



Today's Gathering

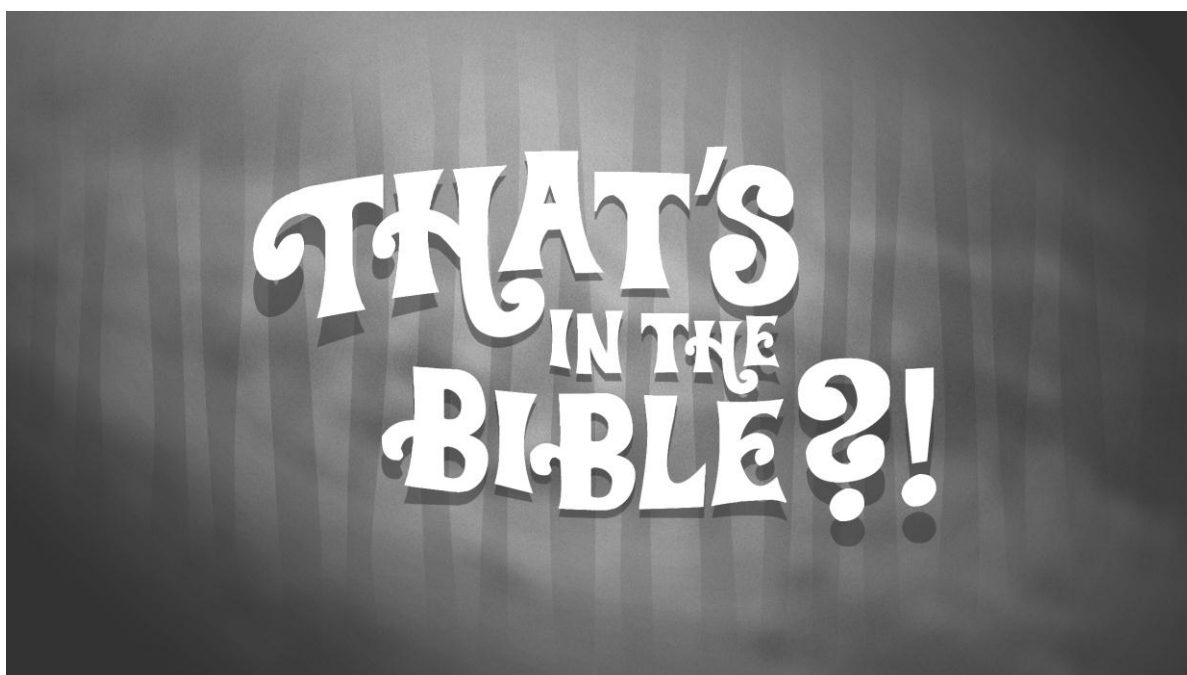
August 24th, 2014

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Julie Townsend and Jesse VanderWeide



I Saw the Sign

Pastor Brian Stroh

For the Kids

From 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Parents can go to the Children's Welcome Center to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Welcome Center is located on the east side of the main foyer.

See page 5 of the bulletin for more information about opportunities for Children and Students.

Welcome to Hillcrest

New to Hillcrest?

If you are new to Hillcrest, we'd like to say "Welcome!" We're glad you're here this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center, following the worship service to meet one of our pastors and receive a **free gift**.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Hillcrest provides many opportunities to get involved with others in the church and the community. If you would like to find out more about classes, Bible studies, and small groups that are offered, stop by the Welcome Center, check out the Ministries section on our web site at www.sioxfordchurch.com, or call the church office at 371-0546.

Our Weekly Bulletin and Devotional

Hillcrest provides this weekly bulletin/devotional to help you connect, serve others and study the Bible throughout the week.

On pages 3-5, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On page 6, you have a place to take notes from the message. Also on page 6 is a memory verse, selected each week by Hillcrest leaders.

On pages 7-12, you will find a short devotional for each day. You will read a new text, some commentary and consider some questions to further your growth, as well as a challenge to help you take what you have studied and start to live it!

On page 13, you will find a Prayer Page, where you can keep track of your daily prayers. On page 14, you will find staff contact info.

Our prayer is that God will speak to you as you study His Word and as a result, it will impact the people in your life.

Want information on even more events happening at Hillcrest? Sign up for our weekly e-mail by marking your connection card and turning it in. Don't forget to include your e-mail address!

