

The Clarion

Christ Lutheran Church

Welcoming Worshiping Witnessing

A Message from Pastor Sellers

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever been overcome? On Transfiguration Sunday we saw the disciples fall to the ground in awe because they were overcome by the might and majesty of God's presence on a mountain top. They felt their insignificance and vulnerability. They felt small in the presence of something so great. They were overwhelmed, their senses flooded by too much to take in. Paralyzed, they fell to their faces helplessly. We too can be overcome. We can be overcome by grief or depression. We can be overcome by

temptation and guilt. We can be overcome by suspicion and fear. We can be overcome by worry, stress and anxiety. Ultimately we can be overcome by despair and death. In the face of overwhelming forces beyond our control we can feel insignificant and vulnerable. We can feel small and weak. What is before us can seem impossible to deal with. It can be too much to

take in. We can be overwhelmed, paralyzed and helpless.

Our circumstances and those of our neighbors, make many of us vulnerable to being overcome. Troubles at work; the demands of our relationships and conflicting obligations; the noise of a constant media barrage bringing blow-by-blow debates on everything that divides us; world problems of gigantic proportions like pollution, corruption, and a warming climate; an unexpected diagnosis or economic setback; any or all can leave us feeling overcome by the world, lost and

defeated.

And what do we do then?
Do we, like the disciples, fall to the ground and shield our eyes?
Surely, this is the tactic that many in our society are taking.
Substance abuse is leading to an unprecedented decrease in life expectancy in our country.
Debilitating depression is on the rise. 12.7% of all Americans over the age of 12, and almost one in



Pastor Sellers Message Special Services February, Soup Suppers 3 4 **New Worship Schedule Proposal and Forums** 5 Bible Study, PFLAG, Council Highlights 6 Many Thanks, Capital Campaign Shepherd's Shelf News 7 8 Youth News. Faith Formation Social Media Update, Spring Clean Ups 9 Birthdays, Grief Share 10 Ministry Team Highlight: Shepherd's Shelf, Golf 11 12 **Ministry Teams contact information**

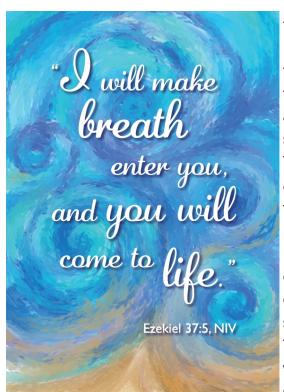
Volume 31 no. 3 March 2020

We are beloved children of God, called together to live in the daily grace of Jesus Christ, with each one sent to be a witness to God's saving love for the whole world.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



five adults over age 60 are on prescription drugs to treat depression. Even more goes untreated. We are desperately seeking an escape from the world. People are "binge watching" television, entertaining themselves to an unhealthy degree. Pornography and gambling take a growing proportion of average American income. A recent study showed that alcohol dependence has increased by nearly 50 percent. The rates of opioid addiction are a national emergency as people attempt to numb themselves. The suicide rate increased 33 percent from 1999 through 2017.

Helplessness and hopelessness are on the rise.

But, the word overcome can also be used to mean almost the opposite. We can overcome the odds, overcome great obstacles, overcome a sea of troubles and emerge triumphant on the other side.

Throughout the season of Lent we will be meeting biblical characters who are dealing with circumstances that were overwhelming. But in every instance the presence of Jesus overcomes the world.

Lent's forty days bring to mind the forty years that the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness between escaping slavery in Egypt and entering the promised land. God used this time to change the perspective of the people. By giving them the law, God offered a new way to live that builds trust and community among people, and keeps them close to the God who gives them life. By supplying them with manna, daily bread from heaven, they were taught to trust the care that is freely provided by God. The wilderness was a classroom – and Lent is traditionally a time when God's school is in session.

