

# News from the Pews

July 2020



In early July, our nation celebrates Independence Day. And like most holidays, it is easy to lose sight of what the holiday is truly about. At national, or even religious holidays, we have a tendency to focus on the fact that we get extra time off of work, which gives us an opportunity to take a short vacation, or perhaps to spend some quality time with friends and family.

But Independence Day is a special day, and we should not lose sight of its meaning. On July 4, 1776, the greatest nation in the history of civilization was born. Our country was different from its very beginning. The idea of a democratic republic was a new one, and the American Experiment has worked out marvelously. America had a new approach to everything, from governmental structure, to economic policy, to foreign relationship attitudes, and to the place of religion in life. For all of the problems America has, it is still the greatest nation in the world to live in, and we are blessed to have an opportunity to do so. But something else should be said, and this is about the American idea of freedom. Freedom also is a blessing, within its proper perspective. Freedom from oppressive, tyrannical governments is truly a wonderful thing. But freedom to do anything and everything we want with absolutely no boundaries is not a good thing at all. Allowing our sinful nature to

run rampant and to govern our lives unchecked, in the name of freedom, will always lead to destruction. Sin by its nature destroys. That is the end game goal of Satan – to work through our sinful nature to bring about as much pain, destruction, and death to us and our world as he possibly can. At this extreme, freedom is not good.

However, this Independence Day season, the freedom we should give thanks for is the freedom won on the cross of Christ. Jesus' death and resurrection set us free from the bondage of sin. He set us free from a destiny that would have been defined by death. He has given us the certain hope of salvation from sin, pain, and death. We have been set free from the bonds of hate and selfishness, so now we can experience love, service, and selfishness, which brings us joy, peace, and true contentment. So, as you enjoy your holiday this year, remember that true freedom is not found in our world, but it is only found in Christ. Have a great July and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner



***In person services ...***

**9 and 10:30 a.m.**

**The flock has returned.**

***If you have not yet done so ...*** we are asking all who would like to attend worship, to call the office at

630-629-8765 and leave a voicemail as to your preferred attendance time, or to email me at [pastorwagner@trinitylombard.org](mailto:pastorwagner@trinitylombard.org) with your preference. This will allow us to manage attendance to ensure that we gather together in numbers that are responsible and in line with safe guidelines. \*Please let us know your desire for your worship time, or your willingness to worship at either service, before the first Sunday you plan to attend.

If you have already attended either the 9 or 10:30 service, please keep that same time frame for future attendance until we resume our "all together" service time.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED AND ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED. Please read Trinity's Guidelines for Reopening: <https://www.trinitylombard.org/church-reopening>.

**The 9 a.m. service continues to be livestreamed on [Facebook @TrinityLombard](#)** and on Trinity's website at [Trinitylombard.org](http://Trinitylombard.org). A downloadable order of worship is attached, and is also available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ya5c8qev>.

### **Facebook**

If you missed joining Trinity online for church this (or any) weekend, you can still take part. Relive the Sunday morning services, find the orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>. You'll find recent online Bible study videos there too.

Services and Bible classes air live on Facebook @TrinityLombard (<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>) and can also be viewed live at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/>. Worship is online each Sunday morning at 9 am. and Bible studies air each Thursday evening at 6 p.m. .



## *From the Principal's desk*

Trinity has been quite busy this summer. We have been tirelessly planning for the upcoming school year. As most of you are aware, Sue Gutwein retired at the end of the school year and we set to work filling her position. Deb Scott was brought in to teach first and second-grade. A few weeks ago, we let you know about her background in Lutheran schools.

Shortly after school let out for the summer, Amy Rittenhouse resigned her position as Kindergarten teacher. We thank Amy for her service to Trinity. This left us with another opening. And as He has done for Trinity so many times over the years, God knew and provided for our needs. James Baerenklau has agreed to be Trinity's fifth and sixth-grade homeroom teacher. James is coming to us from Immanuel Elmhurst. He has taught a variety of classes and coached numerous sports teams. Please help to make both of our new teachers, Deb and James, feel welcomed when you see them.

God has provided wonderful servants to Trinity. To meet the needs of the students, Deb Scott, who has had a lot of experience in teaching kindergarten in her career, agreed to teach kindergarten in the fall. First and second grade classes will be taught by Cindy Allor, who had taught these classes for many years prior to coming to Trinity. Pat Perez will return to the third and fourth grade classroom where we have become so accustomed to seeing her in during her career at Trinity.

**Julie Messina**

Principal, 7th & 8th Grade Teacher

[JMessina@trinitylombard.org](mailto:JMessina@trinitylombard.org)

630-627-5601 ext. 205



Graduates your families are proud of you. Your teachers are proud of you. Your church family is proud of you. Your commitment to following through, honors God.

