



Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown PA 18940
215-497-0447
ascensionlutheranchurch.org

WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome! *Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or this has been your faith community for many years, we welcome you to worship.*

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

A few notes on how we worship together:

During the Prayers of People, you are welcome to voice your prayers out loud or you may fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. The yellow prayer sheets will be collected by the usher after the sermon. Prayer requests will be voiced by the Pastor and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email.

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.

We are in a season of rejoicing! You are invited to take an egg-shaker or a scarf for worship. Waive it in the air when you hear the "alleluia" proclaimed!

Cover Image: LOVE Sculpture, Robert Indiana (1928-2018). Located at 15th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard in Philadelphia. Picture retrieved from <https://www.visitphilly.com/things-to-do/attractions/love-statue/#the-history>

Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)

*The flowers above the altar are given by the Maryjane Hagan
In honor of Ed Martini's 80th birthday*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All children are invited to join our Pastor at the baptismal font.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea

into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

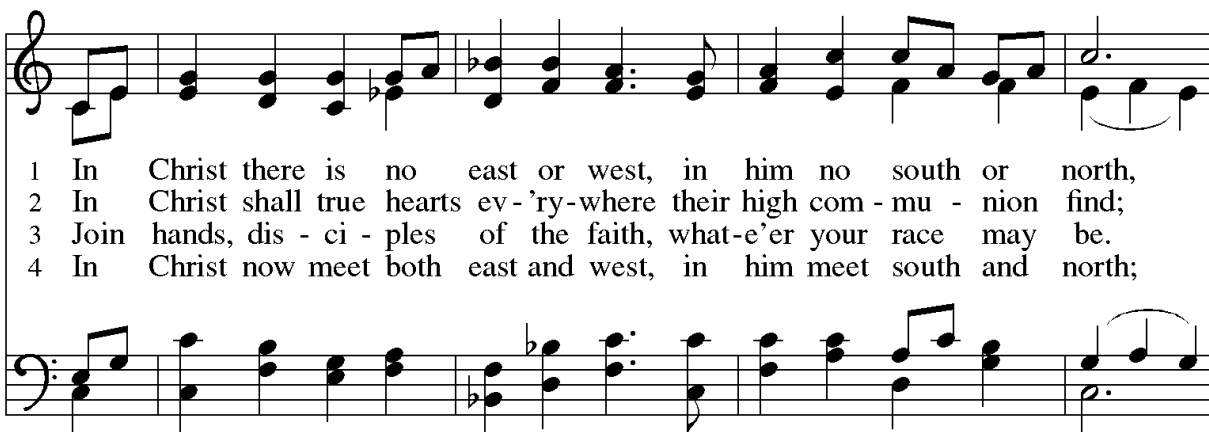
P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

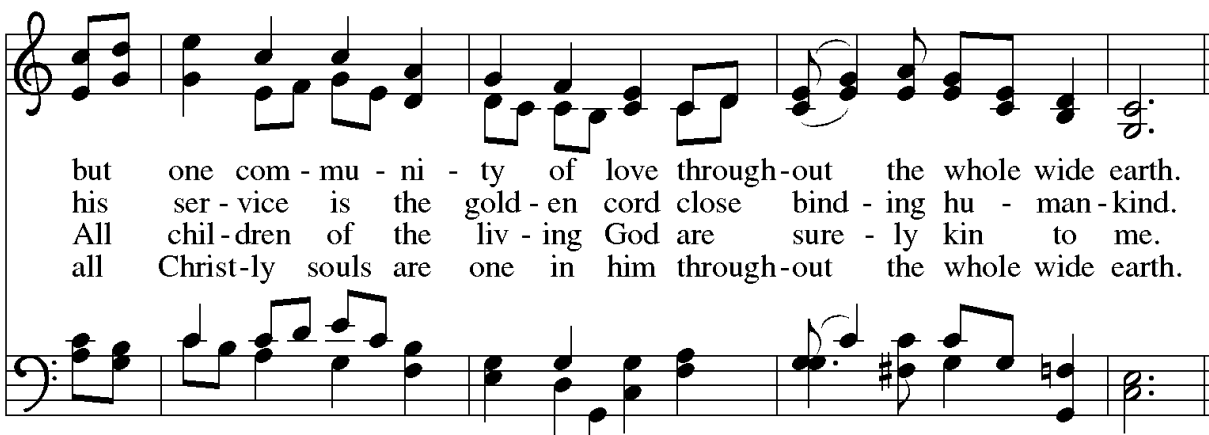
P Look, here is water!

