HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRY 2023-2024





MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (5TH-8TH GRADES) SUNDAYS 5-6:30PM HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (9TH-12TH GRADES) SUNDAYS 7-9PM

HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH >> 1427 HASLETT ROAD >> HASLETT, MICHIGAN 48840 517.339.8383 HASLETTCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG



REV. ERIN HEISLER
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CELL: 517.230.8713
FB: ERIN HEISLER
INSTAGRAM: @EEHEIS

My name is Erin Heisler. I am the Minister for Youth and Children Programs here at Haslett Community Church (HCC). Ordained in 2009, I am very excited for my 15th year in ministry at HCC! I completed my undergrad at Central Michigan University where I studied Child Development as well as Religion. I then attended Princeton Theological Seminary and completed a Master of Divinity as well as a Master of Arts in Youth Ministry. I feel deeply called to the work I do with students. My contact information is listed under my photo. I want you to feel comfortable reaching out anytime with questions, concerns, whatever. Texting is the quickest way to get a response from me, but call or email anytime as well. Feel free to follow me on social media to see the youth group information and photos that I post.

I like to support your students in all that they do: athletic teams, dance, clubs, musical endeavors, etc. Please share their sports, concert, recital schedules with me as you are able. I love to cheer them on in all they do, but I can't do it without your help.

Haslett Community Church belongs to the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination. You can read more about our church in this packet. In the UCC, churches all express their beliefs in ways as different and unique as each of us. Our denomination believes there is no one way to be Christian, there is no one way to worship, nor is there one statement of faith that we all have to agree with. I think our youth group here at HCC is a beautiful expression of the UCC, in that our youth come from all different churches & backgrounds. If, as parents, you ever have questions about the beliefs being expressed at youth group, please come to me. We always try to make sure there is space for every side of each issue to be expressed; and with our varied backgrounds it makes for very rich discussions.

This truly is a family ministry, most of what you will see planned for this year is not possible without your support. Parent/guardian/adult help is essential to our ministry. From driving for events, helping with mission trip fundraisers, to being additional adults in the building during events, we can't do this ministry without you.

We share information about our program through weekly emails, snail mail, our Remind texting app and social media. Fill out the registration form online (QR code on the opposite page) to get plugged in so you don't miss anything!

I am excited for the year ahead and hope that you and your students are too!

SAFETY:

HCC is committed to being a Safe Church, one where our youth and children are protected. We have a Safe Church policy that outlines the procedures we follow to ensure we are creating the best possible environment for our youth and children. Copies of this policy will be provided for any family interested.

Our top priority is to provide an environment that is free from any physical, psychological, or sexual abuse or neglect.

Both Rev. Betsy Aho, Pastor, and I, Rev. Erin Heisler, Minister of Youth & Children, have undergone background checks and fingerprinting (re-certified September of 2021). Any volunteer in our program is asked to complete our Safe Church Training.

As outlined in the policy, we make every effort to have two adults at any and all youth ministry events. New this year, we created the position of "Youth Group Mentor," which gives our HCC youth ministry alumni the opportunity to be the second adult at each youth group weekly meeting. These individuals will also complete Safe Church Training and undergo a background check.

I want you to know that your student's physical and psychological safety and well being is always my top priority. Our greater community has had too many instances of individuals preying on our young people. My ministry is rooted in building relationships with them, but I do so only with the blessing of the student's parent/guardian/adult. In addition to the Remind app, students often communicate with me through texting and social media, occasionally wanting to meet one on one. While I do hold everything they share with me confidential, if the health or safety of the student or another individual is a concern, I will share with the appropriate individuals (parent/guardian/adult, Rev. Betsy Aho, other authorities should the situation warrant). If you ever have a concern you are welcome to bring it to me or to Rev. Betsy Aho (phone: 517-339-8383 or email: aho.betsy@att.net)

One final thing, the events on this calendar are the official HCC sponsored youth ministry events. There are times that the youth organize gatherings themselves. I want you to know that I am rarely at the youth-organized events, nor do I even know that they are happening most of the time. It is wonderful that our youth love one another so much that they seek out other times to see and hang out together. I just wanted to be clear with parents that the events on this calendar are the only ones officially sponsored by the church and led by me.