Connect

Small Groups

Hillcrest offers a variety of small groups for many schedules and phases of life. In the coming weeks, we will have lots of information about new groups starting up or re-starting for the school year. Hillcrest encourages everyone to get involved and get connected. If you are interested in joining a small group, stop by the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Brian for more info.

- ❖ Serving and Connecting – This group meets every Wednesday from 6pm–7:30pm. They serve the community two Wednesdays a month, do something fun one Wednesday a month, and learn/discuss something one Wednesday a month. Children are welcome. They will kick-off with supper on September 3rd. Led by Brian and Tarina Stroh.
- ❖ Sunday Adult Class – Sundays at 10:30am, starting September 7th, we will be studying *Why I Believe* in the Adult Classroom upstairs. This 12 week DVD based curriculum will address questions about issues at the core of human existence. The cost of the book is \$7.
- ❖ Friday Morning Men's Group – Meets at 6am at 26th Street Bagel Boy. Will be starting a new study soon, TBD. All men welcome to join at any time. Led by Brian Stroh.
- ❖ Saturday Morning Women's Study – Meets from 9am–11am in the Fireside Room, starting September 13th. Will be starting the DVD series, *The Christ-Centered Woman: Finding Balance in a World of Extremes*. All women are welcome to join any time. Led by Missy Davis.
- ❖ Monday Night Women's Study – Meets from 6pm–8pm in the Fireside Room, starting September 8th. Will be studying *Jesus Feminist* by Sarah Bessey. All women are welcome to join any time. Led by Vicki Tigner.
- ❖ Moments for Moms – Meets 12:15pm–1:15pm one Wednesday a month at 26th Street McDonalds. Kids play, while moms chat and pray together. All moms welcome any time. Led by Tarina Stroh.
- ❖ Connection Group – Meets once a month for a fun activity. Next event is Sunday, Sept. 13th at the Apple Orchard. Led by Jessi Copeland & Kay Perry.
- ❖ Financial Peace University – Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8 beginning September 10th. The cost for the class is \$109 and you can get more information here: <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/home/>. Led by Vaughn Kirkland.

Bible Study Fellowship

BSF is an in-depth, interdenominational Bible study that helps people know God and equips them to effectively serve the Church throughout the world. There are several classes offered at different churches in Sioux Falls. Contact Pastor Brian or go to bsfinternational.org to learn more.

Baptism

Our next baptism service will be on August 31st. Christ asked all of his followers to be baptized, in fact the Apostle Paul said, "Why wait? Get up and be baptized." Baptism is available for any person that has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you are interested in baptism, contact Pastor Brian to reserve a spot.

Hillcrest Picnic and Bean Bag Tournament

TODAY! Hillcrest invites everyone to a picnic and bean bag tournament on Sunday, August 24th at Laurel Oaks Park, following services. The cost is \$2 per person with a family max of \$10. Sign up at the Welcome Center to RSVP for the picnic. Mark on the sign up if you plan to participate in the bean bag tournament (if you have a partner you want to play with, make sure to sign them up as well). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Brian. FYI – The pool will NOT be open this year.

Hillcrest Night at Huset's

Join us at Huset's Speedway in Brandon for the Labor Day Special on Monday, September 1st. Races will start early, at 5pm. Adult ticket price is \$13.00; Kids 8-14 are \$5; Kids 7-under free. No need to sign up, just find us on the north side of the grandstands in the second tier.

Men's Ministry

- ❖ The Hillcrest Cup – *Fall/Winter Edition* will kick off with a Fantasy Football Draft on Wednesday, August 24th at 5pm in the Fireside Room. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in participating.
- ❖ Starting September 18th, men and high school boys are welcome to join us for basketball on Thursday nights from 6:30-8pm. Come any time.

Serve

August Outreach Focus – Powerhouse Tutoring Center

The Powerhouse is a partnership project with Wesley United Methodist Church and continues their successful model of community relationship building and academic skill development. Powerhouse is a tutoring program that focuses on continuing academic skill development with Whittier Middle School students. Here are some ways that you can help support the Powerhouse:

- Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Powerhouse last weekend and who helped clean and organize on Saturday!
- The Powerhouse Tutoring Center can always use more volunteers to help out daily from 4pm to 5:30pm. Any amount of time that you can give is truly appreciated. Please contact Melissa Simpson at msimpson@siouxfallschurch.com if you are interested.

Children's Ministry

All children should stop at the Children's Check-In, located on the north side of the front foyer, before going to their classroom.

9 AM Children's Program

Building Blocks: Infants and 1 year olds
Bird House: 2-4 year olds

10:30 AM Children's Program

Building Blocks: Infants & 1 year olds
Bird House: 2 year olds
Tree House: 3 year olds
Dog House: 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

Next week, August 31st is a 5th Sunday. We will not have Club House, so that children can participate in communion with their families.

Move Up Sunday

TODAY! Sunday, August 24th is when all of the children will move into their new classrooms (if applicable), to reflect their updated ages/grades. Teachers will be available to help the children find their new classrooms.

Baptism & Communion Class

Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be hosting a Baptism & Communion class on Sunday, September 21st, following the second service. This class is to learn about how and why we do communion and baptism. Books will also be available for \$5 on the day of the class. Bring the whole family and lunch will be served. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in attending.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

- ❖ TODAY! Sunday, August 24th is when 6th grade and 9th grade students will move into their new groups. Meet in the Youth Room at 10:30am.
- ❖ Next week, August 31st is a 5th Sunday. We will not have class, so that students can participate in communion with their families.

180 Wednesday Nights

Starting Wednesday, August 27th, Middle School students will meet from 6-7:30pm and High School students meet from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, and games!

180 Events

- ❖ 180 Student Ministries will be having a Parents' Meeting on Sunday, September 14th after services. Lunch will be served for families, but the meeting is for adults only. Child care will be provided. Please RSVP to Meriah.
- ❖ Fall calendars are now available at the Welcome Center.

Message Notes:

Title: I Saw the Sign

Scripture: Judges 6

Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Romans 15:4 (NLT) Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

Monday

Subject: Rationality and Doubt

Scripture: Proverbs 8

Commentary:

Yesterday Brian talked about faith and doubt. We tend to think of faith as being good, and doubt as bad. This week in the Soul Provider, I want to take a closer look closer at doubt. To begin, we're reading Proverbs 8, which is an affirmation of logic and reason—ways of thinking that tend to be disregarded by the church. This was even true during the time Proverbs was written. Words like "understanding", "good judgment", and "knowledge" all imply and endorse rationality. In fact, the whole chapter is being narrated by a character named Wisdom.

Questions for further thought:

1. What does Proverbs 8 tell you about rationality and logic?
2. Do you agree that the church at large tends to discredit these ways of thinking?

Challenge:

With the rising mainstream popularity of the sciences—especially biology, astronomy, and astrophysics—do you feel your faith is threatened? Do you feel like you **MUST** offer an alternative worldview in order to feel secure in your faith?

Tuesday

Subject: Right Living and Doubt

Scripture: Matthew 23:13-32

Commentary:

This passage is often interpreted as a treatise against “internal sin”, with the message being that we need to get our so-called inner lives sorted out so that our outer lives will reflect an idealized version of ourselves. But doesn’t this sound incredibly self-aggrandizing? Does Jesus really teach us to embrace a dualistic mindset, compartmentalizing our “inner” and “outer” self?

Jesus is rebuking these religious people not for living some secret life of sin, but for bolstering a positive, doubt-free image of themselves. These Pharisees are not just lying to *others*, they’re lying to *themselves*. Their claimed intellectual beliefs about the world, God, and themselves are acting like a shield to protect them from the fact that their beliefs are wrought with doubt and insecurities about the world, God, and themselves. Jesus just wants them to admit it.

Questions for further thought:

1. When a person portrays a certain image to others, who are they really fooling—others? Or themselves?
2. Does sin-management ever serve as a cover-up for doubt?

Challenge:

Reread the passage with this new outlook in mind. How does the meaning change? Do you agree that Jesus is more concerned with the outer façade than the inner turmoil?

Wednesday

Subject: Certainty and Doubt

Scripture: John 5:39-40; 1 John 5:20-21

Commentary:

An idol is anything that replaces God, or anything we use to try to fill what only God can fill. We're all familiar with secular idols (golden calves, money, cars, etc.), but what about "Christian idols"? I believe the most abundant idol in Christianity today is the idol of Certainty—the belief that one's beliefs are entirely accurate. This idol promises comfort, security, and satisfaction to our longing hearts, but, like any idol, it fails to deliver. The usual reaction is to hold on even tighter to one's beliefs, or spend an enormous amount of energy tweaking the beliefs to make they are correct.

