

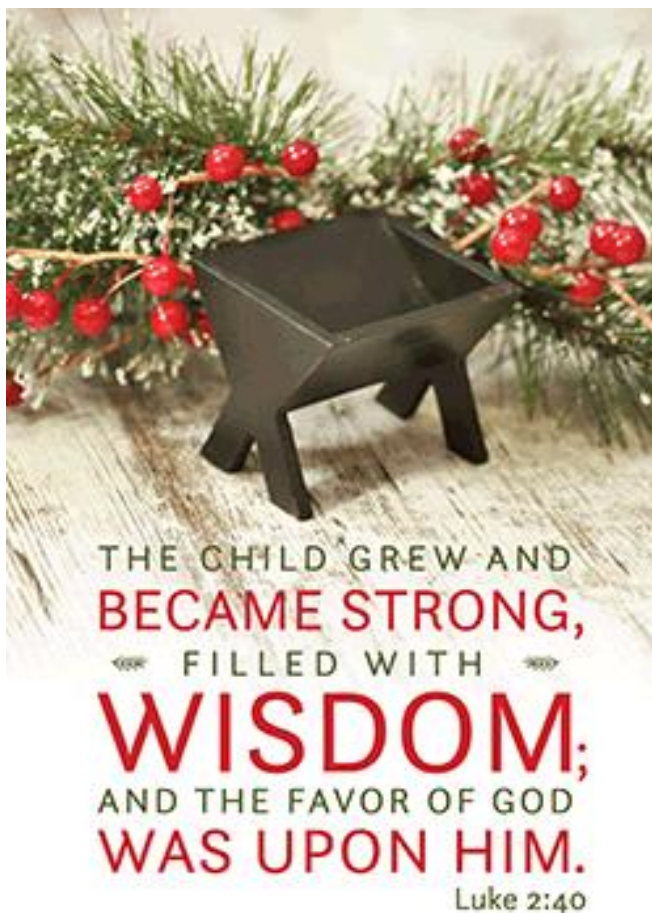
St. John's Epistle

January 2023

A Newsletter of

St. John's Lutheran Church—LCMS
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<http://www.stjohnsladysmith.org>





Fear Not

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.” Luke 2:10

What lies ahead for you in 2023? That’s certainly a very large question that we ponder every time a new year begins. I suppose in every period of history people said they were in some real interesting times. It’s kind of worrisome isn’t it? What lies ahead? What’s going to happen with our health, our families, relationships, politics, economics or whatever concern you might have. After all, one phone call, one incident, and life can drastically change.

During the season of Advent and Christmas we heard the message of an angel that spoke to the shepherds saying, **“Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.”** What the angel was saying is fear not, don’t worry; the future is in God’s hands. It’s going to be O.K, because a Savior is going to be born. This Savior, through living a perfect life (keeping the law), His suffering and death, and His glorious resurrection will be with you!

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we can, without any doubt, know that whatever happens in our life, our Lord Jesus Christ will be with us. Think of what that means! God’s Son! The Second Person of the Holy Trinity will be with us no matter what happens in the world! He won’t leave us! He won’t depart from us! In fact, Jesus says in the last chapter of Matthew, He **“will be with you always to the end of the age.”** (Matthew 28:20)

You are saved from whatever the world throws at you! Sure, times might get rough, things might not feel so great, but you have the assurance of being God’s children forever. Jesus

said, **“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”** (John 10:28) The Apostle Paul wrote, **“For I am sure that nether death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 8:38, 39)

No matter how uncertain the world is, we as children of God, carry on into a certain future that is blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, no matter what the world throws at you, you are blessed forever. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Craig S. Zandi



Notification of Pastor When in the Hospital

There has been some confusion when people check in or go to the hospital. The hospital will **not automatically** inform your church, or pastor, that you are there unless it is specifically stated in your records. Furthermore, inform your family members to call your pastor. They can also contact the chaplain's office at the hospital and give them the information. Again, don't assume the hospital will do it, because they won't. You must be proactive to make sure your pastor is informed if you want him to come see you. Many times people are in the hospital and he has no idea they are there.

