





JUNE 2025/JULY 2025

THE CROSS CONNECTION

News and Happenings for the "Connected-Compassion" Community

A publication of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Light of Christ Chinese Ministry, and Immanuel Lutheran School

CONTACT US

314-993-2394 9733 Olive Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63132 Pastor Karg rkarg@immanuelolivette.org

Church Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturdays - 5:00 pm

Sundays - 8:00 am and 10:30 am

(also Live Streamed on YouTube)

Holy Communion served 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays each month

Sunday School Sundays - 9:20-10:15 am

Bible Classes Sundays—9:30-10:15

Light of Christ Worship

Sundays—10:30 am (also Live streamed on <u>YouTube</u>)

Holy Communion served 1st & 3rd Sundays each month

CONNECT WITH US









Immanuel Lutheran Church-Olivette

VBS!

Immanuel's Vacation Bible School, an "Epic Australian Adventure!" will run Monday through Friday, June 16-20, from 9 to 11 am. VBS is for children ages 3 (who have been potty trained) up through those entering 5th grade. There is no fee for attending VBS. However, there will be an offering basket at the registration table, with donations going towards Concordia Gospel Outreach, which sends books to children and families who haven't heard the Gospel.



Sign up here:

Note: Children who are enrolled in Immanuel's Summer Camp that week do not need to register as they will automatically be attending VBS.





PASTOR

Rev. Rory Karg 314.761.5523

DEACONESSES

Kan Hsu, Helen Zhang SCHOOL FACULTY

Christine Nixon- Principal

Adam Schoedel- Grade 8

Brenda Hente – Grade 7

Jamie Hart- Grade 6

Clayton Erdmann- Grade 5

Rachel Larson- Grade 4

Lori Steingraber- Grade 3

Chris Meyr- Grade 2

Hailey Cole-Grade 1

Lisa Mull- Kindergarten

Bethany Greatens- Pre-Kindergarten

Cheri Fitzgerald- Preschool

Anna Iannucelli- Jr. Preschool

Adam Schoedel- Athletic Director

Keith Huckshold-Algebra Teacher

ELDERS

Head Elder - Todd Mirly

Zone 1 (A-B) - Luke Burkemper

Zone 2 (C-F) - Jeff Nixon

Zone 3 (G-I) - Jacob White

Zone 4 (J-L) - Drew Hackmann

Zone 5 (M) - Tim Schaff

Zone 6 (N-R) - Todd Mirly

Zone 7 (S) – Bump Trower

Zone 8 (T-Z) - Peter Seddon

STAFF

Connie Baur – Business Administrator

Helen Zhang-Light of Christ Secretary

Ksenia Mirly-School Secretary

MUSIC MINISTRY

Paul Snyder- Worship Coordinator & Choir Director

FIELDWORKERS

Andrew Cole, Ethan Luft, Steve Steingraber, Abram Egger

VICARS

Joshua Horst, Nan Tian

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Neal Niewald-President

Brian Bunte— Vice President

Natalie Oleshchuk – Secretary

Gregg Knehans- Treasurer

Joan Marek - Financial Secretary

Bethany Greatens-Sunday School Superintendent

Todd Mirly- Elders Board Chairman

Curtis Niewald– School Board Chairman

Jerry Watkins- Stewards Board Chairman

Beth Carter— Parish Education Chairman

CO-EDITORS

Rita Eckert

Katie Krenning

OFFICIAL ACTS

RECEIVED BY TRANSFER

Bill & Kathy Schmelder, Jr. from Divine Shepherd, Omaha, NE

ADULT BAPTISM

Joan Yielding on 3/19/25

BAPTISMS

Otto Meyr on 3/9/25

Chloe Eaton on 3/9/25

Oliver Horst on 4/13/25

RELEASED

Ryan Ludwinski to Bethany Lutheran, Naperville, IL

Rev. Alex & Vicki Schrader (Erik, Sophia, Leo) to Our Savior Lutheran, Armada, MI