PLEASE USE THE QR CODE OR LINK BELOW TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM & PARTICIPATION WAIVER FOR EACH STUDENT:

<u> 2023-2024 Youth Ministry Participation Form (jotform.com)</u>

WE BELIEVE THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS OVERCOMMUNICATION!

WE SEND INFORMATION IN THE MAIL, VIA EMAIL,
AND THROUGH TEXT REMINDERS
USING THE REMIND APP.
TO JOIN THE REMIND APP, PLEASE TEXT
THE FOLLOWING CODES TO THE NUMBER:
81010

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT CODE: @hccmspa
HIGH SCHOOL PARENT CODE: @hcchspa
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CODE: @hccmsyo
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CODE: @hcchsy

CONTACT ERIN IF YOU NEED HELP WITH THIS!

SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY

HCC'S YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ALL AND THERE IS NO FEE TO JOIN! OCCASIONALLY WE DO EVENTS THAT HAVE A PER PERSON COST TO THEM, BUT THAT WILL ALWAYS BE COMMUNICATED AHEAD OF TIME. EVERY YEAR, WE HAVE FAMILIES INQUIRE ABOUT OFFERING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF HCC'S MINISTRIES, SO WE SHARE THIS INFORMATION SIMPLY AS A WAY OF ANSWERING



THAT QUESTION. THIS QR CODE LINKS TO THE DONATE PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE, IF YOU FEEL SO INCLINED.



HOW PARENTS HELP:

OUR YOUTH MINISTRY RELIES ON THE HELP FROM PARENTS/GUARDIANS/ADULTS IN MANY WAYS!

SECURITY: YOUTH GROUP TAKES PLACE IN THE BASEMENT AT CHURCH, SO ON SUNDAYS, WE ASK FOR A PARENT VOLUNTEER TO BE OUR SECURITY GUARD, MONITORING THE UNLOCKED



UPSTAIRS DOOR DURING YOUTH GROUP.

OR CODE ABOVE LINKS TO SIGN UP (CLICKABLE LINK).

SNACKS/DINNER: WE ASK MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES TO

TAKE TURNS BRINGING A SNACK FOR YOUTH GROUP AND HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES TAKE TURNS BRINGING DINNER (OFTEN PIZZA) FOR YOUTH GROUP.



QR CODE TO RIGHT LINKS TO SIGN UP. (CLICKABLE LINK).

TRANSPORTATION: FOR ANY YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT THAT TAKES PLACE OFF SITE (NOT AT HCC), WE ASK PARENTS TO VOLUNTEER TO DRIVE. OUR SAFE CHURCH POLICY, AND OUR CHURCH'S INSURANCE COMPANY REQUIRES THAT ALL DRIVERS BE OVER THE AGE OF 21. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CANNOT DRIVE THEMSELVES AND/OR FRIENDS FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS.

<u>CHAPERONES</u>: FOR OVERNIGHTS/LOCK-INS, RETREATS & MISSION TRIPS ADULT VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AS WELL. MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 21.



HASLETT COMMUNITY
CHURCH (HCC) IS AN
OPEN AND AFFIRMING
CHURCH. WE STRIVE FOR
HCC & HCC YOUTH GROUPS TO BE PLACES
WHERE ALL FEEL WELCOMED, SAFE AND
AFFIRMED AS BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD.



youth on a

MISSION

haslett community church



1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2016

2017

2017

2018

2019

2022

2023

WHERE WE'VE BEEN



Cedartown, Georgia Benton Harbor, Michigan White River, Arizona Lansing, Michigan Montreal, Quebec Sault Ste Marie, Michigan Pine Ridge, South Dakota Benton Harbor, Michigan Baldwin, Michigan New Orleans, Louisiana Cheboygan, Michigan Monessen, Pennsylvania Chicago, Illinois Immokalee, Florida Sault Ste Marie, Michigan Detroit, Michigan Camden, New Jersey Cleveland, Ohio Washington D.C. St. Louis, Missouri Quad Cities, Iowa Lexington, Kentucky Detroit, Michigan Houston, Texas Rockford, Illinois Milwaukee, Wisconsin Nashville, Tennessee

There has been a longstanding tradition at Haslett Community Church of high school youth serving on week-long summer mission trips. On these trips our youth and chaperones go all across the country, to cities near and far, to serve. These trips are filled with hard-work, but are also rich experiences where youth get to know people and places often very unlike the community they have grown up in. Each trip is very different; from the type of work that we do, to the places we stay and of course the people we meet, but one thing's for sure none of us return home the same.

Our mission trip tradition began in the summer of 1999 when 12 of us traveled down to Cedartown, Georgia. From that first trip, the congregation knew this was something that they would like to continue to support. A great deal of intentionality has gone into the mission trip tradition at HCC. Our staff, Youth Ministry Team (YMT), and the congregation all saw the great importance of serving communities both far away from Haslett, but also the ones in our own backyard. We are also committed to serving in the United States. We take seriously Jesus' call for disciples to serve to the ends of the earth, but we also are aware of the great need right here in our U.S. communities

Through these 27 trips, we estimate that we have sent over 730 participants over a total of 28,100 miles!

One final word about these trips. Our staff, Youth Ministry Team, and the congregation are all committed to keeping the cost low for families. These trips are incredible experiences where youth (and adults) not only learn about others, but they learn a great deal about themselves and they grow deeply in their faith. For that reason, HCC never wants cost to prohibit someone from going on the trip. We offer scholarships for youth (in any amount) so that each and every youth who feels called to serve on one of these trips has the opportunity. BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP! We need ALL of our youth AND their families to help plan and work the fundraisers that these trips require!



WHILE WE CAN'T YET SHARE THE DESTINATIONS FOR OUR 2024 MISSION TRIPS, WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO SHARE THAT OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WILL EACH HAVE THEIR OWN MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER! THERE WERE SPECIAL PARTS OF HAVING THE GROUPS TRAVEL TOGETHER, BUT WE HOPE THAT MORE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS WILL FEEL EMPOWERED TO GO ON THIS YEAR'S SHORTER AND CLOSER TO HOME TRIP.

THE HIGH SCHOOL TRIP WILL BE JUNE 22ND-29TH, WITH MISSION TRIP SUNDAY BEING SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP WILL BE JULY 28TH-AUGUST 1ST.

DESTINATIONS FOR BOTH TRIPS WILL BE REVEALED SOON!

TN 2023 WF

NEEDED TO

FUNDRAISE

OVER \$12,215

MISSION TRIPS BY THE NUMBERS:

IN 2023 OUR NASHVILLE TRIP COSTS BROKE DOWN LIKE THIS:

(FOR 33 PARTICIPANTS)

TRANSPORTATION: \$6,300

PARTICIPANT FEE TO HOST ORGANIZATION & HOUSING: \$6,105

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE WEEK: \$3,410

FOOD: \$5,100

TRIP SHIRIS: \$2,500

FOR A TOTAL TRIP COST OF: \$23,415

FOR THAT TRIP WE HAD:

IS PARTICIPANTS PAY \$500 EACH: \$7,500

9 PARTICIPANTS PAY \$400 EACH: \$3,600

4 PARTICIPANTS ON A HALF SCHOLARSHIP: \$1000

AND 4 PARTICIPANTS ON FULL SCHOLARSHIPS.

TOTAL INCOMING PAYMENTS: \$11,200

HOW MUCH PARTICIPANTS PAY:

\$500 PER PERSON
ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS
ARE \$400 PER PERSON.

WE ALWAYS OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS
IN ANY AMOUNT. ALL FAMILIES HAVE
TO DO TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP
IS COMMUNICATE WITH ERIN.

YOU CAN SEE NOW WHY MISSION
TRIP FUNDRAISING IS SO
IMPORTANT AND WHY WE TRULY
RELY ON EVERYONE'S HELP
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

20233-2024 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

10TH PARENT/YOUTH WIFFLE BALL 5:30-7PM

HSYG 7-8PM, SENIORS 8-9PM

17TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

20TH CULVERS NIGHT 7-8:30PM

24TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

25TH BREAKFAST AT BLONDIES 10AM

30TH MS MARIOKARI TOURNAMENT 5-9PM

OCTOBER

1ST MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

3RD STH & 6TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

6TH BREAKFAST AT BLONDIES 10AM

8TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

13TH HOT COCOA FOR HOCO 7-7:45AM

14TH MS MOVIE NIGHT 7PM

15TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

17TH CULVERS NIGHT 7-8:30PM

21ST HS OVERNIGHT

22ND HAUNTED CORN MAZE (NO YGS)