The Lenten season encourages us to engage in certain traditional "disciplines", or means of learning. By fasting, or reducing our intake of something that we usually take for granted, we develop an appreciation for what we have – and an appreciation of the people who lack our easy access to that resource. By drawing near to God in regular worship, daily bible reflection and prayer, we train our eyes to seek God in the everyday, and to rely on God for guidance, encouragement, and help. By giving generously, in service or resources we remind ourselves that all we have is given to us by God as tools to enter into God's work of healing the world, reaching the needy, helpless and hopeless, to offer life. In addition, our giving teaches us to lead our hearts into the places that God would have us go – because that ultimately is the promised land.

Our culture treats faith as a hobby: something that some people like, and others don't; something that you can do on the side, if you've got the time, as an extra tacked on to your "real life"; something that you can take on or off like a piece of clothing at the end of the day. But faith is not like that at all. It is a way of seeing and being inside your skin, and out in the world. It changes the way you know yourself and love others. It is fundamental to your identity. It is a source of living water that wells up from your soul and claims you as a child of God. If your faith feels more like a hobby than a power that overcomes the challenges you face, I pray that this Lent you will engage deeply with God, let yourself be overcome by the love of Jesus, and learn from him how to overcome the world.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Serena

Services for March

March 1	Lent 1	8am 9:30am 10:45am	Communion
March 4	Mid week service	7:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer
March 8 Spring Forward	Lent 2	8am 9:30am 10:45am	Communion 9:30am Girl Scout Sunday/ Breakfast
March 11	Mid week service	7:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer
March 15	Lent 3	8am 9:30am 10:45am	Inter Act Service 9:30am Communion
March 18	Mid week service	7:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer
March 22	Lent 4	8am 9:30am 10:45am	Communion 9:30am Cross out Hunger
March 22	Worship Schedule Forum after 10:45 service See articles on Page 4 and 8.		
March 25	Mid week service	7:00pm	Holden Evening Prayer
March 29	Lent 5	8am 9:30am 10:45am	Healing Service Communion 9:30am / Orchestra practice



Daylight Savings Time Begins

Before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7 set your clocks ahead one hour.

Don't be late for Girl Scout Sunday!

Lenten Soup Suppers Continue

Join us for Soup Suppers Wednesdays in Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday Soup Suppers will be held at 6pm followed by Worship at 7pm. There is no Soup Supper in Holy Week.



New Worship Times Proposal

The Worship and Music ministry team has put together three proposals for worship schedule changes, taking us from three Sunday services to two. Please plan to attend one of the worship schedule forums to express your thoughts on the proposed changes, pose any questions you may have, or to suggest a different one. A vote will be taken at the June Congregational meeting to choose an option. The change would not take effect until Fall of 2020.

Worship Schedule forums

Sunday, March 22 following the 10:45am Service Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30pm

Option A

Worship at 8:45am and 10am, with a 15-minute break between

Sunday School would run concurrently with Worship 2 at 10am.

There would be a 15-minute Sunday School Opening at Worship 2 that would incorporate a Children's Sermon and then the students and teachers would be dismissed.

Everything would end by 11:15am.

Option B

Worship at 9am and 10:15am, with a 15-minute break between.

Sunday School would run concurrently with Worship 1 at 9am.

There would be no Sunday School opening.

Everything would end by 11:15am.

Option C

Worship at 8:30am and 10:15am, with a 45-minute break between

Sunday School would run from 9am to 10am There would be no Sunday School opening Any children attending 8:30 worship would be dismissed at 8:55 and led to class by a "shepherd"

Parents attending 8:30 will have to wait till Sunday School ends at 10am Everything would end by 11:15am

*Please read the Youth article on page 8 for things to consider.





PFLAG Meeting

Monday, March 23 at 7pm Weaver Hall (4th Monday of the Month)





Our Brown Bag Bible Study Is On The Move!

Christ offers a lunch hour Bible study at noon on the first and third Monday of each month. In March we are moving our study from the church into the community to make it easier to invite our neighbors to join us. We will be meeting at a new senior living facility, The Landing of Towamencin, located at 900 Towamencin Avenue Lansdale, PA 19446. Just around the corner from the church, our new location will give us an opportunity to engage new residents with Christ Church members and God's word. Come join us March

2 and 16. You are welcome to bring a lunch, or just enjoy the light refreshments provided. We will be meeting in the upstairs lounge area. You can follow this link to see our new location:

https://www.leisurecare.com/our-communities/landing-of-towamencin/

COUNCIL Council Highlights: February Meeting

JPDATES Pastor requested that Council members help her to conduct interviews for the Volunteer Engagement position that was announced at the January Congregational Meeting.

