

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



## Weekly Sermon Series

### Kingdom: Agenda

I once saw a bumper sticker that said: “Don’t be so serious about life, it’s only temporary.” We put so much effort and energy into planning our days that we sometimes forget about our promise for eternal life in Christ.

Have you ever thought about the moment when you’ll slip from this earthly life? Most of us would rather not think about death. It can be a time of sadness, particularly when death comes suddenly or unexpectedly: sickness, accident or war. I have heard of some people, including my grandmother, who were looking forward to heaven. I know of another person who called his family together and informed them that he was not going to endure any more treatments, and that he was ready to go. A decision like that not only takes strength, but faith.

In today’s reading of Isaiah 65, beginning with verse 17, God tells us that God will create new heavens and a new earth. We will not even remember our former way of life; we can leave our grudges and jealousies behind. We will rejoice and be glad forever. Remember that word: forever!

Take a minute to reflect on what all this means. Can you imagine freedom from sickness, crime, death, pain, terroristic threats, unemployment and corrupt government? Imagine being safe, at peace, with nothing to fear. Forever.

Our heavenly Father is at work in the world today, in the process of restoring, redeeming and reconciling all things. This is God's gift to each one of us, through the cross of Jesus Christ. We are being made new.

The Kingdom of God is at hand. This is good news! And it is our privilege, through the power of the Holy Spirit and all that God has accomplished, to do our part to bring God's agenda into focus. What are your plans for the day, the week, and the month?

This week, what can you do, by the Spirit's power, to reconcile what may be broken? How can you demonstrate the value and worth that God gives to someone else? What can you do to more closely align your actions to the plans and purposes of the One who created all things?

Dear God, thank you for your powers of reconciliation, redemption and restoration at work in the world today. Thank you for accomplishing all that we cannot accomplish on our own. Show us how to live into your agenda, and how to share the good news of your Kingdom with everyone who needs to hear it.  
Amen

-- Week of October 3, 2010