

amongst themselves concerning the kind of people to whom Jesus ministered and received. The turning point in Jesus' parable was the son coming to his senses, confessing his unworthiness and the Father's rejoicing as he welcomes his son back into the family. We make a serious error in the church when we speak as if that line (the lost) simply divides church members from non-members.

**Today's BIG Thought:** Jesus receives sinners and eats with them – all of them – including each of us.

### April 3rd Loving Persistently | Lent 5

(Luke 20:9-20) Jesus's parable focuses on the practice of absentee landlords who owned rather large tracts of land in Galilee. The land was worked by tenant farmers who were periodically visited by the agents of the owner to collect his share of the crops. For what plausible reason would the tenants kill the owner's son? Lent brings us face-to-face with God's persistent love of the world in the gift of his Son, Jesus who the world killed on Calvary's cross.

**Today's BIG Thought:** *This same persistent love becomes the motivation for our lives to produce the fruit of the vineyard.*

### April 10<sup>th</sup> Sacrificial Living | Palm Sunday

(John 12:12-19) In Biblical days, when a king conquered another nation or a general captured a city, he returned to a celebration. Since paper wasn't available, many waved palm branches, a symbol of victory. Jesus rides into Jerusalem to begin the last week of his life. People are shouting out that Jesus is the king of Israel. Except Jesus is on a donkey – not on a horse that stands tall and mighty. He is riding to the cross to be a sacrifice for our sin.

**Today's BIG Thought:** *Our human navigation system always leads us to that enemy called death, but in Christ our final destination is an eternal parade. Until then, we serve Christ through others.*

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## WEEKLY Overview

### 2022 "Lent" Series



## "Living Upright"

At Life Journey, we strive to be disciples - who build disciples - who live lives of "significance" and service for Jesus Christ by aligning all of our weekly worship, Sunday School, Bible study and life group events together in one main teaching moment as we address life's complexities together.

the  
**UPPER ROOM**  
Life Journey Lutheran  
Church



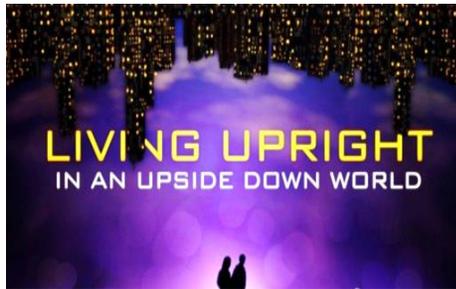
## 2022 EPIPHANY SERIES



Throughout 2022, our yearly theme as a congregation is *“Life Transitions, Shifting & Reshaping In God’s Promises.”* This twelve month journey is meant to help enable our Life Journey family to navigate the complexities of our COVID-19, cultural

and pastoral transition experiences. We are living in a rapidly changing world, and as the Church we need to a) recognize the changes, and b) respond positively. In general, change can be exciting. We shift & reshape the world around us in God’s Promises. However, we never shape and reshift God’s promises to meet the challenges of this world.

**LENT** is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. This observance is six weeks in length and begins on Ash Wednesday. Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ- to consider His suffering and - His sacrifice, His life, death, burial, and resurrection.



This six-week series entitled *“LIVING UPRIGHT In An Upside Down World”* will focus on six Lenten disciplines and how they counter the self-serving secular world around us.

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### March 6<sup>th</sup> Confessing The Truth | Lent 1

(Luke 4:1-13) Jesus’ temptation in the desert by Satan gives us a glimpse of how Satan works in the world. He will take what appears to be the truth and turn it into something that is false. Creating doubt is Satan’s first step in all his schemes, *“Did God really say ... ?”*

When this happens, Satan gets the upper hand. Therefore, we confess the truth and renounce the false through God’s word in Scripture this brings life, salvation and helps us to overcome the temptations of Satan.

**Today’s BIG Thought:** *We are called to proclaim and perform the truth. It is the Lord alone that we worship*

### March 13<sup>th</sup> Embracing Repentance | Lent 2

(Luke 13:31-35) In today’s Gospel we hear Jesus lamenting, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem ... how often would I have gathered your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!”* Jesus loved the people of Israel and longed to save them, but they weren’t willing to hear the word and repent of their sins. Can you hear Jesus lamenting over the world today? Why is it so hard for people to take accountability for their sin and ask forgiveness? It all begins with us and our repentance as Jesus’ disciples.

**Today’s BIG Thought:** *The church is tempted to speak a word that people want to hear. But, it must say once again and again, “Amend your ways and obey the Lord.”*

### March 20<sup>th</sup> Reacting to Tragedy | Lent 3

(Luke 13:1-9) Jesus mentions two local tragedies that had occurred. Soldiers had killed local worshippers’ and mingled their blood with sacrificial blood (sacrilege). Then, a tower fell on unsuspecting people (disaster). These tragedies were not because of some great sin - stuff happens! We experience those tragedies too. Tragedy brings us home to God, where He welcomes us with love, forgiveness and healing.

**Today’s BIG Thought:** *GPS often warns us that we missed a turn and to “turn around when possible.” With Jesus, it’s always possible to turn around and come home.*

### March 27<sup>th</sup> Forgiving The Unworthy | Lent 4

(Luke 15:1–3, 11–32) The somber mood of Lent is briefly lessened by Jesus’ parables that include rejoicing (the Father’s rejoicing over the return of his prodigal son). Jesus addressed this parable to the scribes and Pharisees who were grumbling