## CONGRATULATIONS – TRINITY CLASS OF 2020

Trinity’s graduates were blessed to mark their special accomplishment with a small, closed in person ceremony on June 22. With only families and faculty in attendance, the Class of 2020 received their diplomas in a “socially distanced” service led by Principal Messina and Pastor Wagner, who reminded them that they are family and will always find a home here at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. View the ceremony on Facebook ([https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=570367147199554&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=570367147199554&ref=watch_permalink)) or YouTube (<https://youtu.be/G2ikryZuyvo>) or find the link at [www.TrinityLombard.org](http://www.TrinityLombard.org).



## SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp is in full swing at Trinity. After a long break from the classroom due to COVID-19. It is so great to be back. We have two separate classrooms with 9 campers in each,

so that we can practice social distancing by keeping our numbers small. In addition, we wear masks and sanitize frequently.

Our themes this year are science fun, desert



and reading stories by author/illustrator, Eric Carle and doing crafts/projects to go along with the stories. “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” is his most famous story. Following guidelines set by the CDC and IDPH to keep campers and staff safe, the most important direction is to *stay home if you do not feel well*.

Temperatures are taken upon entry of the building in the morning. Campers will be allowed to play outside during the day. Face coverings will need to be worn in the classrooms.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS...WHENEVER YOU WANT IT!

This year Trinity’s Vacation Bible School is conveniently planned to work around your family schedule and allows us to comply with current state requirements and guidelines for gathering together.

You will find Trinity’s 2020 Vacation Bible School, Rainforest Explorers, online, at [www.trinitylombard.org](http://www.trinitylombard.org). We encourage you to participate in the way that works best for your household, choosing to explore one VBS unit a day for a week, or one VBS unit a week over several weeks.

Parents or grandparents are encouraged to participate with younger children, while older students may be able to work through each

unit on their own. We think that all ages will enjoy being Rainforest Explorers while Jesus leads the way.

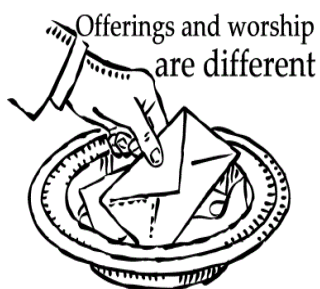
Each unit includes:

Crafts and snacks are designed to use materials and ingredients you probably have on hand at home – if not, the needed items are easy to find and inexpensive. There are also alternate ideas provided – and a lot of additional music-action videos.

Offerings to benefit this summer's Mission Partner, Mission Papua New Guinea, may be made online at <https://tinyurl.com/vbb68ns> or mailed to Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd., Lombard, IL 60148. PLEASE DESIGNATE AS "VBS MISSION" and make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Each unit includes:

- devotions by Pastor Wagner
- Bible verse
- action music video
- Bible Story lesson by Mrs. Messina
- craft with Miss Hannah
- easy-to-make snack
- coloring page
- science experiment
- and more!



CHURCH MIGHT LOOK DIFFERENT BUT IT IS THE SAME – HONORING THE SAME GOD

### ABOUT THOSE OFFERING ENVELOPES...

Perhaps you have noticed that your offering envelope box is almost empty. That's no problem because NEW offering envelopes for the year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, are now available. They are currently laid out on the tables at the east end of Trinity's parish hall

for pick up when you attend church. Trinity's Administrative Assistant, Sosana, is back in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., so if it is more convenient for you to drop by during the week to pick up your envelopes, she can get them for you.

If you really love your envelope number, you will be happy to know that you will have the same number this coming year. This also means that if there are a couple of envelopes left over from last year, and you haven't had a chance to pick up new ones, you could easily use an old one by simply crossing out the date and entering the current date.

If you are not yet able to attend services at Trinity and need your envelopes delivered, please let us know at 630.629.8765 or email [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org).



**Mary Martha meets one day a month, usually the first Thursday. Hopefully, we will resume meeting in September.**

In June, after what seemed to be a very, long time, nine of your sister's in Christ joined in an evening of fellowship. It's understandable that some of you were not yet ready to meet in person, but you were missed.

We enjoyed watching the Thursday evening Bible Study together, that Pastor does online. Afterward we sat outside talking and laughing, while eating pulled chicken, salad and lots more. Thanks to all for bringing dishes to share.

M/M will be engaging along with the rest of you, in the Bible Studies online, Thursdays at 6pm, during the summer months. This is in place of the usual summer studies offered for M/M.