But Jesus was never terribly concerned with *correct* beliefs. In John 5, he didn't have a problem with *what* these Pharisees believed, He only objected to *how* they believed it.

Questions for further thought:

1. How is it possible to be correct about something, yet be hindered by it, as these Pharisees were?
2. Do you ever suppress your doubts as a way to fool yourself into believing what you believe?

Challenge:

Ponder question number 2 above a little longer—perhaps for days or weeks. This will require substantial introspection and reflection to answer honestly.

Thursday

Subject: I Know Nothing...

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:2

Commentary:

The problem with the church's embrace of certainty-seeking faith is that the more rational you are, the more difficult it is to find eternal life. Conversely, the more gullible you are, the easier it is to accept these teachings. But being gullible and simple does not make one a saint.

In fact, striving for objective certainty of your spiritual beliefs at the cost of rational and logical thinking bastardizes the richness, depth, and mystery of the cross and Christ crucified. It is true, and yet it is a mystery, as is so much of the cosmos. Whatever you believe, believe it in the right way: Let go of your need for certainty and satisfaction, because if those things are your goal, then your beliefs are founded in idolatry. Instead, know nothing but Christ crucified.

Questions for further thought:

1. Is it fair for our belief system to discriminate against certain personality types?
2. How can we change *how* we believe without changing *what* we believe?

Challenge:

Paul's words in this passage could perhaps be paraphrased, "I know nothing but the *mystery* of Christ crucified." Do you agree?

Friday

Subject: Jesus and Doubt

Scripture: Matthew 27:46

Commentary:

Jesus' death was the ultimate existential crisis: The loss of God. "Existential" is a fancy philosophical word meaning *actual, real, felt, or material*. This account of Jesus' final words was not a metaphor, a poem, or a prophecy-fulfilling magic trick (although it did fulfill a prophecy). This was Jesus himself experiencing actual doubt. The image of Jesus on the cross should provoke a feeling of questioning the very foundations of one's life—Am I doing the right thing? Does my life have purpose? Is there any meaning to anything?

But there's more: Even in his final breath, Jesus is still showing us how to live. In the midst of doubt, uncertainty, and dissatisfaction we shouldn't pretend everything's alright. The existential crisis should be embraced, not shunned.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you agree that Jesus' words were an actual, felt loss of God?
2. Have you ever felt the loss of God in the way Jesus did, even in the midst of your Christian faith walk?

Challenge:

Once again, I ask you to ponder question number 2 above with some serious reflection. Do you hold onto your beliefs with a tight enough grip to suppress the possibility of losing God (or "god")?

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Baptism & Communion
Message Title: Made Just Right
Scripture: Isaiah 64:8
Speaker: Tarina Stroh

What do these passages say to you?

Prayer Page:

Write down the prayer concerns and praises you want to remember throughout the week. Pray every day!

If you would like to receive the email prayer chain, check the box on the Connection Card. You can also submit prayer requests through the church web site or by calling the church office.

[illegible]

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Staff Contact Information



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Administrative Assistant

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Connection Card

Please fill out, tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

PRAYER REQUESTS ☐ Keep confidential (Pastoral staff) or ☐ Put on the Prayer Chain

☐ I would like to sign up for Hillcrest’s upcoming event. (Please specify.)

My next step today is to:

- ☐ Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- ☐ Attend Family Fun Night at Huset’s Speedway on September 1st.
- ☐ Attend Baptism & Communion Class on September 21st.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

www.sioxfordschurch.com

Connection Card

Please fill out and tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

Name _____ Address _____

E-Mail _____ City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Check all that apply:

- ☐ 1st Visit --- How did you hear about Hilcrest? _____
- ☐ 2nd Visit _____
- ☐ Returning Guest _____
- ☐ Regular Attender _____
- ☐ Members _____

(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

I am interested in:

- ☐ beginning a relationship with Jesus ☐ being baptized
- ☐ receiving the Hilcrest Informational E-mail.
- ☐ joining a small group ☐ becoming a member of Hilcrest
- ☐ volunteering ☐ praying for my Hilcrest family (received via e-mail)

One of the pastors will contact you with information on these subjects.

Your Age Group:

- ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-35
- ☐ 36-45 ☐ 46-55
- ☐ 56-65 ☐ over 65

☐ Single ☐ Married

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

☐ Other: _____

**Names & Birthdays of
members of your
household**