> Rick Stelzer to King of Kings Lutheran, Chesterfield, MO

CONFIRMATION CLASS

John Appelbaum

Carter Casey

Carmen Farra

Timo Finnegan

Audrey Haines

Steven Klein

Caleb San

Emma Weinstein

Connor Wells

Elliott Willerton

DECEASED

Dorothy Hanske on 3/20/25

ARTICLE DEADLINE

July 13 for AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

Articles can be placed in the Anchor Mailbox in the fellowship hall or e-mailed in a Microsoft Word document type format (*.doc) to anchor@immanuelolivette.org

FROM THE PASTOR

"This is the day that the Lord has made..." Psalm 118:24

365—Three hundred sixty-five. No matter where we are at in the 365 days that God graciously provides for us each year, most all of us agree that "Time flies," "Time is fleeting," "Time marches on" and most of all "Time is

precious." Time is a precious gift from the Lord. Each day is something to rejoice in; a twenty-four -hour period to put to productive use; one thousand four hundred forty minutes to give thanks for. How will you use your precious time this summer? For what will you rejoice and be glad?

Certainly, summertime gives us much that we can be about; a time of rest and relaxation is certainly a gift for the benefit of our body and spirit. Summer can be an opportunity to spend a little extra time with children and grandchildren: exploring, having fun and making memories together. Some of us might use warmer temps and longer daylight to make some lifestyle changes:



getting up earlier, taking a walk together, exploring a new hobby or renewing an old one. Certainly, the possibilities are endless. And while we strive to make the most of the precious time that we have been given, don't forget to take some of that time weekly to renew your soul and be assured of the daily life and forgiveness that is yours in Jesus. Daily life in Jesus to which we can say, "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

This is the day which the Lord has and be glad in it

Speaking of time this summer, here is how our Junior and Senior High Youth will spend some of their time.

Our Junior High youth will be heading to Camp Trinity for our annual Confirmamade; let us rejoice tion Camp, June 8-13. As always it is a week-long overnight camp where we cover the Ten Commandments in our curriculum. Along with instructional periods each day, there are organized games and activities as well as free time that includes swimming,

fishing, canoeing, and general exploring of the camps activities.

July 18-24, nineteen of our Immanuel and Light of Christ Senior High Youth will attend the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. This event is held every three years and brings together youth and their leaders from across the United States and from around the world. The Gathering runs from July 19-23, and offers a number of Bible study opportunities, topical speakers and daily mass (20,000 plus) gatherings in the Super Dome. Our youth will also have the opportunity to participate in an on-site service project and do some local exploring and sightseeing.

No matter how you spend your time this summer, remember it is all a gift from God; may we graciously use it to His honor. After all, "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

~ Pastor Karg

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Partnering with Families to Prepare God's Children for the Future

ILS Olivette's Vision is to lead students to seek and know their identity in Christ, develop a continual love of learning, and live fully redeemed lives serving others.

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Rom. 12:10.

To God be the Glory! Another school year has flown by with many blessings for which I am thankful. With Christ at the center of all we do, our school year was filled with special experiences and times of growth and community. A recent example of this was when the entire school body participated in our musical - *The Greatest Hymn on Earth*. Knowing our students have reassuring promises from God in their hearts, by singing and learning special hymns, is one of the many reasons we are here.

Our experiences this year flourished. The activities and sports offered ways for students to work as a team, learn strategies and build confidence. Younger students had the opportunity to play basketball and soccer, and run cross country. Immanuel Our hosted an area-wide Chess Tournament, and our Track and Field team grew. Two 7th grade students, Connor Hart and Grant Hellert, took first in the LSAM State Meet for their events in the 1600m run and shot put, respectively. The LHSN Academic Fair, tournaments, and other exciting activities all highlighted the year.

