" whereas the original text is "In one holy catholic and apostolic Church." Notice how the "c" is lower case, that is because the original Greek and Latin texts have used a word that meant universal Christianity. It is not a reference to the Roman Catholic Church which uses a "C." Notice though, on Trinity Sunday in June, we will say the word "catholic" in the Athanasian Creed. It's not about being close to the Catholics, but it's about confessing the "catholic" or Christian faith as handed down to us by the Lord through His Apostles and our ancestors in the Faith.

Rev. David J. Walsh





SUNDAY SERVER SCHEDULE MAY 2025

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEKEND OF	May 3, 4	May 10,11	May 17, 18	May 24, 25	
READER (Sat/Sun)	Ruth Whitmer/Donna Vogel	Rhonda Mohr/Rich Loster	Doreen Griebel/Mary Werth	Rhonda Mohr/Sharon McGuan	
USHERS	Ed Walsh/Eric Fellner	Mike and Dianne Wuerch	Ed Walsh/Eric Fellner	Mike Wuerch/Tim McGuan	
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Eric Fellner	Ed Walsh	Mike Wuerch	Jim Hartz	

(If you cannot serve on the day scheduled, please notify Tim McGuan (716) 418-5484, Ed Walsh (585) 747-1503 or Dan Griebel (716) 259-9704. ALSO, PLEASE CALL AMBER SO SHE CAN CORRECTLY PUT THE CHANGE IN THE BULLETIN. Thank you.)



COUNTERS

May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	
Mike Wuerch	Jim Hartz	Dianne Wuerch	Carolyn Alessi	
Sue Holway	Donna Vogel	Nancy Loster	Janice Vogel	



Carolyn Alessi

May 8

Tyrone Bryant

May 9

Jim Miller

May 16



A well-meaning lady held a cookie above a dog and commanded, "Speak! Speak!"
"Why," said the dog modestly, "I hardly know what to say!"

New Wife: Did I make your toast too dark, dear?
Husband: I can't tell yet. The smoke is too thick.

Wife: I baked two kinds of biscuits. Would you like to take your pick?
Husband: No, thank you. I'll use my hammer.

Florence was fleeing a fire in her home. She carried a dog in her arms.
"Lady," a fireman called to her, "is your husband still in the house?"
"Yes," she said.
"Then why don't you get him out of the house instead of the dog?" demanded the fireman.
"Do you want him to burn to death?"
"Don't worry, he won't burn," replied the woman. "He's taking a shower."



On Sunday, May 11th at 9:00am, the Ascension story will be taught in the children's education room. The text, from Acts 1:6-11, celebrates the ascension of Jesus into heaven where he sits at the right hand of God the Father. We look forward to seeing all of you on May 11th!



ESTHER CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 12th, at 12:30 p.m. at the church. All women of Pilgrim are welcome to attend. We will be discussing the proposed mission grants and other items for the LWML National Convention in June and giving our feedback to our attending delegates. There are 10 ladies from Pilgrim attending the Buffalo Zone LWML Spring Event in Silver Creek on Saturday, May 3rd. We are looking forward to the fellowship.

We will be having a discussion on chapters 1-3 in the book "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis on Monday, June 2nd, at 1 p.m. at the church. Those who ordered a book, please see Carol Obot.

The Esther Circle will be hosting a Ladies' Brunch at the church on Saturday, May 17th, from 10 a.m. to noon. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the announcement board near the entrance of the sanctuary.

REMINDERS: Dash's receipts go to Sue Holway; mites (loose change) go Karen Smith (note there is a collection box at the rear of the sanctuary); cancelled stamps go to Sharon McGuan. All these collection efforts go to various mission outreach projects. Thank you!

It is said that "April showers bring May flowers" 🌸 . It is MAY, enjoy the beautiful Spring flowers that our Lord created. God Bless! 🙏

Carol Obot

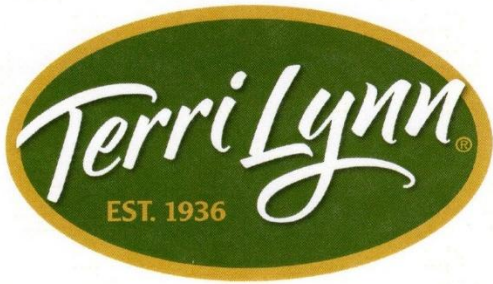
Esther Circle is Hosting Ladies of Pilgrim Brunch



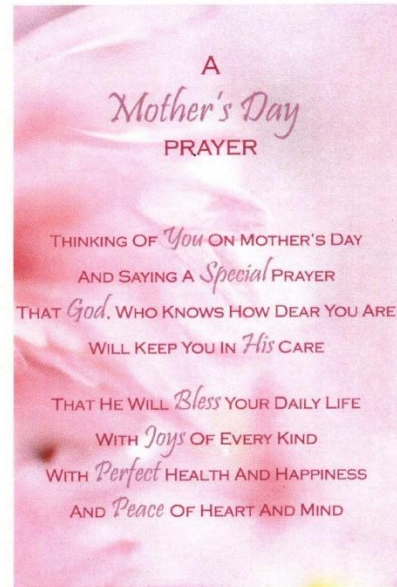
**All Women from Pilgrim Lutheran
Are Invited!!**

**WHEN: Saturday, May 17TH
TIME: 10 am
WHERE: Fellowship Hall**

Please Sign-Up BEFORE May 11TH



Order Now for Mother's Day !



DARK CHOCOLATE covered CRANBERRIES

DARK CHOCOLATE SEA SALT



MILK CHOCOLATE PEACANS



All profits are used to support local charities such as Ken -Ton Meals on Wheels, Local Church Food Pantries, Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Hour Ministries plus many others. Please help us support them. Thank you!

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Terri Lynn's Webstore is
contactless, safe, and easy!!

<https://pilgrimesthercircle.terrilynn.com>

Esther Circle Outreach for 2025 Good Shepherd Food Pantry

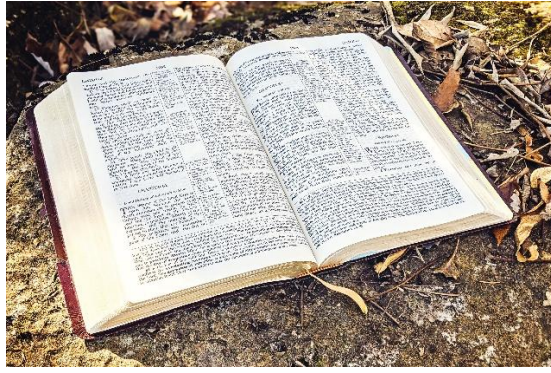


Our food pantry is filled by our parishioners and other faithful community members. It is open from 10 a.m. to noon on every third and fourth Saturday of the month. The fourth Saturday of the month a hot breakfast is also available.

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry is a distribution center located within the church which provides food directly to those in need. Donations are provided by local organizations, individuals and church members.

The Food Pantry provides this service for the residents living within the following zip codes:
14120, 14150, 14217, 14221, 14223, 14226, 14228





This month we continue our journey through the Psalms.

May 1 – Psalm 42	May 9 – Psalm 49	May 17 – Ps. 55:12-23	May 25 – Psalm 63
May 2 – Psalm 43	May 10 – Ps. 50:1-15	May 18 – Psalm 56	May 26 – Psalm 64
May 3 – Ps. 44:1-16	May 11 – Ps. 50:16-23	May 19 – Psalm 57	May 27 – Psalm 65
May 4 – Ps. 44:17-26	May 12 – Psalm 51	May 20 – Psalm 58	May 28 – Psalm 66
May 5 – Psalm 45	May 13 – Psalm 52	May 21 – Psalm 59	May 29 – Psalm 67
May 6 – Psalm 46	May 14 – Psalm 53	May 22 – Psalm 60	May 30 – Ps. 68:1-18
May 7 – Psalm 47	May 15 – Psalm 54	May 23 – Psalm 61	May 31 – Ps. 68:19-35
May 8 – Psalm 48	May 16 – Ps. 55:1-11	May 24 – Psalm 62	

“He ascended into heaven...”



During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. “Only those could speak to him who came to where he was,” explained Archbishop William Temple. “If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee” (from *Readings in St. John’s Gospel*).

Spiritually speaking, Christ’s Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. “Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory” (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV) — that is what the Ascension affirms.

Catechesis page: We encourage you to put this on your fridge and learn God's Word and things that help us better understand it together.