The Clarion editor continues to highlight each of our Ministry Teams in the Clarion on a monthly basis.

Next month in March, the Shepherd Shelf will be profiled.

The following month, in April, Worship & Music will be profiled.

The Teams' schedule for the Lenten Soup suppers was firmed up.

Motion:

Pastor made a motion to use some of the Memorial Funds that are designated for education purposes for the congregation to purchase updated Grief Share materials, Allison Healy 2nd, discussion ensued - motion approved



THANK YOU FOR THE "TEA-RIFFIC" SUPPORT!

The Valentine's Tea was a wonderful event! So many people contributed to its great success. Thanks are due to all of our table hosts who brought out their fine china, and made each table an elegant display. We are so grateful to Amy Stover for applying to Thrivent for our seed money. Dominic Spier outdid himself in creating the sandwich menu and delicious fillings. Many thanks to Linda N. Landis who selected and read

poetry, and Rick Fox and Ray Miller who lent their voices to the scripture readings on love. We are so grateful for the fantastic musical performances offered by Maddie Bingley, and Noah and Karolin Brechbill. And of course, we extend our appreciation to everyone who bought tickets, came, and "raised a pinky" to support our summer mission trip to the WOW Urban Ministry in Knoxville, Tennessee. Because of you, we raised over \$600! Thank you!



There are no words to express my gratitude for all of the TLC, get well cards, flowers (thank you, choir members and Allison Healy), rides for my husband who is visually impaired (thanks to Brooke and Nancy Stephens) and even a box of Valentine's candy (what a spoiler you are, Allison Healy!) And the CLC "Meals on Wheels" ... what a Godsend, and a delicious one, at that! My utmost gratitude goes out to Chris Martin, Brooke Kuhlen, Karen Johnson, Donna Parks, Bonnie Knauss, Julie Munden, Jerri Riemer, Nancy Stephens, Dawn Baxter, Steph Starkey and Dottie Elliott for your culinary talents. As I continue to heal from my spine surgery, and get faster with my "walker skills", I just wanted to let you all know how very much you are appreciated, and how blessed I am to belong to such a caring church family. Gerri Test



Dear CLC, We are delighted to announce that the meals from your Rise Against Hunger Experience on 11/9/2019 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Philadelphia warehouse.
 The meals will be received by our in-country partner Lift Up the Vulnerable in Sudan. If you happen to receive more than one of these announcements, your meals have gone to impact multiple partners. Lift Up the Vulnerable is an organization that nourishes lives through

food assistance and other services in Sudan. To learn more, please visit our partner/country spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid Map at https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/global-impact/. Thank you for generously giving your time as volunteers with Rise Against Hunger. We are sincerely grateful for your dedication and for sharing our vision of a world without hunger.

Gratefully, Rise Against Hunger



Capitol Campaign Progress

December 31, 2019 \$69,730 January, 31, 2020 +\$15,062 \$84,792



Shepherd's Shelf

There are lots of opportunities to serve at Shepherd's Shelf. Come join the team of volunteers that make this ministry possible. Many hands make light work!

Distribution Night Help Needed — Two specific jobs that are needed are volunteers to help register clients and also Team Leaders who run the operations for the evening. Training for both these positions will be

provided. If you are able to help, please contact Steph Sharkey at shepherdsshelf@christlc.org

As always we need **general volunteers every Monday and Wednesday**. You can sign up on the Sign Up Genius on the Shepherd's Shelf tab at christlc.org

Shepherd's Shelf Delivery Receiving Coordinator – Coordinate reception of deliveries and movement of materials into the garage or basement as needed. Flexible schedule required. Interested? Contact Steph Sharkey Email: shepherdsshelf@christlc.org
Phone: 215-256-8738.

Shepherd's Shelf Inventory Coordinator - make weekly choice sheet for clients, make bagging menu every other week, submit orders for Philabundance and Derstine's. Interested? Contact Steph Sharkey at shepherdsshelf@christlc.org

I wanted to thank all for making the dedication of Walt's plaque a wonderful few hours. Special shout out to Pastor Serena for the special Prayer and so many nice shared memories.

Our Family was touched seeing so many who came out to celebrate Our Guy Walt.

He loved His Shepherd's Shelf and shared His Love to All. His Picture and now beautiful plaque will hang over HIS chair and His smiles will continue to make Folks Happy.

Thanks again, Joan



Shepherd's Shelf Summary January 2020

In January the Shepherd's Shelf served 188 people: 88 adults, 76 children and 24 seniors. 67 households made 98 visits. 19 church members and 35 volunteers from the community logged 184 hours and distributed 490 bags of food and supplements (approximate value \$14,700). Diapers were distributed 25 times and wipes 18 times. Feminine hygiene products were distributed 38 times.



Youth News By Karolin Brechbill

We're Changing the Worship Times?!?!

These last few months, the Worship and Music team members have been discussing the possibility of changing our worship times to better reflect the needs of our congregational members. After much debate and a survey of the members, it was determined that we should consider decreasing the number of worship services to two, rather than three a week (due to a whole host of factors), and so we came up with three options to provide to the congregation to mull over.

These discussions were not easy. Every time we thought we had a solution, another question would arise. Just when we thought we would be able to meet the needs of one group, another group's needs were not met. Every change and option affects every single person in one way or another. No one decision is going to make everyone happy, and some decisions might make everyone <u>un</u>happy. Ugh.

So that got me to thinking...WHY do we worship? What draws us here every week?

If you were to ask our teens and kids, their answer would be "because my parents make me". So, why do you "make them?" What draws us here? Have you ever talked to your kids about why you come to CLC? Is the answer just "because we're supposed to go?"

It has to be more than that, don't you think? I mean that kind of answer might work if you are only coming twice a year, but we have hundreds of members who show up to this building quite regularly, who volunteer their time and money to doing all kinds of ministry here and in the community. So WHY DO YOU COME?

I think if we all answer that question as honestly as we can, then we will likely get a better feel for what type of service structure we should follow. Ask yourself: does the time of day the service occurs

really affect your decision to come? For some, that is a resounding YES, and for others that might be more of a convenience factor only. Is it more the TYPE of service offered that brings you here? Consider if you are willing to be open to other types of worship service, or if you feel tied to a specific way of doing things. Is it the people you encounter that is the deciding factor to choosing which service you attend? Do you factor in music? What about the option to worship with your children? Or to have a safe place for your



children to learn about God while you are "with the adults". What motivates YOU to come to CLC? My answer would be this: I come here because it is my family. I come here because there are people who know my name and love me for me, and I love them for them. I come here because I hear the Gospel. I come here because I am challenged to think and act and to serve. I come here because I know there is a place for me. I come here because I feel like a piece of a larger puzzle.

I don't know where these discussions will lead as far as the final outcome. I don't know if the final decision will be what I want at all. I don't know how many changes I'll need to make to adjust my schedule, or the schedule of my teachers or my teens. What I DO know, however, is that we WILL adjust. We WILL make new traditions. And we will continue to do what we have done at CLC for the last 187 years...we will hear the word of God, we will welcome all who enter this building with open hearts, we will sing God's praises, and we will continue our mission of growing God's Kingdom by caring for our community and witnessing God's love and Grace to every open ear. Whatever time the services start.

Youth Flower and Candy sales continue, Order forms available in Weaver Hall. Flower orders due by March15.

Facebook and Twitter

Check us out on Twitter. 40 days of Lenten scripture and responses at #overcome. Our twitter name is clc_kulpsville.

Tweets will also be posted on Facebook. Follow us and share us with your friends. You can even find a link to the Sunday sermons on our website www.christlc.org.







Cemetery Clean Up Saturday, March 21, 8-10am
Please join the Cemetery Ministry Team to help cleanup CLC's cemetery. We will be removing and discarding seasonal items from gravesites in order to freshen up the area for spring. The more volunteers, the faster we can finish! Dress according to the weather.

Property Clean Up Saturday, April 4, 8-11am

Let's all pitch in to help CLC sparkle for the spring! We need plant beds cleared out, picnic tables moved, dusting of our beautiful wooden windowsills, windows washed, etc. All cleaning talents, big and small, accepted and appreciated. On top of it all, we have fun with "many hands making light work"!



ARCH Birthdays

Birth Month and Day First Name 03/13 Rebekah Jacobson 03/23 Trent Donnelly Last Name 03/15 Hailey Landis 03/23 Aidan Frye 03/01 Bonnie West 03/15 Brian Sharkey 03/24 Scott Bardman 03/24 Maddie Knauss 03/02 Karen Johnson 03/16 David Williams 03/04 Clara Saltzer 03/17 Robert DiNenno 03/24 Scott Burr 03/05 Francisco Matos 03/17 Peg Walker 03/24 Mary Reinoehl 03/06 Peggy Jacobson 03/18 Suzanne Pfister 03/25 Pat Smith 03/07 Kelly Bonsignore 03/18 Natalie Peterson 03/27 Mackenzie Daubert 03/07 Kathi Lohr 03/18 Melissa Ryder 03/27 John Achey 03/08 Madison Reehl 03/18 Jayme Corrado 03/28 Cameron Connors 03/09 Tyler Mathe 03/19 Sarah Bardman 03/28 Richard Metz 03/09 Noah Brechbill 03/19 William Dodge 03/28 Anna Bingley 03/10 Pam Smith 03/19 Dawn Baxter 03/28 Allison Healy 03/20 Jackie Swanson 03/29 Tina Brown 03/10 Tommy Greene 03/21 Thomas Wolff 03/30 Shania Daubert 03/11 Emily Keith 03/21 David Dilks 03/31 Jamie Mathe 03/11 Alan Test 03/11 Karson Curry 03/22 Maggie Wilson

Grief Share

Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Grief Share will run through February 2020. For more information, please email Kim J. Appoldt at KJA610@aol.com.

Sundays 7-9pm in the Library

March 1 - Session 5- Your Family and Grief

March 8 - Session 6- Why

March 15 - Session 7- The Uniqueness of Grief Part 1

March 22 - Session 8- The Uniqueness of Grief Part 2

March 29 - Session 9- God's Prescription for Grief

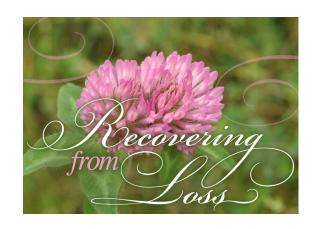
April 5 - Session 10- Stuck In Grief

April 12 - Easter- no Grief Share

April 19 - Session 11-Top 20 Lessons of Grief Part 1

April 26 - Session 12- Top 20 Lessons of Grief Part 2

May 3 - Session 13- Heaven



Ministry Team Highlight: Shepherd's Shelf

Mission Statement: Responding to the belief that all humanity matters to God, the Shepherd's Shelf of Christ Lutheran Church seeks to serve all persons of our community with acceptance, love and dignity.

All persons are served without regard to race, religion, national origin or any other factor.

No attempt will ever be made to ask those we serve to confess or adhere to any set of beliefs, nor shall any membership in or support of Christ Lutheran Church be a requirement for our services.

We distribute food to clients on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8pm. Volunteers consist of church members, community members, and many youth from local high schools that need community service hours. 80% of the manned hours at Shepherd's Shelf is volunteers. Volunteers help with distributing food to the clients, bagging food for distribution, checking for expiration dates and dents, shelving donated food, accepting deliveries, and picking up produce and other deliveries, among many other jobs.

In 2019 the Shepherd's Shelf distributed approximately 5835 bags of food. That is over 87,525 pounds of food including frozen meats, dairy, dry goods and fresh produce. Food was provided to an average of 68 families consisting of 186 people per month.

Food comes from many sources including government grants to purchase food, from Philabundance and Derstine's Foods, and donated gift cards from Giant Food Store's Bag Hunger campaigns that are run twice a year. Many food drives happen throughout the year as well, including Scouting for Food, Harleysville Fire House Santa Run, St. Maria Goretti's, the church's Cross Out Hunger among others.

The biggest fundraiser for Shepherd's Shelf is the annual Richard D. Stephens Golf Outing. This year the outing will be held on June 5 at a new location, Pine Crest Country Club. Registration for golfing and sponsorships will open soon! Other fundraisers include the Merck Sharpe and Dome Cow Plop and Souper Bowl of Caring.

Shepherd's Shelf is always looking for more volunteers whether it be during the day or for distribution in the evening if you are interested in helping, please reach out the Steph Sharkey at shepherdsshelf@christlc.org.



Save the Date!

Richard D. Stephens Golf Outing
Friday, June 5
Pine Crest Country Club

Registration opening soon. Look for a link on the church web site.

Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each month

Please do not send pdf files. Linda Nyce Landis, Editor clcclarion@gmail.com

Children's Activity Page





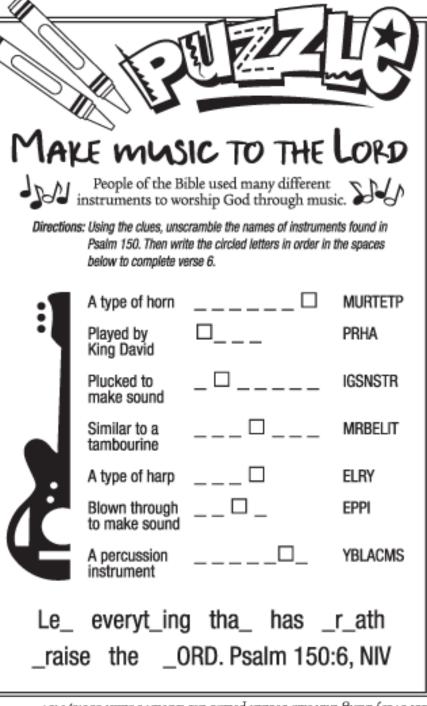
Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

What you need:

- · Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- · Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- · Masking tape
- · Markers and stickers

What you do:

- Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
- Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
- Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
- Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
- Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.



Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, MIV



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Sunday Services

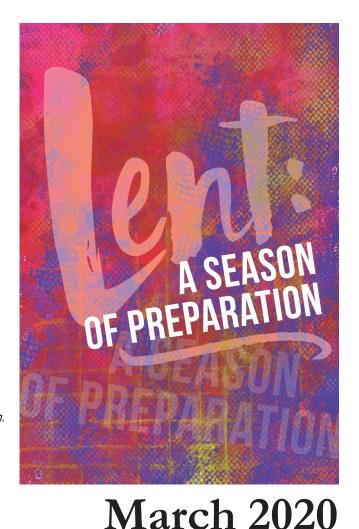
8:00am Traditional Service 9:30am Informal Communion 10:45am Family Service

Sunday School Classes

Ages 3 to Adult Sundays 9:30am

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 7pm Deadline for Clarion articles the 20th of each month. clcclarion@gmail.com



CLC's Ministry Teams

The following are the Ministry Teams, their chairs and council liaisons:

Christian Education - Karolin Brechbill, Allison Healy kbrechbill@christlc.org, allison.healy@foxroach.com

Celebrations- June Alderfer, Sharon Noble kjalderfer@hotmail.com, smnoble15@gmail.com

Cemetery- Rick Metz, Julie Munden rametz@verizon.net, juliemunden@comcast.net

Communications– Dann Stephens, Linda N. Landis dann.stephens571@gmail.com, lindalandis7@gmail.com

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Youth Ministry Team- Karolin Brechbill, Kim Janeen Appoldt kbrechbill@christlc.org, KJA610@aol.com

If you would like to be a part of any of these teams Please reach out to one of the listed contacts.