Immanuel families were involved and engaged with several events throughout the year. Examples include our Early Childhood International Night and the Christmas Walk. At the International Night, different cultures and their traditions, foods, clothing and games were



Immanuel Lutheran School Olivette. Missouri 2024-2025

celebrated. The Christmas Walk shared the good news of Jesus' birth. Mrs. Meyr's second grade students hosted a special Animal Night, and our Grandparents/Special Persons Day with breakfast and worship was a blessing as students took their guests around the campus. The East Building invited families for a Reading Night as students would follow their course to hear stories and do an activity together. And who can forget the fun field trips like the Arch, zoo, art museum, BizTown, Botanical Gardens, and our outdoor education? PSCE provided informational meetings, the Trivia/Auction, Son + One, Ties and Tiaras, and student pizza Fridays. Many thanks to our teachers and staff for their daily care and guidance working with students. Immanuel truly is a special place!

Our theme verse from Hebrews reminded us to continue to run with confidence the race set before us. Despite challenges, we know with perseverance and faith in Christ we remain focused on what lies ahead. He is always here to guide and lead us. This is only strengthened by our weekly chapels, devotions, Bible lessons and time together in prayer.

It is a blessing to serve Christ at Immanuel. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the ministry as we share Jesus' love with others.

In His Faithful Service.

Christine Nixon

Principal

WE BID FAREWELL

We bid farewell and thank you to our 4th grade teacher, Rachel Larson, who is venturing to new and exciting things.

Rachel's fiancé, Nathan, is a second-year student at Concordia Seminary studying to become a pastor. On Call Day, Nathan was placed at Hanover Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He will start his vicarage placement at the end of July. Rachel will be working at one of the local Lutheran Schools in the Cape Girardeau area next school year. They are getting married on June 14th and plan to spend time together and with friends and family this summer before they move to Cape Girardeau for the next year.

We pray God's blessings and protection on Rachel and Nathan's new adventures and life together!

8TH GRADE CLASS OF 2025

On May 22, 2025, the class of 2025 graduated from Immanuel Lutheran School. We congratulate and celebrate with these students on a job well done. We know God has amazing plans for their future. May He continue to bless and guide them in all ways.

John Applebaum - Lutheran High South

Carmen Farra - Visitation Academy

Avery Fitzgerald - Pattonville

Audrey Haines - Lutheran High St. Charles

Steven Klein - Lutheran North or Lutheran South

Marcus Penny - McCluer North

Charles Thurnau - Parkway North

Harper Towl - Visitation Academy

Elliott Willerton - Fort Zumwalt North



ILS ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to the following Immanuel School graduates on their achievements at Lutheran High School-St. Charles.

John Gong is a Bright Flight Scholar, the LHS St. Louis Post Dispatch Scholar Athlete, the District High Medalist in Scholar Bowl, and earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. John will study Biochemistry at Purdue University.

Evan Jander has enlisted in the US Marine Corps with plans to pursue Avionics. He will report to Camp Pendleton in San Diego in August to begin Recruit Training.

Ella Krenning was a member of the Class 4 Volleyball 3rd Place finish at State and received a First Team American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) award for the Best and Brightest. She has earned All-State, All-Region, and All-District honors for soccer. Ella will study Aviation at Purdue University.

Grace Schaff is a Missouri 100 Scholar, a Bright Flight Scholar, a National Merit Commended Scholar, the Gordon Bredow Christian Athlete of the Year, was a 4-sport athlete and a 4-time All-State runner, was both the Science and Social Studies Outstanding Departmental Student, and received the AAUW STEM award and the 4th quarter Character Award. Grace will go to the University of Memphis to study Biomedical Engineering, American Sign Language, and run cross country and track.

Talya Williams is an A+ Program Scholar and created the cover design for the LHS Graduation Program. Talya will attend St. Charles Community College.

Congratulations to Immanuel School graduate Riley Ballenger, rising senior at Lutheran High School North, upon receiving the 2025 Outstanding Student Leader Award, sponsored by the St. Louis County Executive's Office. Riley was also elected president of the Lutheran North chapter of National Honor Society.



Happening at Light of Christ - God Works in Amazing Ways!

My name is Vanessa. I grew up in a Buddhist family. Although I was exposed to Christianity when I was an exchange student in a high school and attended a local Chinese church every week, I couldn't understand the Bible at that time. I was gradually led away from God after returning to China.