May 2025

Did you know? Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Easter Sunday was April 20 this year, but just like Christmas, Easter is longer than just one day. Easter is a 7 week celebration! The 4th week of the Easter season starts with Good Shepherd Sunday wherein we reflect on how Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

Bible verse of the month: "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." -Isaiah 53:5

Catechism: The Fifth commandment and it's explanation:

What is the Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.

What does this mean?: We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Liturgical seasons and colors (look on the altar and pastor) for May: Easter-white

Christian symbol of the month: The Good Shepherd. This symbol has been around longer than many of the others. The version to the right is a combination of King David as a shepherd and the Greek god Hermes. Many early believers converted from the pagan religions of the Greeks. Taking these two images together supplanted the separate symbols into the greater Truth over King David and the real Truth over Hermes.

Hymn of the month: (definitely check out the other verses in the hymnal, for the sake of space we have v. 1 only here The King of Love My Shepherd Is -LSB #709

The King of love my shepherd is,

Whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am His

And He is mine forever

Church festivals, observances, Saint Days in May:

1st-St. Philip and St. James (apostles) 2nd-St. Athanasius of Alexandria (Pastor and Confessor)

4th-Friedrich Wyneken (Pastor and missionary) 5th-Frederick the Wise (Christian ruler)

7th-C.F.W. Walther (theologian) 9th-Job 11th-Cyril & Methodius (missionaries)

11th-Good Shepherd Sunday (this changes every year)

21st-Emperor Constantine (Christian ruler) and Helena his mother 24th-Queen Esther

25th-Bede the Venerable (theologian) 29th-Ascension Day (this changes every year)

31st-The Visitation of Our Lord





Cyber Corner for May

By Ed Walsh

Summer fun

Hello everyone. As I mentioned in my first segment, we will look at some key things you should do when you are traveling to protect yourself. I thought this would be good as we are getting close to the months when people travel more or just go out more in general. I am not saying you are more vulnerable to attacks when you are outside, but the things to be aware of, and what you must do when outside can be different.

First, and this goes for anywhere you go, do not use public WIFI, like in Airports, restaurants, trains stations, hotels or any other place that may offer free WIFI. Even if you know the owner and feel this place is safe; it is not. For example, hackers will sit in a cafe on their laptops and can perform attacks on your device. In fact, they can sit in their car outside the place you are at and scan for devices they can attack. How this is done can get very technical and I may go through some of this in another segment, but basically, they can hijack the WIFI connection and eavesdrop on your session (this is known as a Man in the Middle attack) where they capture whatever you are communicating between you and the web site you connecting to. So, if, for example, you enter credentials for a website, they will now have that information. Or they may even just generate their own WIFI connection mimicking the public one, and you think you are using a legitimate WIFI, but it is really their connection (this is known as an evil Twin attack). There are many forms of this, but the main point is never use public WIFI. Instead, if you are on your phone, turn off the WIFI and use carriers' network. This is still not a guarantee that you cannot be hacked, but much safer, and sorry, but I cannot tell you to use your mobile hotspot either. There are things you can do to make a mobile hotspot safer, but it is beyond the scope for this segment. However, while I never used it you can use a USB cable to connect to your phone to your laptop; and using your phone network, which is safer. Now, let me point out nothing is a 100% guarantee, and even if it is today, it may not be tomorrow.

Another item for summer fun comes when we charge our devices when we are outside. You probably heard of them putting skimmers on credit card machines at gas stations; and it has been done elsewhere too (like convenience stores and I think I even heard it happening in main stores too). This is where they put a device on or in the machine to steal your cards information. This is why you should always compare your machine to others and see if it looks the same, and in the case of a gas

station, see if the pump has security tape on the side and that it is not broken. Finally, pull gently where you insert your card and see if it is loose; and if any of these are the case do not use it.

However, I was talking here on charging your phone or laptop outside. The same thing can happen and does here. Hackers have been known to put devices in the charging stations and get information or inject malware on to your device (phone or laptop); and again, this goes for anywhere outside. Do not think, for example, I am in one of the top hotels, nothing will happen here. Again, I will say nothing is full proof, and what works today may not work tomorrow, but for now you can get a USB data blocker right off Amazon as well as elsewhere. This device sits between the charger and your computer and only allows power transfers, not the data. They are cheap you usually get two for about \$10 (see samples below). I am not saying to get this brand or this one, I am just saying you should get a data blocker for outside charging.



Grace in, grace out

The computer acronym GIGO — “garbage in, garbage out” — describes how putting wrong code into a machine will lead to faulty output. Jesus offers a similar lesson in Matthew 15: “What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person” (v. 18, ESV).

GIGO works the other way, too. If we put good things (including the good news of salvation) “in” our hearts, Jesus’ goodness will shine “out” through our lives. And when God’s grace enters and changes us, we’ll also reach out and share that good news with others.

2023–2025 Mission Grant #19

Tanzania Children's Homes

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa

About This Mission Grant

The Tanzania Children's Home welcomes albino children to offer security, care, and education. Albinism (limited melanin pigment in the skin, eyes, and hair) is especially prevalent in Tanzania. Children with albinism face health risks of skin cancer and visual impairment and are threatened by the pagan practices of the tribal religions that falsely teach their body parts have magical powers to make one rich, successful, and powerful. The home offers security and specialized care for the children that their families cannot provide and is located on the campus of the Lutheran Boarding School in Mwadui. They are raised in the knowledge and love of the Lord and are transported to the Mwadui Lutheran Secondary School for their education.

This grant will help purchase a bus for safe transportation of the children and will contribute to the support of the children.



In July 2022, a group from St. John, Bingen (Decatur, IN) travelled to Tanzania to meet the pastors, deaconesses, church leaders, and children at the home they funded for their 175th anniversary.



Children at the overcrowded and underfunded public orphanage in Shinyanga.



(L to R, top): Veronica, Edwin
(L to R, bottom): Barak, Hope



(L to R, top): Yusuf, Brighton
(L to R, bottom): Baraka, Emiliana

Several of the children (names in photos) at the St. John Bingen Home of Children.



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[The Transformative Impact of a Message](#)



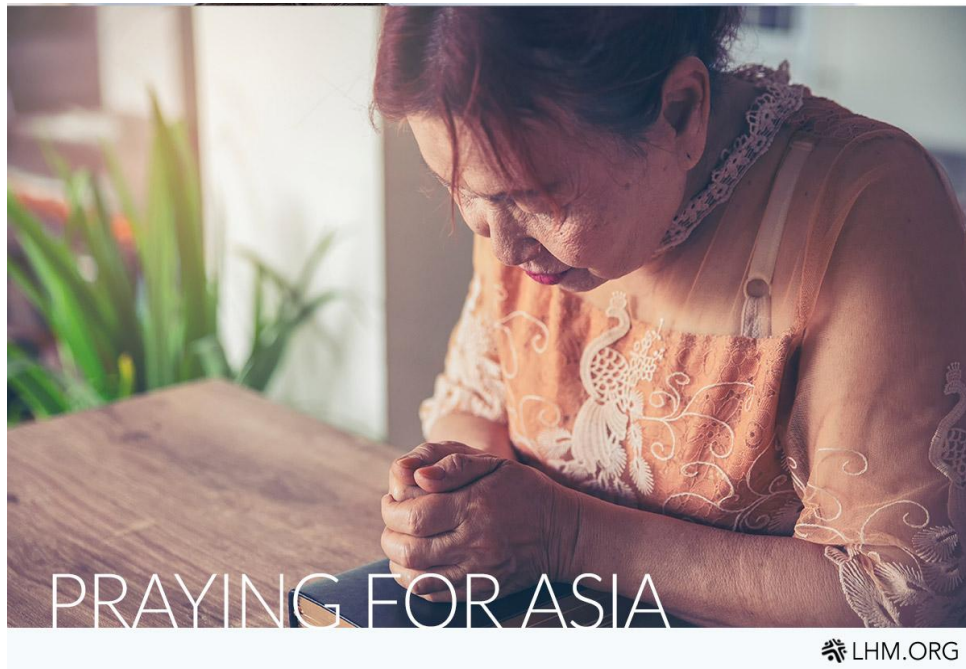
In a world where daily noise often drowns out spiritual calm, a simple message can serve as a source of hope. **LHM—Chile** has used the WhatsApp platform to deliver hope through some 8,800 Bible verses provided to nearly 400 subscribers over the past two years. These messages not only share God's Word but unite recipients in prayer by supporting personal and congregational petitions. Through every word sent, and every prayer offered, LHM—Chile is planting seeds of faith, hope, and love in the hearts of individuals seeking comfort and guidance.

Renné reached out requesting prayers for finding a job. Weeks later, he shared his gratitude: "I finally got the job, and along with it came peace, tranquility, and prosperity. God strengthens us in the waiting ... but the reward soon comes. Thank you for your prayers."

Jael responded in a moment of need: "You don't know how much I needed a positive word today. Thank you for taking the time to deliver a message from the Bible just when I needed it most and for including me in your prayers."

Nélida expressed joy for the spiritual connection: "My heart rejoices in receiving your messages and knowing that you pray for me and my family. May God the Father bless your lives and ministry. Peace from our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

More than simply a messaging program, LHM—Chile has found this program to be a mission that unites souls, strengthens spirits, and reminds us that God's Word never returns void.



"Nothing Can Separate Us..." - Responding in Faith After the Quake

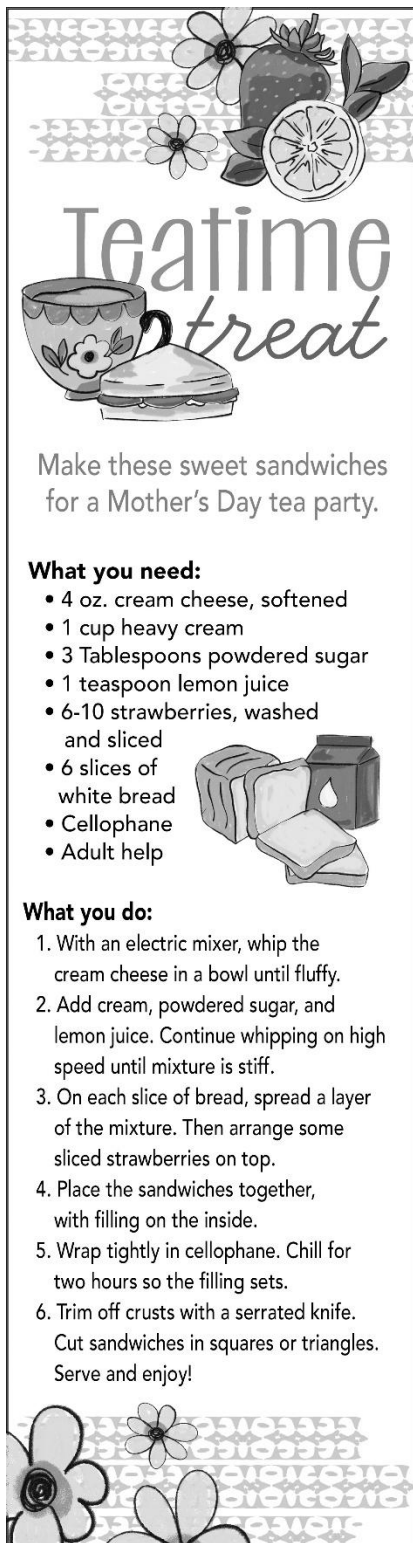
We praise God that our **LHM—Myanmar** and **LHM—Thailand** staff are safe, but our hearts are heavy for those affected. As you've probably heard by now, a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake has struck Myanmar and parts of Thailand, leaving many mourning, facing loss, and searching for hope. Lutheran Hour Ministries is committed to sharing the hope of Christ in this time of suffering, reminding us of His unwavering love:

"For I am sure that neither life nor death...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 8:37-39 ESV

Our Global LHM staff is already planning ways to provide spiritual care to those in need. [Your gift today will help them respond quickly-with compassion, courage, and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please consider a generous donation to support their work during this critical time.](#)

In Christ,
Lutheran Hour Ministries





A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.



WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh, children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is _____ with strength and dignity;
she can _____ at the days to come.

She _____ with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her _____.

She watches over the affairs of her _____
and does not eat the _____ of idleness.

Her _____ arise and call her blessed;
her _____ also, and he praises her:

"Many _____ do noble things,
but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is _____eptive, and be_____ty is fl_____eting; but a
woma_____ w_____o f_____rs the Lo_____d is to be prais_____d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, husband, women; Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, NIV

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
JUNE NEWSLETTER IS MAY 23RD.**