ASSISTING FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

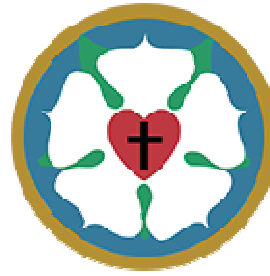
Acolytes: *Ushers*

Altar Guild: *Dave & Jamie Werner*

Finance: *Judy Bishop & Karen Kmosena*

Worship Assistants for January

Sunday, Jan 1	Elder: Ray Tousey
	Greeters:
	Ushers: <u>Team 4</u>: Chuck Perenchio-Captain, Sam Barg, Dave Werner, John Monnier, Gene Zillmer
Sunday, Jan 8	Elder: Randy Scott
<i>Caring & Sharing</i>	Greeters:
	Ushers: <u>Team 5</u>: Jim Kuchta-Captain, Gary Drohman, Don Josi, Dave Thompson, Russ Thompson
Sunday, Jan 15	Elder: Randy Scott
<i>LWML</i>	Greeters:
<i>Mites In</i>	Ushers: <u>Team 1</u>: Dave Scott-Captain, Dave Kuchta, Tom Rosolowski, Vic Plockelman, Stu Pask
<i>Gathering</i>	
Sunday, Jan 22	Elder: Tim Dolan
<i>Stewardship</i>	Greeters:
	Ushers: <u>Team 2</u>: Dave Kmosena- Captain, Terry Schar, Mike Kuchta, Jim Rodd, Lee Purdy
Sunday, Jan 29	Elder: Sam Barg
	Greeters:
	Ushers: <u>Team 3</u>: Dennis Flater Captain, Bob Hauser, Alden Hook, Ray Tousey, Kurt Harris



What Luther says:

In someone's book, probably a copy of the Bible, Luther once wrote the following comment on John 10:28.

Let Him see and care where my soul will stay who has so faithfully provided for me that He has sacrificed His life in order to redeem my soul. Praise to Him throughout eternity, to the one true and faithful Shepherd and Bishop of all souls that believe on Him! Moreover, He will not even begin to learn from me how to preserve and protect the poor souls who hear and heed His voice against the power of the devil and the wickedness and tyranny of the world. (WLS p. 324)

At the court of Abimelech Isaac passed off his wife as his sister because he feared for his safety (Genesis 26:9). Yet in the light of God's promise he had no need to resort to a lie. But his faith weakened, and he began to doubt. In his lecture on this story Luther says that this is exactly the trouble with all who question the clear promise of God's saving love. The Reformer's monastic superior once told him that this was his (Luther's) trouble too.

Staupitz consoled me with these words: Why do you torture yourself with these speculations? Look at the wounds of Christ and at the blood He shed for you; from these your election will shine forth. Therefore we must hear the Son of God, who was sent into the flesh and has appeared for the purpose of destroying the work of the devil and making you certain of your election. So He tells you: "You are My Sheep because you hear My voice; and no one shall pluck you out of my hands." (John 10:28) (WLS p. 460)



Happy January! What an exciting time of year for our Preschoolers! With our recent storms, we haven't been able to get to our playground-which disappoints them, but they can't wait to play on the hills! Hopefully the hills don't get too much taller!

Our Bible lessons for January will be about the Shepherds going to Bethlehem and about Jesus growing as a child.

Our themes for January will be winter and Dinosaurs.

We will also be welcoming two new students in January-which means we will need one more Bible buddy for a little girl. Please consider being a buddy for the rest of the school year.

Don't forget to stop in to say hi or read us a story!

