



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

(Monthly publication)

APRIL 2020

The tomb is empty. Jesus lives!

"But [the angel] said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here."....So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Mark 16:6, 8

Proclaim life in the midst of death and fear. That is what we are called to announce to the world. Jesus lives. The one whom we betrayed and killed has been raised. Death has no power over the risen Christ. This is good news to a world held captive by fear and sin and the coronavirus. As I write this Easter message, it seems fitting that there is so much that I don't know, about the coronavirus, the global pandemic, about whether communities of faith in Jamestown will be able to gather and worship together on Easter Sunday. Hourly, in these days, it seems that updated guidance comes from the CDC, Health Departments, and the Civil Leaders. The world will continue to throw out fear when the good news is so simple. The tomb is empty. Jesus lives!

Proclaim life in the midst of death and fear. The promise of resurrection allows us to live without fear. The disciples had heard, many times, Jesus speak about his death and resurrection. Those who knew Jesus best heard the words, but when the moment of resurrection came, terror and amazement remained. In the midst of scary news, cling to the simple words that you hold so close, Jesus loves you. We have heard

these words our entire lives, but fear still creeps in and creates doubt. We live in times of great turmoil and disruption but the promise of God is true. You are God's child, God will never leave you.

Proclaim life in the midst of death and fear. As a community of believers, St. John's is entering a new and unprecedented time of ministry. Social Distancing is the phrase that experts tell us will make a real difference in how our community will be affected. We are accustomed to being a church in person, in worship



services, in bible studies. We are accustomed to visiting homes, care facilities, and hosting gatherings in our building. We are entering a new time where what it means to be church will be different from normal. Make no mistake- Church does not stop because of disease and the threat of

death. We proclaim, even from a distance, that Death and Fear do not have the final say.

Easter Sunday this year will be different from any other Easter in my life time. It is more urgent. It is more needed. It is truly Good News for a world in need. The followers of Jesus that fled from the tomb were not silent for long. They boldly shared what they had seen and heard. We continue to share that story.

Pr. Erik

"Tentative*" Holy Week Service Schedule

April 9 - Maundy Thursday—7:00 pm April 10 - Good Friday—7:00 pm

April 12—Easter Sunday

6:30 am Sun Rise Service / 9:00 am Regular Worship / 10:45 am Regular Worship

****We will be following CDC guidelines about gathering. Always worship on the Radio at 9 am on Sundays at AM 600***



In the beginning of March, my wife and I went on a cruise to the Caribbean for a week. It was the beginning of Coronavirus scare in the United States, but we had been saving a long time for this trip. We gathered our things to get ready to

fly to Florida, board the cruise ship, and disconnect from our normal life. It was a great trip, feeling healthy and rejuvenated. However, as we returned to normalcy, we realized that things are not normal. Professional and NCAA events were cancelled; canned food, hand sanitizers, and toiletries were flying off the shelves and a set of misinformation of how the Coronavirus is impacting our communities. In today's society there is a fine line of not being proactive enough and being in complete panic. It is hard to find that fine line, and to be honest with all of the information out there; it was hard for me too. On top of it all, this pandemic was politicalized and I was wondering if there is a Christian view of this situation? There is... The Gospel of John 4:16-21:

“So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

Yes, the Coronavirus is a series situation and yes we need to make life adjustments in order to be safe. However, we can't lose sight of our Christian identity of remembering the presences of God's love and we are called to discipleship for our neighbor. When fear and anxiety increase, the more we are concerned with our internal needs. Yet, it is normal to look for the needs of ourselves and even our family and to regain the illusion of control, yet Jesus teaches us the power of God's love. God's love came in many forms, through the promise of forgiveness and purpose in baptism. Throughout our path that is in front of us, in death and life; we are a part of the body of Christ. WE are God's children, WE are the light and hope in this world.

(continued)

WE are made with purpose that the world celebrates, and WE are part of God's Kingdom now and the time when we die. God is not calling us to be anxious of the situation, but to put this in prospective that a higher power is in our corner, the Coronavirus will not make us perish but have eternal life.

The second part is how do we love our neighbor during this time when we are supposed to exercise social distances? I remember when I was at Cash Wise and people were buying 3 or 4 big bundles of toilet paper. At the same time people on Facebook were writing that they literally ran out and they can't find any at the stores. When it comes to needed resources, how can we care for our neighbors? We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, to take only what we need and when our neighbor is in need; we take our own shirt off our back. Being a part of a Christian community is more than a membership; it is practicing faithfulness of God's abundance and sacrificial love for neighbors in need. It is normal to worry, but God is telling us to lean into God's love and remember the meaning of the baptismal promise that God has given each of us. WE are greatly loved by God and that were called to not keep that love to ourselves, but to share it in ways we can through political turmoil, virus, plague, war, or any other social hindrance. God has called us to be a part of his kingdom and to have compassion on our humanity and to kindly think about our neighbor as our self.

Pr. Lucas Holsten



Thank you to the women of St. John's Lutheran Church who gave \$1,000 to the counselor/food service account to support the food pantries and hot lunch accounts for families in need.



Dear friends in Christ,

As I sat down to write this months' newsletter article, I had a plethora of ideas revolving around the arrival of spring and the inevitable change of seasons. But today is March 12th and our community, country and world is consumed with anxiety, fear and panic over the Coronavirus

(COVID-19). Therefore, I thought I'd devote my space in this newsletter to words of comfort that may offer some peace in these trying times.

Did you know that the phrase "Do not fear" appears over 300 times in the Bible? I don't purport to be a theologian. However, when I have been faced with challenges and fears in my life, I have turned to the Bible for guidance, comfort and hope. Now, I will admit that I have not looked up every one of the references that I mentioned above but here are 33 passages that may help to bring you peace and comfort.

1. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ~ Isaiah 41:10
2. "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." ~ Psalm 56:3
3. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ~ Philippians 4:6-7
4. "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid." ~ John 14:27
5. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." ~ 2 Timothy 1:7
6. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." ~ 1 John 4:18
7. "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul." ~ Psalm 94:19
8. "But now, this is what the Lord says... Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." ~ Isaiah 43:1
9. "An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up." ~ Proverbs 12:25
10. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." ~ Psalm 23:4
11. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and Courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
12. "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." ~ Matthew 6:34
13. "Humble yourselves, then, under God's mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his own good time. Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you." ~ 1 Peter 5:6-7
14. "Tell everyone who is discouraged, Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue..." ~ Isaiah 35:4
15. "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" ~ Luke 12:22-26
16. "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" ~ Psalm 27:1
17. "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall." ~ Psalm 55:22
18. "Immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'" ~ Mark 6:50
19. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." ~ Deuteronomy 31:6
20. "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, for I myself will help you,' declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." ~ Isaiah 41:13-14
21. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." ~ Psalm 46:1
22. "The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper." ~ Psalm 118:6-7
23. "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe." ~ Proverbs 29:25
24. "He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still

have no faith?" ~ Mark 4:39-40

25. "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." Psalm 34:7
26. "But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats." ~ 1 Peter 3:14
27. "I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears." ~ Psalm 34:4
28. "Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you." ~ Deuteronomy 3:22
29. "Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.'" ~ Revelation 1:17
30. "Jesus told him, 'Don't be afraid; just believe.'" ~ Mark 5:36
31. "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love." ~ Romans 8:38-39
32. "The Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy." ~ Zephaniah 3:17
33. "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."...He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you...For he will command his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways..."Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him..." from Psalm 91:1-16

This is surely must be the longest submission I made to this newsletter. I hope that you have found solace and comfort in these words just as I did as I was researching them. Remember, God always keeps his promises. God's Peace to All,

Gary Staab
Congregation President

Women of the Church Rummage Sale Postponed



WELCOME
New and returning Members



Gary Schultes, Benjamin, Natalie Roemmich,
Nakeeta Schultes, Caleb, and
Jaymacen Schultes,
701-269-7684



Patricia "Trish" Rehard
515-745-1391

**For update regarding
church activities**
Visit the website
www.st-johnslutheran.org
or all the Church
252-1198

Follow us on FaceBook
St. Johns Lutheran Church
<https://www.facebook.com/JamestownNDLutheran>

**Faith Formation Postponement
and Cancelations**

Over the last few weeks, we all have been thrust into uncharted territory. Canceling schools, events and groups is never easy for anyone. Canceling church related events and worship opportunities makes an empty pit in my stomach. Though North Dakota has not been severely impacted by the coronavirus relative to other states, we still need to follow the CDC guidelines. In this moment, there will not be a perfect answer, but with the information we have, we are doing the best we can.