Praise be to God! It wasn't until we came to St. Louis as a family that God has allowed us to get to know Him better through our 5-year-old son, Donnie. Last summer, Donnie was enrolled in Immanuel's summer camp with the simple idea that it would be good for him to go to a summer camp where he could play with children and practice his English, since he had just arrived in the U.S. I didn't expect that this summer camp would completely change Donnie's "direction in life". From then on, he would often come home and draw pictures of churches, crosses, Jesus, and so on. I was surprised and amused.





What's even more amazing is that from that point on, Donnie's pursuit of God was overwhelming. He began to ask all kinds of questions, such as "Where is God?" "Why was Jesus crucified?" "Will God forgive bad people when they repent?" I was amazed and touched when I listened to him, thinking that this child's faith was really adorable and innocent, which also shows in his prayers. God has brought our family's devotional life together and made us closer as a family. Every night before bedtime, we would sit together and read the Children's Bible, discussing it and answering Donnie's "weird" questions. We would also pray together.

What touched me even more was that when Donnie was on video calls with my parents in China, he would often mention God and the Bible stories. He would sing the songs he had learned from the choir for my parents. He would tell them, "Grandma and grandpa, everything in heaven and on earth is made by God", and he would ask them to go to church and offer to bring his Children's

Bible to China to show them. This made me realize that trusting in God doesn't need complicated logic; it is sometimes revealed in the simplicity and sincerity of a child.

As for my parents, since they have always believed in Buddhism, they might have been a bit resistant if I had shared the Gospel with them directly. Thanks be to God that He always accomplishes His will in His unique ways. Through Donnie's simple words and pure faith, God allows them to hear the Gospel. One day, my mom even took the initiative to send me a small WeChat video about the origin of the Bible. I was shocked, so I double-checked who sent it - it was indeed my mom! It was something I couldn't have imagined in any way! It's so amazing how God works! He knows how to draw people to Him in the most appropriate way.

God's love is so marvelous that because of Donnie's simple trust, our whole family experienced His grace together. May we all be able to simply trust and rely on God like little children; may God use each of our lives to bear good witness to Him.



OUR COMMUNITY



On Tuesday, June 3 at 6:00 pm, Women's Guild will close out the year with a yummy Cup-o'-Fruit dinner. All ladies are invited and asked to bring one cup of fruit (fresh or canned) to add to the salad bowl. The committee will provide sandwiches and dessert. Following a brief meeting, we will enjoy "Rob Your Neighbor" so bring along one or more wrapped white elephant gifts and look forward to leaving with a treasure or two!



MEN'S CLUB COOKOUT & WASHER TOURNAMENT

Our annual Men's Club Cookout and Washer Tournament will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd, beginning at 6:00 pm. We encourage all congregational men and current club members to join us for an evening of good food and socializing. Hope to see you there!

Men's Club does not meet in July or August and will resume their 1st Tuesday of the month meetings on September 2.



CHRISTMAS COTTAGE

Mark your calendar! Friday, December 5th, will be the 2025 Christmas Cottage. Many volunteers are needed!

The cottage is always accepting donations. Donations may include items to be sold, gift bags, bows, or financial support. Items may be placed in the plastic tub under the desk, near the lower elevator. We are keeping Christmas Christcentered, so no Santa items please.

Any questions, contact Pam Niewald 314-805-0716.



COMMUNITY CARE TEAM

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

The Community Care Team's 19th Annual School Supply Collection is supporting Immanuel Lutheran Day School, Lutheran North, Concordia Seminary, and Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA). The month of June we'll be in the atrium Sunday mornings between services to collect your donation and will continue receiving donations through July. Each year, we provide supplies for at least 100 students. As always, all Immanuel members are welcome to contribute to this collection, as all funds given will be used to offset the cost of the school supplies. Checks may be placed in the church offering or dropped off at the church office. Make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church and "CCT school supplies" in the memo section. Thank you for your continued generosity!

CCT will use our own funds to purchase \$2,500 of VISA gift cards for the four organizations we support. The gift cards will be purchased through our school's PSCE and used as follows:

\$1,000 gift card for Immanuel Lutheran Day School

\$500 gift card for Lutheran North Junior High School

\$500 gift card for Concordia Seminary

\$500 gift card for Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA)

The gift cards for Immanuel and Lutheran North will be given to them to purchase the supplies that they need most. The Community Care Team will purchase school supplies (\$500 each) and deliver to Concordia Seminary and CFNA.



Thank you to all in our Immanuel family who contributed to our Holy Week Collection to support the men in Peter and Paul Community Service's transitional housing program. These men are working hard to move from being totally unhoused to living in supporting housing, and eventually independent housing. Your cash contributions of \$1,520, plus items you all donated, added up to a total collection of the following:

30 each of pillows, shower curtains, and bath mats

35 Twin XL sheet sets

32 twin XL blankets

54 3-piece towel sets

These items will go a long way in setting up these men in their new living spaces. Thank you for partnering with the Community Care Team to connect our congregation's Christ-directed love and care to our friends at PPCS! Also, thank you to Diane Tallyn and Margaret Watkins for being such super shoppers. They enjoy hunting all over St. Louis and digitally, finding bargains on these items to ensure your contributions go as far as possible.

reach out in

compassion and care to those in

need in our

community in the name of

Christ.

IMMANUEL INBOUND

Our Inbound members love hearing from Immanuel!

June Birthday - Joan Gansman - Cards are due Sunday, June 8th. No postage necessary. Just place the card in the black mailbox in the atrium. Contact Diane Tallyn (cell 314-910-2032 or diane_tallyn@hotmail.com) with any questions.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you, Lutheran Women in Mission Prayer Service 2025 for your generous food pantry donations!

Non-perishable food pantry donations for the Concordia Food Bank and Harvey Komblum Jewish Food Pantry may be left any time on the food pantry table near the church elevator. A Food Pantry Wish List is available on the table. Travel size items are accepted. Contact Diane Tallyn (cell 314-910-2032 or diane_tallyn@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Thank You notes received:

"Hello Immanuel Lutheran,

I want to thank you for your gifts to the Seminary Food Bank. My name is Zeke Potts and I am in my first year at seminary. I have been learning so much and am thankful for my time here so far. I am also thankful for people like you who give so generously to the seminary. The food bank is a blessing to so many students and families including myself. May God bless your continued ministry.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalm 121:8)

God's Blessings,

Zeke Potts"

"Dear Saints of Immanuel,

Thank you so much for your contributions to Concordia Seminary's Food Bank! The food bank is such a blessing to all of the students here, including our family, and we are so grateful to you! It is a great comfort and joy to know that our extended church family cares for and supports future pastors in this way. Thank you again!

In Christ.

The Teggatz Family"

"To the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to the Food Bank at Concordia Seminary! Donations like yours allow Chris to be a full-time student while still allowing Abby to be a stay-at-home mom to our daughter, Hazel. God bless you all and the good work Christ is doing in your congregation!

Chris, Abby, and Hazel Atlee"



BOARD OF STEWARDS

Stewardship

Seems that when the word Stewardship is brought up in conversations, our human thoughts tend to head straight to money – treasures... don't they?? While money is important, it is only one of the 3 pillars of Stewardship.





Colossians 3:23 (NIV):

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

This verse encourages wholehearted dedication and excellence in all our efforts, viewing our work as service to God rather than merely to people.

Christian stewardship
is the theological belief
that humans are
responsible for
managing the
resources, time,
talents, and treasures
that God has entrusted
to them. It is rooted in
the understanding that
everything ultimately
belongs to God, and

people are caretakers

or "stewards" of His

creation.

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER OF FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Immanuel warmly invites you to participate in our Summer Sunday School and Bible Class for 2025. This enriching program is designed to bring our community closer together through collective study and reflection on God's Word.

Bible Class

Our Bible Class is a wonderful opportunity for individuals of all ages to deepen their understanding of scripture. The class will incorporate confirmation classes, high school class, Light of Christ English Bible Class, Women's Study, Families of Faith, and the Fellowship Hall Bible Class, providing a comprehensive learning experience. This study, *Heroes of the Faith*, led by Pastor Karg in the Fellowship Hall, is specially crafted to be suitable and engaging for all age levels.

Sunday School

For our younger children, ages 2 through 4th grade, Sunday School will meet in the 4th grade classroom (#203). Beth Greatens will organize and coordinate leaders for these sessions, ensuring a nurturing and educational environment for our children.

Schedule and Location

The summer session will begin on Sunday, June 1st, and will conclude on Sunday, August 24th. Classes will be held from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., between services, in these nearby locations to foster a sense of community and connection.

By combining classes for the summer and meeting in close proximity, we aim to strengthen Immanuel's community connection to Christ, allowing us to study God's Word together and grow in faith as a united congregation.

Join us this summer as together we experience spiritual growth, fellowship, and a deeper connection to our faith, proclaiming Christ crucified...for you...and risen...for you!

We look forward to seeing you there!

GREETERS LIST

Notes To Greeters:

Please note on your personal calendar, and trade with someone if you have a conflict. Badges are on the wall over the copier in the Volunteer Room. More Greeters are always welcome! Please call Judy Meyr (314-265-1182) if interested in this service to the Lord.

June 2025

Sun. 6/1: 8 am Ken & Rita Eckert

10:30 am Bill & Judy Budner

Sat. 6/7: 5 pm Mike & Mar Croxton Sun. 6/8: 8 am Brice & Lisa Williams

10:30 am John & Suzanne Domalewski

Sat. 6/14: 5 pm Sue Wyland & Betty Crane

Sun. 6/15: 8 am Natalie Oleshchuk

10:30 am Cheryl Lokke

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Sat. 6/21: 5 pm Leslie Elgert Sun. 6/22: 8 am Char Gordon

10:30 am Diane Tallyn

Sat. 6/28: 5 pm Ricci Grabski Sun. 6/29: 8 am Lois Stiegemeier

10:30 am Jerry & Margaret Watkins

July 2025

Sat. 7/5: 5 pm Leslie Elgert

Sun. 7/6: 8 am Bob & Angie Sudbring.

10:30 am Diane Tallyn

Sat. 7/12: 5 pm Becky Shaw

Sun. 7/13: 8 am Duane & Bette Bude

10:30 am Greg & Sherry Miller

Sat. 7/19: 5 pm Sue Wyland & Betty Crane

Sun. 7/20: 8 am Rae Mohrmann

10:30 am Cheryl Lokke

Sat. 7/26: 5 pm Ricci Grabski

Sun. 7/27: 8 am Brice & Lisa Williams

10:30 am Bill & Judy Budner

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00/10:50 Worship	2	3	9:30 Bazzar	5 9:30 Quilters	6	7
8 Pentecost 8:00/10:30 Worship	9	1 O	1 1 9:30 Bazaar	1 2 9:30 Quilters	13	5:00 Worship 14 Flag Day 5:00 Worship
15 Father's Day 8:00/10:30 Worship	16 9:00 VBS	17 6:30 Council	18 9:30 Вахиаг	19 9:30 Quilters	20	21
22 8:00/10:30 Worship	23	24	25 9:30 Bazaar	26 9:30 Quilters	27	28
29 8:00/10:30 Worship	30		day Morning Schedul nanuel: 8:00 a.m. Worshi 9:30 a.m. Sund 10:30 a.m. Worshi	Light of Christ: 10:30 a.m. Wership School		

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Connected	Compassion	1	2 9:30 Вадааг	3 9:30 Quilters	4 Independence Day	
6 8:00/10:30 Worship	7	8	9 9:30 Bazaar	1O 9:30 Quilters	11	1 2
13 8:00/10:30 Worship Cross Connect Deadline	14	15	16 9:30 Bazzar	17 9:30 Quilters	18	19
2O 8:00/10:30 Worship	21	22	23 9:30 Bazzar	24 9:30 Quilters	25	26
27 8:00/10:30 Worship	28	29	30 9:30 Bazaar	31 9:30 Quilters		