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article

'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” (Acts 20:35)

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself ó sparing not even His life in death ó in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives ó without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> No Sunday School	2 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 11:30AM Ladies Birthday Luncheon	3 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:00PM BOCE/YM	4 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	5 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	6	7
8 Caring and Sharing 8:00AM Finance 9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) & Installation of Officers <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 11:15 Elder meeting	9 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	10 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	11 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 11:30AM Evangelism/Stewardship 1:00PM Ladies Group 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	12 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	13	14 10:00AM LWML Bible Study
15 LWML Mites Ingathering 9:00AM Worship <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	16 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	17 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 1:00PM FAP Quilt Guild 6:00PM Council	18 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	19 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	20	21 10:00AM-noon Crafty Stitchers
22 Stewardship Sunday 9:00AM Worship +HC (Youth Acolyte) <i>Bible Study after worship</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School	23 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	24 8:30-11:30AM Preschool NEWSLETTER ITEMS ARE DUE TODAY	25 8:30-11:30AM Preschool 6:30-7:15PM Confirmation	26 7:00AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Ladysmith Family Restaurant 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	27	28
29 9:00AM Worship <i>No Bible Study</i> 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School Voter's Annual Meeting	30 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	31 8:30-11:30AM Preschool	Everything is subject to change. Please check our website (www.stjohnsladysmith.org), Facebook, and/or phone the Church office 715-532-5780.			



Physically and Spiritually Feeding Children in Lima, Peru

Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru La Mision Luterana del Peru — \$56,750

2021–2023 Biennium
Mission Goal:
\$2,150,000
Mission Grant #17
\$56,750

For I was hungry and

you gave me food.

I was thirsty and you

gave me drink.

I was a stranger and

you welcomed me

(Matthew 25:35).

Castillo Fuerte Mercy House is the mercy arm of La Mision Luterana del Peru, the national Lutheran Mission of Peru. They provide for the physical and spiritual needs of children who are struggling to survive in one of the poorer districts in Lima, Peru. This grant will help provide food and supplies for this ministry.

Castillo Fuerte Mercy House is surrounded by families who struggle to provide for the basic needs of life. The parents are hardworking people who work long hours with very low pay and the children are often left on their own.

The LCMS missionaries started reaching out to these children at the local park after receiving the city's approval to use the park for church programs. This developed into the Castillo Fuerte Mercy House and a church plant where missionaries provide after school tutoring, educational classes, a soup kitchen, as well as lessons about who Jesus is and what He has done for their salvation.

Castillo Fuerte provides a safe place for the children to grow both physically and spiritually. They provide a healthy lunch for children each weekday. Castillo Fuerte has daily chapel time and catechism classes during the week. The missionaries are teaching the children to pray, memorize Scripture, and to talk about all that God has done for them.

The ministry began by serving the needs of the children. Through the children, missionaries are able to learn about the difficult situations at home and the physical and emotional needs of their parents. Castillo Fuerte has been able to provide the services of a social worker, psychologist, health professionals, and trained teachers to meet the needs of the parents and children.

The children provide an open door to reach out to the parents and share the Gospel of Christ.

La Mision Luterana del Peru is also reaching out to Venezuelan refugees in the city of Lima who have fled their country to escape violence and political persecution or because of lack of food, medicine, and essential services. There are over 377,000 Venezuelan refugees living in the city. When they arrive, they find themselves with no money, no work, no place to live, and no friends or contacts to help them. La Mision Luterana has opened their doors to the refugees and help them find shelter, food and adjust to a new life in a new country.

This grant will help finance the work of Castillo Fuerte Mercy House and La Mision Luterana del Peru as they reach out to help with the physical and spiritual needs of children and adults in Lima, Peru.

For more information, go to misionluterana.com.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants





Physically and Spiritually Feeding Children in Lima, Peru

Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru La Mision Luterana del Peru — \$56,750

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Prayer 1

Dear Lord, be with the children who seek to find You at La Mision Luterana and the Castillo Fuerte Mercy House. Let the workers reflect You and Your love for them as they reach out to serve these, Your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Prayer 2

Dear Lord, we come before You today to ask Your blessing and guidance as we reach out to the children and, through the children, to their parents in Lima, Peru. May our humble acts of meeting their physical needs teach them about You and Your saving grace. In Christ we pray, Amen.