Sunday School: In-person Sunday School and events will be canceled until further notice. We are developing opportunities to have in-home activities that your kiddos can do! There will be more information to come in the up-coming weeks.

**Confirmation Postponed
Until October 25th**

Starting now we are canceling all in-person Confirmation classes and events. We are looking for opportunities for a take home packets that could be worked on at home. There will be more information to come in the up-coming weeks.

The 9th Grade retreat and Confirmation Banquet will be postponed until further notice. Our Confirmation Sunday will be moved to Reformation Sunday October 25th.

For updates please contact Pr. Lucas Holsten
651-334-4494

Vacation Bible School - June 8—11

Registrations-on line available on the church website

Schedule: Monday-Thursday 5:00 pm - 8:15pm

May 26th - Registration deadline

Watch for the Supply List board in the Narthex First week of
May



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS – April

For current and update calendar
<http://www.st-johnslutheran.org/#/calendar>

Sunday Worship

9:00 am and 10:45 am - worship
10:00 am Sunday School/coffee and fellowship

Tuesday

9:30 am Staff Meeting

April 2020

4/1 2:00 pm To be Determined - Ave Maria Nursing Home Worship
4/4 10:00 am To be Determined—Eventide Assisted Living Bible Study

No Sunday School

4/9 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
4/10 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship
4/12 Easter Sunday
6:30 am Sunrise Worship
9:00 am Regular Worship
10:45 am Regular Worship

4/13 - Church Offices Closed -

4/14 5:00 pm Evangelism Meeting
5:30 pm Executive Meeting
6:00 pm Council Meeting
4/18 10:00 am Eventide Assisted Living Bible Study - TBD

Call the church office for more updates 252-1198



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Communion cards are important part of the church record. Please complete one each week, and write legible, so we can keep accurate records.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH NEWS

Have you ever wondered just what the Women of the Church do? We (a group of 9 women) are pretty proud of what we do. In 2019 we donated \$ 3600.00 to various places. So far in 2020 we have donated \$ 2600.00 to various places. We are also proud of the fact that since October of 1994 we have given \$ 17,659.82 to the Jamestown Regional Medical Center to different departments.

Thank you for all your support through the years, without the congregation support we could not have accomplished these projects. Members of our board are President Pam Golde, Secretary Sharon Dockter, Treasurer Shirley Unverferth. Other members are Gayl Lange, Wanda Kruger, Gladys Ley, Betty Frigen, Darlene Goehner, and JoAnn Deede.



BAPTISM CLASS

please contact one of the pastors





Pianist: Rachel Williams, Connie Wells, and Mark Wolf

Acolyte: Bennett Goehner, Anya Bostan, Jackson Seckerson, Chloe and Maddie Holstad, Braxton Perkins, Ty Kapp, Maddie Ede, McKenna Miller, Jaeger Roemmich, Nate Walz, Marissa Molten

Greeters: Margie Schrenk, Laurie Staab

Readers: Jim Ritter, Ann Ede, Terri Bostan, Tonya Perkins, Cindy Wolff, Sandy Franke, Joan Enderle, Shelly Moltzen, Gavin Kutz,

Communion Assistant: Joan Enderle, Jim and Paulette Ritter, Carl and Sandy Franke, Char Freeberg, Cindy Wolff, Ann Ede,

Ushers: Bill Ebele, Jolene Baltrusch, Tom and Gale Scherbenske, Joyce Wilkinson, Jerry and Darlene Michel, Gary Lauf, Lloyd Landscoot, John Meyer, Arlene Bitterman, Frank Perleberg

Communion Prep: Altar Guild, John and Cindy Kleven, Cindy Wolff, Joan Enderle, Mary Klundt and DeLanda Kollman, Jim and Paulette Ritter

Projector: Lynn Krueger, Char Perleberg, Connor Ede, Bobby Landscoot, Hannah Sjostrom, Aaron Kleven, Andrew Walz, Jaxon Miller

Van Drivers: Dan Dockter, Tom Enderle, John Kleven, Don Walz, Howard Weispfenning Jr.

Sunday School: Teachers, Parents, and teenagers

Special thanks to those who decorate the church, insure the children bags have books and activities, individuals that are always available to lend a hand to shovel the snow, keep the front of the church clean, help with mailing. There are many that quietly go about doing what needs to be done and get it done when no one is watching. Thank you so much to all.



Sponsorships

Radio April

April 5	Randy and Sandy Perkins
April 12	Kathy Burkle
April 19	Gerald & Marjorie Lippert
April 26	Steve Hallberg



If you would like to sponsor a Radio Broadcast or Altar Flowers please contact the church 252-1198

Flowers April

April 5	Randy and Sandy Perkins
April 12	Carl and Sandy Franke
April 19	Darwin and Pauline Roeske
April 26	Steve Hallberg



Sponsorships Available for both Radio and Altar Flowers - May:

5/3, 5/17, 5/24

CHURCH MINISTRY

Deaths

LaVerne Hunt 2/28
 Rosemary Bender 3/5– Community
 Anita Schmidt 3/17 (Madina)

BAPTISM

Cora Striefel 3/1

Fit for the Journey

FROM

FOR

Russ & Gwen Geiszler	LaVerne Hunt
Alice Bietz	LaVerne Hunt
Margie Schrenk	LaVerne Hunt
Deloris Christy	LaVerne Hunt
LaDona Tarno	LaVerne Hunt
LaDona Tarno	Rosemary Bender
Char Perleberg	LaVerne Hunt



Council Recap

Minutes are posted outside Gem's Office

-The Kitchen Team presented their findings and made recommendations to proceed in two phases. The first phase will be shared at a Congregational Forum on March 29th and includes replacing two existing appliances and completing the pantry. The second phase would include the major renovations of the existing kitchen, drain lines, electrical systems, and space. That phase would begin once target fundraising goals are reached.

-Preliminary conversations are being held with First Congregational UCC about possible areas of collaborative ministry. We are planning to gather around bible reading, story telling, and listening as we explore what God is calling us to imagine at this time in Jamestown.

-The council continued orientation exercises and discussed report formats, communication, and progress on our vision for ministry in the community.



ATTENDANCE

March 2020

	February	23	189
Wed	February	26	137
	March	1	215
Wed	March	4	59
	March	8	114
Wed	March	11	48
	March	15	133
Wed	March	18	No service
	March	22	23

Financial Check In

At the Annual Meeting on January 26th the congregation amended the proposed budget and restored funds that would keep staff at 40 hours per week. Our amended spending plan is \$344,548. That ended up being an increase in proposed spending of \$18,111. Two months into the year, this is where we stand: Giving is up \$580 over the first two months of the year compared to 2019. If that trend continues, we will end up within 1% of our target budget. That is good news. Thank you to the many people who have reflected on their own financial support of the congregation and chosen to respond generously to the ministry that we are engaged in together.

The challenging part of our congregational finances that we continue to face each month is that we receive tremendous support in December. December balances our books, but almost every other month runs a deficit. We have spent \$7,573 more than we have taken in so far this year. Our ministry depends and thrives on regular giving that frees staff and leaders to focus on ministry rather than committing additional energy toward worry, contingencies, and juggling bill payments. Please consider stepping up a little bit each month. It really does help.

2020 Year to date Giving: \$50,740

2020-Year to date Expenses: \$58,313



Greetings and God's Blessing to All!

Our friends in Noah's Ark have been doing a lot of adjusting as we welcome in two more new infants to our classroom. It has not been the easiest of transitions, but our wonderful teachers have been doing a wonderful job of getting all the babies adjusted into their new schedules as they still transition from parent to child care. Some of our older babies have been reaching milestone after milestone as some have learned to sit on their own, pull themselves up, and one friend is getting really close to learning how to walk! It has been a blessing to watch these little ones grow!

God's Little Lambs has become quiet the rowdy bunch as a lot of our younger toddlers seem to not stay little forever. Little and sneaky are the two words that we would use to describe our kiddos in that room, our staff has been trying hard not to blink too much! We have been taking full advantage of our warmer weather and we've taken our six-seater buggy out on walks around town. We have also been able to enjoy our playground a bit too, although all the built-up snow is beginning to soften up and the kids are falling through a bit. They have also been doing lots of projects as we have celebrated a few fun holidays. Caring Cross has been up to its normal singing and dancing that they love to do so much, but they could not be any more ready for spring. I think we have about 20 dance parties a day to curve the amount of energy that these kiddos have. The kids have been working really hard on taking down some of their winter projects and making new spring projects to put in their place. They too have been enjoying to get outside and breathe in the fresh air on the playground.

Promise Land Preschool got to go on a really fun field trip to the ice skating rink and is currently preparing for upcoming field trips when school comes back after being shutdown for COVID-19 purposes. Our next two field trip are to bank forward, and then after that we go to Papa Murphy's to build our own pizzas. We are rounding the last quarter of the school year and our kiddos have come so far. These school years always tend to breeze right by us in the blink of an eye. We try to do our very best to cherish every moment we have with them before they run off to kindergarten. Child In Our Hands will also be opening up preschool enrollment for the 2020/2021 school year this month. If you have any questions about our program feel free to call my office 252-1903.

Thank You!

Torrey Herrington -
CIOH Director





Child in Our Hands Fun activities

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 9:00 AM Worship</p> <p>10:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School</p>	30	31 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	1	2	3	4
<p>5 Palm Sunday</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship</p>		7 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	8	9 To be Determined	10 To be Determined	11 Holy Saturday
<p>12 To Be Determined</p> <p>Easter Sunday – to be determined</p> <p>6:30 AM Sunrise Worship</p> <p>9:00 AM Worship</p> <p>10:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship</p> <p>10:45 AM Worship</p>	<p>13 Church Offices Closed</p> <p>No donations for the rummage sale will be accepted today</p>	14 5:00 PM Evangelism Meeting 5:30 PM Executive Meeting 6:00 PM CIOH Board Meeting 6:00 PM Council Meeting	15 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	16	17	18 10:00 AM Jamestown Community Prayer - Victory Lutheran Brethren Church
19 9:00 AM Worship	20	21 9:30 AM Staff Meeting	22	23 Pr. Erik and Pr. Lucas - Jamestown Conference Leadership - St. John's	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship	27	28 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Altar Guild Meeting	29	30	1 Wedding Rehearsal - Matt and Sara	2 Matt Walters and Sara Bennett Wedding 10:00 AM Eventide Assisted Living Bible Study



St. John's Lutheran Church
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Non-Profit
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 Jamestown, ND
 58401

Worship Services

Sundays

9:00 am

10:45 am

Holy Communion

All Worship Services

Church Office 701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903

Website: www.st-johnslutheran.org

Email: stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org

«AddressBlock»

**STAFF OF
 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN**

Senior Pastor

Erik Weber
 701-320-3151

Associate Pastor

Lucas Holsten
 651-334-4494

Admin Secretary

Gem Saied

Custodian

Frank Perleberg

Child In Our Hands Director

Torrey Herrington

Choir Accompanist/Pianist

Rachel Williams
 Connie Wells

Coronavirus Adjustments

**Stay up to date by checking the St. John's Website
 for daily updates and the most accurate
 information.**

**St. John's will be following CDC guidelines for public
 gatherings. Many Sunday School, Confirmation, and
 worship events have been postponed or canceled.**

**We look forward to the time that we can
 all gather together and worship.**