Mary/Martha (which includes all women at Trinity) is an integral part of LWML. The function of LWML is to give women a greater opportunity to participate in mission efforts. It is not a fund raising organization, but receives mites, (small amounts of money) lovingly given by women who use “mite” boxes to contribute. The LWML has a Quarterly publication that you may request. In it, are relatable bible studies, and information about all of the thousands of mission efforts that Lutheran women across our nation have been a part of by being united together in mission through the LWML.



The following devotion is taken from the Quarterly.

### **THE FLAG OF FREEDOM: A Devotion on the Christian Flag**

*(from LWML – Lutheran Women in Mission)*

*Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:34-36*

Are you flying an American flag at home? Our country has been celebrating its freedom for 244 years. July has traditionally been one of the times we show our patriotism by flying our country’s flag. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States flag

has become a more prominent symbol of our nation’s unity and freedom. It proclaims to the world who we are and what we stand for as a free country.

The Church has its own flag, the Christian Flag, that proclaims to the world another type of freedom – the freedom we have from sin because of Christ, who died for all who believe in Him as their Savior. The Christian Flag often stands near the altar in churches in a place of honor for all to see. It, like the American flag, uses the colors of red, white and blue, with the cross being the focal point. In our Lutheran schools, the students say two pledges: the Pledge of Allegiance to our country and the pledge of allegiance to the cross of Christ.

We should boldly display the flag that represents the freedom that we receive through Christ. We should proclaim to the world that we have been freed from the slavery of sin and been declared children of God. Our God is alive and lives in our hearts.

How can we display our Christian freedom? We do this by displaying the cross of Christ in our homes; by wearing our cross around our neck and being ready to share what it stands for – our faith; by seeking every opportunity to be a witness for Christ. We can do this by sharing and living our faith each day. God’s own Son came to earth to set us free from sin and to make us a part of God’s family. He is with us and enables us to live our lives for Him.

Continue to display your American flag with thanksgiving because you have the privilege of living in this free country. But also remember the freedom you have in the cross you display and be ready to share the Good News of Christ with others. As Christians, we stand united by our freedom through faith in Christ for all the world to see. We have a reason to celebrate that freedom and to wave our flag proudly because we have victory in Christ!

*PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (United State of America)*

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands; one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Christian Flag)**

I pledge allegiance to the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and to the faith for which it stands; one Savior, eternal with mercy and grace for all.

If you would like a copy of the Quarterly, please feel free to:

Text Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 or call 630.620.0599 if you would like to know more about how Mary/Martha Women's fellowship serves the church or if you have any questions about how to get involved.

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**If you are in need...**



Trinity is partnering with nearby St. Pius Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in

their Food Pantries.. If **you, or if you know of any in the area who are in need of food**, call 630.300.4350. Leave a message with your name, phone number, address, and the number of people in household. You will receive a call back to arrange a date and time for a local Knights of Columbus volunteer to *deliver groceries*. Thank you to Trinity members Ron and Dawn Tyler for helping to set this up.

**Help at hand:**

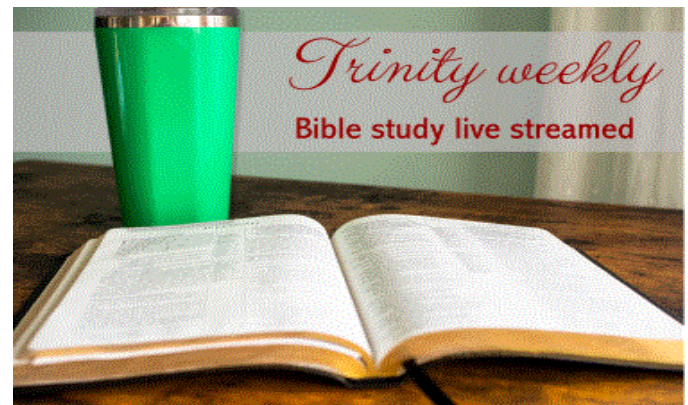
Trinity has helpers willing to run errands, prepare and deliver meals, and provide you with a fabric face mask if you don't have one. Please let us know if you are in need of these or other services. Email [Secretary@TrinityLombard.org](mailto:Secretary@TrinityLombard.org) or leave a voicemail message at 630.629.8765.

Even at those times when Trinity's office must be closed, you can still be connected.

Trinity's primary email address, [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org) is regularly monitored and voicemails left at 630.629.8765 are listened to. News from Trinity community is distributed via email (**do we have your current email address?**), Trinity's website – [www.TrinityLombard.org](http://www.TrinityLombard.org), and social media sites – Facebook [www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard](http://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard) and Instagram [www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard](http://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard). School families keep up to date with the JupiterEd app.

.....If you ever have a critical need, please let Trinity know so that they can connect you with appropriate help and resources

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*Studying God's Word together is important!* Pastor offers Online Bible Study, Thursdays at 6 p.m. LIVE on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard) or email questions by noon on Wednesdays, to [Secretary@TrinityLombard.org](mailto:Secretary@TrinityLombard.org) .

Pastor Wagner welcomes any of your Bible related questions. \*You can interact online as the study is going on. You can also view it on the internet using [www.TrinityLombard.org](http://www.TrinityLombard.org)

. View Pastor on utube video invitation here: <https://youtu.be/yIOy8iOr0U4>

\* All are welcome to participate – live interaction is only through Facebook

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### Trinity's Youth Group and NEW Young Adult Group are online

Get up to date information on the Youth group from Scott Gronwold at [sjohn75@gmail.com](mailto:sjohn75@gmail.com) and the NEW Young Adult group from Hannah Solyom at [hannahsolyom@yahoo.com](mailto:hannahsolyom@yahoo.com).



### NEW Trinity Tech and Communications Team we still have room for you....

Trinity is seeking tech-savvy members willing to be part of our tech

and communications team. With expanded online opportunities, maybe you would be a good fit to join a new team of online, IT, broadcast, and social media volunteers. Have an interest? Let us know with an email to [Secretary@TrinityLombard.org](mailto:Secretary@TrinityLombard.org) or leave a voicemail message at 630.629.8765.

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### If you are in need of...

- A FACE MASK  
Donelle (Doni) Foreman has been making washable cloth masks
- A WEEKLY MEAL  
A group led by Jen Gronwald has been lovingly preparing meals and running errands

- HELP WITH ERRANDS  
Kevin Tully

Contact Trinity's office with an email to [Secretary@TrinityLombard.org](mailto:Secretary@TrinityLombard.org) or leave a voicemail message at 630.629.8765. If the virus is still a concern to you because of your health, don't hesitate to ask for a helping hand.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL is ONLINE and will continue thru out the summer

Sunday School regularly offers online and home-based activities here: <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sunday-school-activities>. You'll find activities, story time, service projects, craft and snack ideas with experiment or game activities, coloring pages, and devotions. Some items are downloadable to print. If you do not have the ability to print, please email [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org) and request the desired Sunday School activities via mail. Please include your mailing address.

Blessings in the Name of Our Risen Savior  
Jesus Christ,  
Lori Solyom





We are looking forward to Sunday School in the Fall: Help is always welcome.

It won't be long before we can meet again for Sunday School. God's Word is taught in a way that young ears can hear and young hearts can expand with the love of Jesus. Children from age 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade hear Bible stories and lessons to learn how God the Father created us, sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for us and rise again, and sends us the Holy Spirit to help us live each day in Christ. Simple snacks are served. Crafts, activities, and mission service projects help students apply the Biblical truths learned.

Adult and youth members of Trinity are invited to prayerfully consider helping in this multi-age setting. It's fun and it has been reported to bring joy, in watching young minds learn how deeply Jesus loves them. Sunday School meets weekly after church, in Trinity Lutheran School's early childhood wing. ***Prayerfully we will begin the week after Labor Day and be continuing until the week before Memorial Day.***

Chief requirements: \* love God \* excited to see young ones learn \* have a dose of patience. To volunteer, please speak with Pastor Wagner or contact Trinity's office, 630.629.8765 or [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org).



## PRAYER PARTNERS

If you have a prayer request or would like to give an update on someone we have been praying for, please contact Pastor Wagner. Or you can also submit your request directly to Nadine Anderson at 630 629-2197, or email [duke3579@comcast.net](mailto:duke3579@comcast.net). Look for the Prayer Partners coming each month to your email address.

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Are You Struggling? God has not forgotten you "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." Hebrews 13:5c

## THERE IS always HOPE...

If your heart is aching because of a choice you made and you're struggling with feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret about an abortion in your past, Word of Hope can help. The enemy of God wants you to stay in that pain. The Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support resources and referrals for anyone dealing with the after-effects of an abortion, to allow God's grace to heal you. If you or someone you know is suffering from grief over an abortion, call 888.217.8679 or email [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org). It's caring and completely confidential.



ONE NATION UNDER GOD



## *News coming from the Pews –*

Recipes or suggestions from our “church family” are welcome, If you have anything you’d like to contribute, please feel free to text, or email your ideas or your requests.

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### **Recipes Passed Down**

#### **Marjorie’s amazing Meatballs**

This is one of the mouthwatering recipes from Marjorie Klein. I got her permission to reveal her master meatball recipe - with her edits.