23RD 9TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

29TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

ABBREVIATIONS KEY:

MS= MIDDLE SCHOOL

HS = HIGH SCHOOL

YG= YOUTH GROUP

NOVEMBER

STH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

8TH 7TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

11TH MISSION TRIPS REVEALS 4PM

12TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

19TH CHOPPED CHALLENGE (NO YGS)

21ST GAME NIGHT MS 7-9PM, HS 9-11PM

22ND BREAKFAST AT BLONDIES 10AM

26TH HANGING OF THE GREENS 4PM (NO YGS)

28TH 10TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

29TH 11TH & 12TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

DECEMBER

3PD MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM (SHOPPING)

9TH MOVIE NIGHT MS 6-8PM, HS 8-10PM

10TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

12TH 8TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

14TH CULVER'S NIGHT 7-8:30PM

17TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM (PARTIES)

24TH NO YGS

31ST NO YGS

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE! PLEASE WATCH THE MAIL, YOUR EMAILS, AND REMIND TEXT FOR CHANGES, ADDITIONS TO THE CALENDAR, & ANNOUNCEMENTS!

NO YGS MARCH 24TH OR 31ST

JANYARY

4TH 9TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

7TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

14TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

15TH DAY OF SERVICE 10AM-3PM

18TH HS 1/2 DAY LUNCH AT CANCUN 11AM

20TH TUBING @ HAWK ISLAND!

21ST MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

23RD STH 6TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

24TH CULVERS NIGHT 7-8:30PM

27TH-28TH WINTER RETREAT (ALL YOUTH)

28TH NO YGS

FEBRUARY

ICE SKATING TED

1ST 10TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

4TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

11TH SLEDDING AT MERIDIAN HILL (NO YGS)

16TH BREAKFAST AT BLONDIES 10AM

18TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG OVERNIGHT 7PM

20TH CULVER'S NIGHT 7-8:30PM

25TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

28TH 7TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS WILL GET ADDED TO OUR CALENDAR! WATCH EMAILS FOR INFO!

MARCH

3RD MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

STH 8TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

7TH 11TH GRADE DINNER 6-7:30PM

9TH ROAD RALLY

10TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

15TH MS OVERNIGHT

17TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

19TH CULVER'S NIGHT 7-8:30PM

APRIL

7TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

10TH SENIOR DINNER 6-8PM

14TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-4PM

18TH CULVER'S NIGHT 7-8:30PM

20TH MS THRIFTED PROM 8-10PM

21ST MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

26TH HS PAINTBALL OVERNIGHT

28TH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

MAY

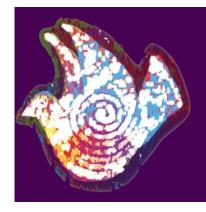
STH MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

9TH CULVER'S NIGHT 7-8:30PM

12TH LAST YGS MSYG 5-6:30PM & HSYG 7-9PM

17TH HS CAMPOUT AT HCC

19TH SENIOR FAREWELL



HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HASLETTCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

WE WANT YOUR WHOLE FAMILY TO FEEL WELCOME AT HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH!

AT HASLETT COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL OF US ARE ON A JOURNEY WITH AND TO GOD. IT'S A JOURNEY THAT'S WONDROUS, FRIGHTENING, AND JOYFUL. AS WE GO, WE NEED FRIENDS IN THE SPIRIT WHO CAN HELP US AND WHOM WE CAN HELP WITH GENEROUS GIFTS OF HONESTY, COMFORT, GUIDANCE, CHALLENGE, AND SUPPORT. WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY, WE WANT TO WELCOME YOU AS WARMLY AND AS TRULY AS JESUS CHRIST WELCOMES US.

COMMUNITY IS OUR MIDDLE NAME!