Prayer 3

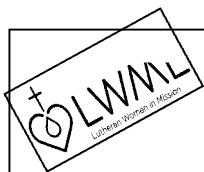
Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the mite offerings that help to support the children who come to La Mision Luterana and Castillo Fuerte Mercy House in Lima, Peru. Please be with the missionaries as they show the love of Christ through the services they provide to children and adults in need. Bless their work. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer 4

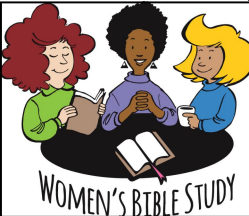
Dear Jesus, bless the work of La Mision Luterana and Castillo Fuerte Mercy House. The missionaries are reaching out in love to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of children in Lima, Peru. Please continue to bless them and all Your children in need, with food for their bodies and the Bread of Life for their souls. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants





Saturday, January 14, 2023 10:00AM LWML
Bible Study. "Dilemmas and Decisions" found on
Page 15 of the Winter 2022
edition of the Lutheran Women's
Quarterly. All women of St. John's are invited
to attend,



Ladies! Birthday lunches aren't just for birthdays; of course birthdays for the month are celebrated, but also it gives us an informal excuse to get together with our sisters in Christ to form bonds and friendships. No invitation needed!

Birthday Mondays!

Monday, **January 2nd** at
11:30 a.m. at the Ladysmith
Family Restaurant.
All are welcome!





Men's Bible Study will be on
Thursday, January 12th &
26th; 7:00AM at the
Ladysmith Family Restaurant.

**The *Next* Caring and Sharing Sunday
is **January 8th****

**This is your opportunity to show you care
for the hungry in our community by making a donation
to the Hope Food Pantry or show your concern
for the hungry children in our community by making
a donation to the
Back Pack Program.**



Mites are collected on the third Sunday of each month! Simply deposit your donation in the large mite box when you come to worship. These mites continue to fund district and national mission projects. Check the LWML bulletin board for details on some of those projects. Please let Amy Tousey or Paula Hook know if you have any questions.

Rada Knives

If you are interested in purchasing Rada Knives, please contact Lorraine Flohr at 715-532-5095

All proceeds go to the St. John's Ladies Aid.

Orders are processed quickly! *They make great Christmas and wedding gifts.*

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

- ♦ Aluminum cans for
Preschool
- ♦ Canceled Stamps (LWML)
- ♦ Greeting cards
- ♦ Used eye glasses



Please, leave only
aluminum cans! We
cannot take aluminum
foil, plates, etc.;
aluminum cans only!
Thanks for your
assistance.

Submit Your Information!

ITEMS FOR BULLETINS are due on Tuesday by close of day each week (unless indicated otherwise in bulletins due to holidays). *Newsletter items are due* in the office no later than close of day on the Tuesday preceding the last Sunday of the month.

E-mail to: stjohnladysmith@centurylink.net
(preferred method).

Don't forget that **LARGE PRINT**
bulletins and **newsletters** are available
for those who need them. ***Contact the***
office to get your name on the list!





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tami Kraft, Jean Seifert
- 2 Andrew Fredrick, Kelli Grotzinger
- 4 Bob Hauser
- 5 Cheri Lee
- 6 Brady Bishop
- 7 Christine Rosolowski
- 10 Janet Witt
- 14 Amy Baars
- 15 Dallas Zunker
- 19 Gary Drohman
- 20 DeDe Bishop, Mark Grabowski
- 22 Randy Scott
- 24 Luke Harris, Dana Hauser
- 25 Jack Canfield
- 27 Lisa Gleason
- 28 Deb Zillmer



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Katie & Breyen Canfield
- 8 Chuck & Marie Perenchio
- 11 Ken & Denise Webster

1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2