- 1 pound of lean ground beef
- 2 eggs slightly beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon of garlic salt
- 1 small onion, minced (I used my food processor and get them to almost a pate)
- 1/2 cup of crushed seasoned croutons (I use the food processor for these too - I do them first and follow up with the onion)

Mix all of the above together and roll into small balls. I bake them in a 350 oven for about 20 to 30 minutes. \* I usually cut one in half to make sure they are cooked through.

The sauce:

- 1/4 of soy sauce (I like the flavor of LaChoy for this)
- 1/4 teaspoon of powdered ginger
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup brown sugar (doesn't matter if it is light or dark I have used either)
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice

Mix this all together in a sauce pan and heat on medium heat (you don't want to scorch this - it will give it a burnt flavor). I get it pretty warm, but not boiling and then once the meatballs are done I put them in a crock pot and add the

sauce and just keep it on low or keep warm until serving.

Enjoy,

*Marjorie*



### **Welcome Back to Church**

Thoughts about  
returning to  
church

#### **Sherron Schiewe and Paul Kozlowski put it this way.**

First of all, we were both very pleased with the experience of worshiping from home. We're grateful to Pastor Wagner, our elders, Kurt Linstead, Lori, Hannah and Rachel Solyom, Sam Gronwold, (elders) and all who made it possible for us to join our hearts and minds with our Trinity family each Sunday morning to enjoy our virtual worship experience. We did not feel a great urgency to return to worshiping in the sanctuary, but we did miss partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Given a choice, we would have waited a few more weeks, but since Pastor Wagner assured us repeatedly that everything physically possible was being done to assure our safety (i.e. professionally sanitizing the sanctuary, no common cup, insisting on masks and social distancing, no singing, no fellowship time, no physical contact, etc.) we felt fairly comfortable coming to church.

I'm thankful that we will continue the streaming of the service. Paul and I enjoyed singing the hymns (we understand and support the necessity of not singing in public worship) and the liturgy. It was good to see our Trinity family and know that they're doing well.

It would appear that most churches will be opting for public worship again. God willing, we hope to see the numbers of new COVID-19 infection continue to decrease, in which case

we will continue to participate in public worship.

God has blessed us with knowledgeable healthcare workers, who know how to stem the rising tide of this horrible pandemic. It is our firm belief that we did the right thing by opting for streaming our services for a period of time. In the event that we see a dangerous rise in infections again, necessitating going back to virtual worship, we would not hesitate to do so. Our God is not limited to the walls of our churches, and we felt His presence in a very real way while worshiping at home. Thanks be to God ... and our Pastor.

**Donelle Forman said ...**

Like coming home. Except for the mask.

**Robert Lustrea who actually served all of us while we were online only ...**

It was totally awesome! I felt like I was finally home after being away for three months. And it was also kind of 'kookie' to hear the Lord's Prayer muffled along with our singing.

**Carolina Ediza added ...**

It was like coming home at my parent's house from graduate school in Manilla. Felt safe and loved (sans mask). Seeing all the familiar faces as I walked down the aisle to take communion made me feel at home, More exceptions: no hugs, there's social distancing.

**Lori Solyom remarked ...**

We looked like a bunch of bandits but sang softly like angel's and approached the Lord's table like those hungry and parched for the lifesaving body and blood of Christ.

**Vince Cuchetto commented ...**

It felt really good. I missed it.

**Beth Kraegel, when asked said ...**

I have to say, it did feel like coming home.

All who responded are not noted individually, but the most common phrase used, without knowing what other's said was, "It felt like coming home."

## Updates & FYI's:



**From Pastor Boomhower**

"I would like to thank all of the members of Trinity for their kind thoughts and prayers at the death of my father. His passing was very difficult for me at this time, but I am so thankful that he is in heaven now. You all have been so kind to me over the years and I love you all. God bless you."

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**RACIAL-EQUALITY-RESOURCES FROM A BIBLICAL, LCMS PERSPECTIVE**

The *Elephant-in-the-room* has made his presence difficult to ignore. Have you ever wished that you could get a clearer perspective of this never ending problem of racism from a biblical, LCMS perspective? This is your chance. Our LCMS has put together an excellent list of resources and made it easily accessible to you. Check this out!

<https://messiahstcharles.org/racial-equality-resources>

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All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Send to [vinjud60@yahoo.com](mailto:vinjud60@yahoo.com)

Questions ... call or text - Judy Cuchetto (630)698-2208 at any time.

**Note:**

Articles of interest are welcome, as well as suggestions. Enjoy and be blessed!