WHETHER YOU JOIN US FOR A WORSHIP SERVICE OR A SPECIAL EVENT,

THE FIRST THINGS YOU'LL EXPERIENCE AT HCC ARE OUR
WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE AND FAMILY-LIKE CONGREGATION.
WE HAVE MINISTRIES/PROGRAMS FOR FOLKS OF ALL AGES.
THERE ARE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED FOR JUST ABOUT ANY INTEREST YOU MIGHT HAVEFROM SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES TO CARE OF CREATION, MUSIC AND SINGING,
SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUPS, WE EVEN HAVE A KNITTERS GROUP!

COME DISCOVER HOW YOU FIT AT HCC!



WHAT WE BELIEVE:

WE STRIVE JOYFULLY AND PRAYERFULLY TO WARMLY WELCOME ALL, TO FREELY SHARE OUR BLESSINGS AND HUMBLY SHARE GOD'S LOVE. WE BELIEVE IN MAKING CHURCH A PLACE OF WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY, WHERE YOU CAN COME AND LEARN ABOUT FAITH AND PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP EVEN IF YOU ARE STILL FIGURING THINGS OUT. WE BELIEVE IN WELCOMING FAMILIES OF EVERY AGE AND SIZE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SOUNDS OF CHILDREN IN WORSHIP ARE THE SOUNDS OF A CHURCH WITH A FUTURE, SO WE OFFER NURSERY CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND ALSO INVITE CHILDREN TO REMAIN IN WORSHIP. WE BELIEVE WE EACH HAVE MUCH TO LEARN AND MUCH TO SHARE, SO WE OFFER SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS AND PARTICIPATE IN NUMEROUS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY. WE BELIEVE OUR BUILDING IS PART OF THE COMMUNITY, SO WE HOST NUMEROUS COMMUNITY GROUPS, IN ADDITION TO CHURCH FUNCTIONS, THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, AND WE HOST THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY YEAR ROUND. WE BELIEVE WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP GOD, PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, AND WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT MAINTAIN A LOVE FOR TRUTH, A PASSION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ENTHUSIASM FOR SERVICE. WE STRIVE TO DEEPEN OUR FAITH FAITH IN GOD, GROWN IN SERVICE TO CHRIST'S CHURCH AND THE WORLD, AND STRENGTHEN OUR BONDS WITH FRIEND AND STRANGER BY THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE. WE BELIEVE IN WELCOMING FRIEND AND STRANGER WITH THE SAME UNCONDITIONAL

WORSHIP TAKES PLACE SUNDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.!

WE ARE AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION, OUR BUILDING IS ACCESSIBLE, AND THERE IS PLENTY OF ONSITE PARKING.

F.A.Q.S

Does my student have to come every week?

NO! We know that students and their families are SO busy! Erin just wants students to know that they are welcome WHENEVER they can make it! We say that you're only a visitor once at our group, after that it's just as much your group as it is everyone else's, regardless of how often you attend!

Can my student bring a friend?

OF COURSE! Friends are ALWAYS welcome! For events that take place off-site (not at the church), it helps Erin to have a heads up so that we can be sure that we have the correct number of tickets or room in vehicles. If you know of a family that wants to get involved, feel free to share Erin's contact information or pass their information (emails, cell numbers) on to Erin so we can get them plugged in! Word of mouth is how we grow- so feel free to share about our group!

What does it cost to join?

NOTHING! There is no cost to be a part of our youth ministry. Some events that we do (like the haunted corn maze, laser tag, etc) have a cost, but we always communicate that well in advance. Our mission trips and weekend retreats also have a cost/participant as well. But we never want cost to prohibit someone from participating in anything that we do! Please communicate with Erin and we will cover the cost for your student, no questions asked.

What door should my student use when arriving at HCC?

All of our outer doors are numbered (1, 2 and 3). Students and families should plan on using door #1 (it is the door that is at the center of the building). Erin will send a Remind if a different door is in use for a particular event.

Can students drive themselves and/or friends for special events?

Our Safe Church Policy and our insurance company do not allow students to drive themselves and/or friends for special events. For any HCC event that requires transportation away from the church, all drivers must be over the age of 21 (so parent volunteers are ALWAYS appreciated).

Does Erin really have "favorites"?

A long-running joke in our ministry is that the youth try to be Erin's favorite (yes there are even shirts). It is just a joke that started years ago. Every single student in our program is Erin's favorite!

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT WITH ANY OTHER QUESTIONS THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE!