

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
August 31st, 2014

View from the Hill
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing
Aimee VanderWeide and Jesse VanderWeide



Made Just Right
Tarina 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

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 41st Street Pizza Ranch following the 10:30 service. This is an informal event, so simply show up and enjoy lunch with other Hillcresters. There is no need to RSVP and each person/family will be responsible for the cost of their own meals.

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.

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

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

September Mission Focus – Feeding South Dakota

The Back Pack Program is a service provided by Feeding South Dakota. Each backpack is a weekend's worth of nutritious food for children who are on the free lunch program at their school. Each backpack costs \$145, and our goal is to provide 75 backpacks to this program. On September 21st, we will take a special offering during our Sunday Services for those who would like to help provide for this program.

On Tuesday, September 23rd at 6pm, we will be packing back packs at Feeding SD. We need 20 volunteers to help out, and volunteers must be at least 12 years old. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to participate.

Mentors & Reading Buddies

Hillcrest is once again committing to provide mentors and reading buddies at Cleveland Elementary for the 2014-2015 school year. Please contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

- ❖ A mentor is someone who spends one lunch hour with an elementary student and eats with them each week, plays games with them, and listens. Mentors meet with their student for 45 minutes one day a week over the student's lunch time (anywhere from 11-1).
- ❖ A reading buddy is someone who listens to a child read, reads with a child, or reads to a child. The purpose is to increase a child's comprehension skills and lead to greater academic success. Reading buddies spend as little as 15 minutes a week in a classroom assisting young readers. Reading buddies may volunteer for more than 15 minutes and may assist multiple readers.

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

There will be no Club House today, so that children can participate in communion with their families.

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

We will not have class today, so that students can participate in communion with their families.

180 Wednesday Nights

Middle School students 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 and children are welcome to attend the meeting with their parents. Child care will not be available. (NOTE: this is a change from the original information.) Please RSVP to Meriah.
- ❖ The 4th Annual Boys Video Game Night will be held Sept 27th from 4pm-10pm. Video games on the sanctuary big screens. What could be better? Food & soda provided. Cost is \$8 and registration forms are available in the back foyer or at the Welcome Center. Invite your friends! Non-Hillcrest students get in free!
- ❖ Fall calendars are now available at the Welcome Center.

Message Notes:

Title: Made Just Right

Scripture: Isaiah 64:8

Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Romans 8:28 (NLT) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Monday

Subject: Giving Ceaseless Thanks

Scripture: Eph 1:15-17 & Col 3:12-17

Commentary:

The "T" in the ACTS model of prayer is ways to give thanks, but Paul shows us how to give our thanks to God all the time. Col 3:17 says that whatever you do in word (speaking) or deed (action), do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him (Jesus) to God the Father. God's grace and power give you the minute-by-minute opportunity to give ceaseless thanks. Col 3:12-17 shows you how.

Questions for further thought:

1. How is it possible for you to give thanks while in a meeting or a class, while shopping at Hy-Vee or changing a diaper?
2. What keeps you from honoring God all day and night?

Challenge:

What are you going to do about those obstacles? If you desire to love God 100%, as He wants you to, then the obstacles have to be removed. Pray. Tell God the obstacles. Ask Him to remove and replace them with His grace and Holy Spirit power. Then thank Him. Hint – you will have to do this process more than once throughout your day as new obstacles arise. Thank God. This process allows you to build a relationship with Him as you come to Him again and again in prayer in order to live a life of gratitude.

Tuesday

Subject: The Eyes of Your Heart

Scripture: Eph 1:18 & Luke 24:13-35

Commentary:

A popular song pleads, "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see you." In today's passage the disciples finally know Jesus and recognize the burning that had been taking place in their hearts, but not until they again share a meaningful and intimate relationship with Him. The "eyes of your heart" represents your understanding or inner awareness of who God really is. He is always with you in your life. We get so blinded by the glitz and neon of here and now. We forget He is here, now. What is holding you back from pursuing a relationship with your heavenly Father through faith in Jesus Christ?

Questions for further thought:

1. How clearly do the eyes of your heart see your Lord today?
2. What is a specific time when the eyes of your heart clearly saw Jesus?

Challenge:

What brought you to that point of intimacy with God? What will it take to be intimate with Him today? The Bible is the primary way God will speak to you through His Holy Spirit. Meditate on today's Scripture. Maybe you need to walk along the road to Emmaus with your Savior too.

Wednesday

Subject: Our Calling

Scripture: Eph 1:18 & Eph 3:20 – 4:6

Commentary:

Your ultimate responsibility as a Christian is to bring God glory. We have individual callings and a universal one as well. Every follower of Christ has this calling – we are to give Him glory. Jesus glorified God in His ministry and on the cross by displaying all the qualities listed in Eph 4:2-3. Jesus always pointed the way to the Father. That is your purpose today too. Bring God glory by being obedient to the command that is given in Eph. 4:1-3. Let us all strive to obey in this manner.

Questions for further thought:

1. In Eph 4:2-3 what are the qualities you find the most difficult to understand or live out?
2. What do these qualities have in common? See Gal 5:22-23.

Challenge:

How can you live a life that is glorifying to God today? Gal 5:22-23 says our lives need to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Read John 17:13-26. Jesus prayed for you in these passages. What did he want you to have? What did He want you to do? Purpose to be with Jesus throughout your day today.

Thursday

Subject: Power of Believers

Scripture: Eph 1:19 & Mark 9:14-24

Commentary:

The very power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead resides in you, if you have surrendered your life to Jesus through repentance and faith (See Mark 1:15). Today's passage illustrates that we render that power to become powerless in our lives when we sin or simply do not believe. It is doubt that caused the apostles to be powerless over the forces of evil that day. They possessed the power to heal the boy, but they took their eyes off the object of their faith. Their faith had shifted to themselves, rather than in the life giving power of Christ. The power is completely realized in the object of the faith, not faith in and of itself. What is the object of your faith today?

Questions for further thought:

1. What is doubt and why do we have it?
2. Describe a time when doubt made you powerless?

Challenge:

Doubt is one of Satan's great weapons against believers. Where is there doubt in your mind and heart today? You can't do the Lord's will if you have doubt. Pray scripture to use God's power to overcome that doubt, "Lord, I believe. Please help my unbelief!"

Friday

Subject: The Resurrection

Scripture: Eph 1:20-23 & 1Pet 1:2-7

Commentary:

May you never grow weary of blessing God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is merciful to you. He has given you the privilege to be born again because Jesus died on the cross for you. Have you considered that there were many others who died on crosses as well? Still there is only one Jesus. Only He was raised again from death on the cross. Today you have the opportunity to receive His offer of forgiveness of sin through Jesus' death and resurrection. What else remains if we neglect such a great and glorious gift?

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you find yourself living in those 3 days between the cross and the resurrection? You know Jesus is real, but has he slowly died away in your daily existence?
2. What would it take to resurrect a vibrant relationship with your living Savior?

Challenge:

1Pet 1:7 gives clear instruction to praise, glorify and honor Jesus Christ. Celebrate the Lord of Life today. He is the way, the truth, and the life. Don't leave Him in the tomb. He is risen today! Hallelujah!

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Cravings of the Soul
Message Title: The Power of Sabbatical
Scripture:
Speaker: Pastor Doug Bartel

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



Doug Bartel

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

☐ Returning Guest

☐ Regular Attender

☐ Members

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**

