

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



## Weekly Sermon Series

### **Taking Root: Deep Breathing... Isaiah 29:22-24; Ephesians 1:15-23**

Everything God stands for is “holy.” God’s very name triggers thoughts of immense love, power, majesty, beauty, grace, wisdom, universal care of humanity and nature. In the Lord’s Prayer, we begin by calling upon God and upon God’s holy name. We attach ourselves to God as one of God’s children. Also, in our daily lives, we call upon God’s strength to get us through whatever task is at hand and whatever trial we are facing. When we see God’s work around us, we know all things come under God’s realm. As Isaiah proclaims in the scriptures, when we look at our children, we know they are God’s work. That alone should cause us to give glory to God’s name and whisper it in awe. And when we do, we become an extension of God, and are bathed in holiness. Our actions witness to others that it is time to hear God’s words and to live according to their truth, accepting God’s teaching and following God’s path.

As members of Christ’s church, we accept his name and call ourselves “Christians.” By assuming his name, we are accountable to the truth and to the commandments in God’s Word. Just as we wish to keep our name respectable by the way we live, we need to be conscious of how we are living out the name of “Christian.” Calling on God’s name is like calling God into our presence. That act creates a power which enables us to be better listeners, better helpers, better doers, better forgivers.

One of my favorite names of God is “I AM.” I AM ... (whatever is needed)

•What are some of your favorite names for God?

•Think about your name. Where did your parents get the idea for your name? What does your name mean?

•Think about organizations to which you belong. What is required of you [i.e. as a Rotarian; Council Member, etc.]? In other words, what actions go along with “your name”?

Lord, help us to realize the importance of your name. Help us to apply reverence to the names of those we love and hold in our hearts. Give us power and strength to live up to our name as Christians and to carry your holy name into our work and play. In your holy name. Amen.

-- Week of July 26, 2009