C **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN | IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE | THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING | ACTS 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

- R** The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM | PSALM 98 *Prayed responsively*

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the
nations.**

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house
of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to judge the earth.**

The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING | 1 JOHN 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

GOSPEL | JOHN 15:9-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

SERMON

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood


HYMN OF THE DAY | JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

An usher will collect prayer requests during the hymn of the day

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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APOSTLES CREED

P Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

**was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended to heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of God the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AM God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of risen Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

CHORAL ANTHEM | THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

arr. Gene Grier

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings.
You may also give online by visiting ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give. Thank
you for your gifts.*

OFFERING HYMN | PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the hymn.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

AM Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us friends and families,
busy streets for young and old,
the life of an earthly city
fulfilled in your city to come.
You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

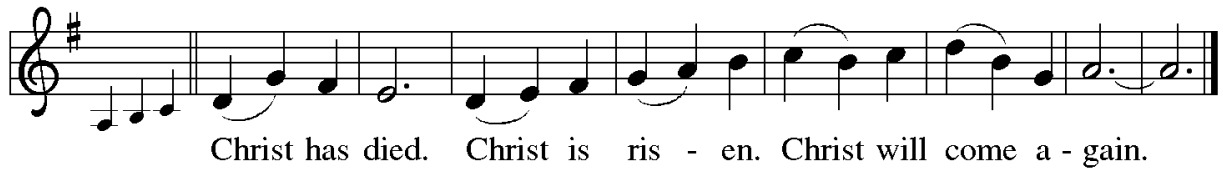
P We thank you, loving God,
 because, when we turned away,
 you sent Jesus, your Son.
 He gave his life on the cross
 and opened his arms to all.

On the night before he died,
 when darkness had fallen,
 Jesus took bread.
 He gave thanks, broke it,
 and shared it with his disciples, saying:
 'Take and eat. This is my body, given for you.
 Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
 gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
 'This cup is the new testament in my blood,

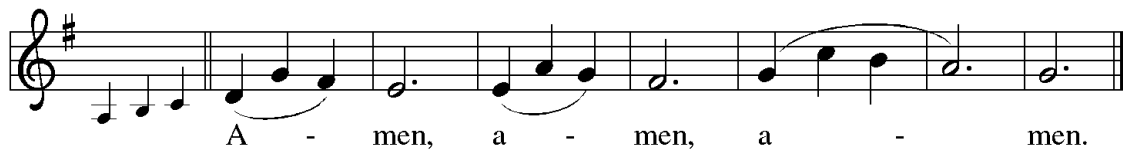
poured out for you and for all people,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me.'

And so, O God, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate Jesus's love, his death, his risen life,
proclaiming triumphantly:



P As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit.
Fill us with your blessing and grace,
Free us from our sins,
Form us to be your people.

Help us, O God, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Spirit,
today and forever:



LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ is made known to us
in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

COMMUNION

The gifts of God belong to you, the people of God. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.

Communion is celebrated by intinction. Extend your open palms to receive the bread, then dip the bread into either the red wine or white grape juice in the divided chalice. If you desire gluten-free bread, please tell the pastor. If you require Holy Communion brought to your seat, please inform an usher.

You may also come forward to the Table with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing from the pastor.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION | Eat this Bread (Taizé)

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
 OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
 Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIFE & MINISTRY AT ALC

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN | JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

AM Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Thank you to our volunteers:

Assisting Minister	Doreen Bourbon
Reader	Declan Murphy
Altar Service	Tony Eith
Usher	Lisa Murphy
Counters	Blaine Orth Barbara Raabe
Greeter	Irene Miller
Fellowship.....	Lynn D'Esmond
Tech	John Carducci

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



Connect with Ascension

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the newsletter, and event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus, or email the office at officealc900@gmail.com

Opportunities to Donate Flowers

Altar Flower Donations

There is an opportunity for you to donate flowers for the altar at Ascension and to designate the flowers. You may designate the flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone. There is a sign up posted in the Narthex.

Geraniums for Pentecost

We will be decorating with red geraniums for Pentecost. There is a signup to donate in the Narthex. 4.5" Geraniums are \$6.00 and 7" pots are \$18. You may pick up the geraniums after the worship service on May 19th.

You may send your payment for flowers to the Church at 900 Washington Crossing Road, Newtown, PA 18940. Make your check payable to: "Ascension Lutheran Church" and put "Altar Flowers" or "Geraniums" in the memo line. You may also place your payment in the offering plate.

Community Walk: Join us for a special walk and tour of the 9/11 Memorial, *The Garden of Reflection*, on Saturday, May 11 at 10:30AM. *The Garden of Reflection* is located at 1950 Woodside Road in Lower Makefield.



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com
Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com
Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | officealc900@gmail.com
Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.
Pr. Kayla is available by appointment Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Learn more about our community at ascensionlutheranchurch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown