

# Hillcrest CHURCH

## Today's Gathering

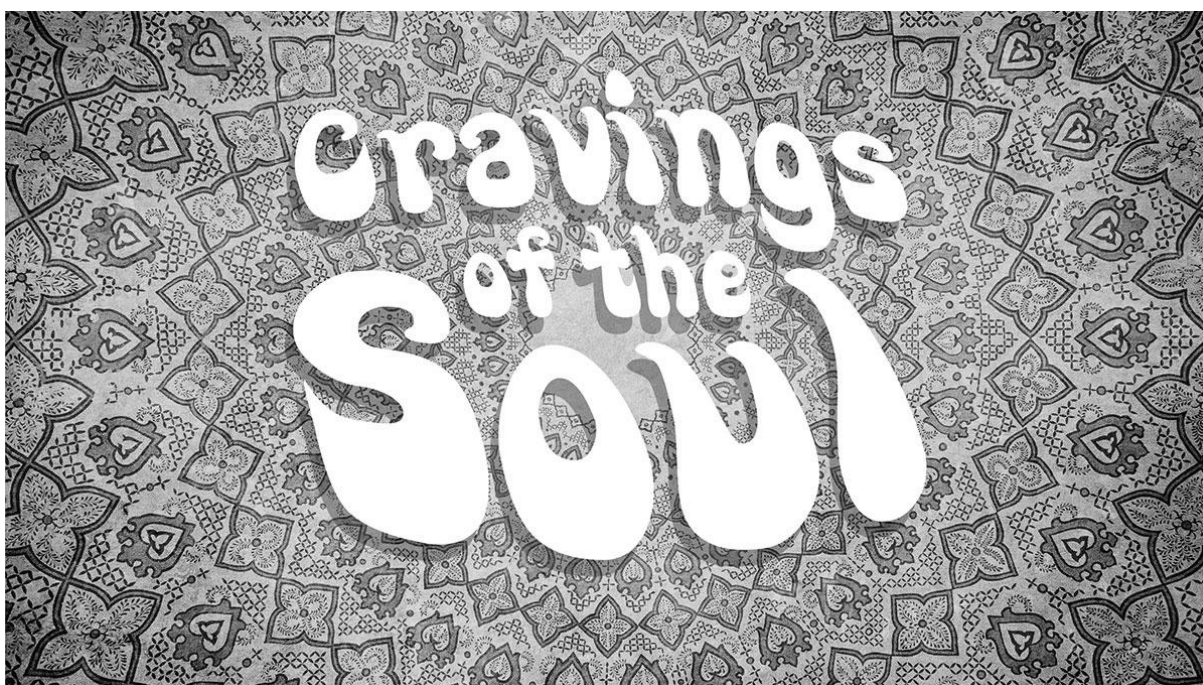
September 14th, 2014

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Cindy Cummins, Tarina Stroh, and Jesse VanderWeide



## The Power of Being Alone

Pastor Doug Bartel

## 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](http://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

### Corn Maze

On Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, Hillcresters are invited to meet at the Heartland Country Corn Maze at 6pm for a family friendly event. Cost is only \$5 per person (ages 4 and under are free), but you must sign up at the Welcome Center or register on-line to receive the discounted rate.

### Men's Chili Cook Off

The Men of Hillcrest are invited to participate in a chili cook-off, to be held in the Family Life Center (the gym), following services on October 19<sup>th</sup>. This event is part of the Men's Hillcrest Cup – Winter Edition. If you would like to participate, or if you just want to eat chili (everyone's invited) please sign up at the Welcome Center or register online.

### Cravings of the Soul Retreat

Pastor Doug will be leading a spiritual disciplines retreat at the Broom Tree Retreat Center in Irene, SD, as an application to the Cravings of the Soul series this September. The group will leave Hillcrest at 6pm on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and return at 6pm on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. It will be open to anyone in the congregation that would like to indulge in the practice of various disciplines like prayer, silence, solitude, lectio divina, and even fasting. Cost is \$80 per person or \$106 per couple/double-occupancy. Includes private room and bath, and lunch on Saturday. We have 12 rooms available. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in attending.

### Save the Dates!

Fall is a busy time at Hillcrest! Mark these upcoming events on your calendar now. More details to come, as the events get closer.

- Sep. 27 180 Boys' Video Game Night
- Oct. 8 Corn Maze
- Oct. 19 Men's Chili Cookoff
- Oct. 25 Craft Fair
- Oct. 26 Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 29 180 Middle School Halloween Skating Party
- Nov. 15 180 Girls Sleepover
- Nov. 23 Children's Ministry Bingo Night at Nursing Home

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>, we will take a special offering during our Sunday Services for those who would like to help provide for this program.

On Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Hillcrest Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale

On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 3pm, Hillcrest will be hosting a craft fair at the church. This is a fundraising event for the Powerhouse Tutoring Center. Hillcresters can help by making items for the bake sale and volunteering the day of the event. Many different opportunities and shifts are available. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in helping out.

## 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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Baptism & Communion Class

Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be hosting a Baptism & Communion class on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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

Middle School and High School students are invited to meet in the Youth Room during the 10:30am service. Students will then break into small groups.

### 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

- ❖ The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Boys Video Game Night will be held Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 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: The Power of a Being Alone

Scripture: Mark 6:31-32; Acts 9:9; Galatians 1:15-16

## Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

*Matthew 6:6 (NLT) But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

# Monday

Subject: Even He Needed Time

Scripture: Luke 5:15-16

Matthew 14:22-23

## Commentary:

Jesus had many seeking after him, to hear him preach and be healed. He knows how our schedules can get very busy! Jesus also knew the importance of seeking solitude and prayer. He often withdrew to quiet places to pray and spend time completely alone with God without distractions. It is very important in our day to day lives to get out of the craziness and seclude ourselves to focus on God and spend time in prayer. That is how we renew our strength to face another day.

## Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways can it be difficult to be completely still and silent?
2. What is one of the major distractions in your life that keeps you from having solitude with God?

## Challenge:

Find a minimum of 10 minutes a day to withdraw completely and be alone in prayer.

# Tuesday

Subject: In the Whisper

Scripture: 1Kings 19:11-13a

## Commentary:

Elijah knew God wasn't in the windstorm, the earthquake or the fire. God doesn't always reveal himself in big ways. We often look for God to speak to us at big crowd filled conferences or church services. He speaks to us softly and at times we may not expect it. We need to back away from the noise and listen for His guidance.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Has there been a time where God was speaking softly to you but you were so overwhelmed by the noise of life that you almost missed it?
2. How are you listening for God?

## Challenge:

Find a way this week that God was talking to you in a way you least expected.



# Wednesday

Subject: Meditate on These Things

Scripture: Philippians 4:6–8

## Commentary:

God does not want our lives to be consumed by our fears and anxieties. He wants us to come to him in prayer about everything. Fixing our minds on all that is good and pure. God gives us a peace we can't get from this world. His peace will guard our hearts from the difficulties around us. That's not saying we will be free from hurt, worry and sadness but when those things happen we will have a peace that we can only get from God.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What one area do you struggle with more than others?
2. Think about what you put into your mind that may make the struggle more difficult.

## Challenge:

Ask God to help you focus your mind on what is good and pure.

# Thursday

Subject: The Wise Listen

Scripture: Proverbs 1:5

## Commentary:

When you think of a person in your life that you consider to be wise are they talkers or listeners? The wise get wise from listening to all the knowledge around them. They listen more than they talk. They are also not prideful in their knowledge and wisdom but humble with no desire to be glorified. If you are feeling like you lack wisdom take time to sit and listen to the godly men and women in your lives.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Who in your life would you consider to be a good listener?
2. What qualities make a good listener and how can you put these into practice?

## Challenge:

Find a time this week you feel an urge to share your opinion or give advice and choose to listen and be slow to speak. See what the outcome of that is.

# Friday

Subject: Control

Scripture: Romans 8:5-8

## Commentary:

A life controlled by sin is no life at all. In these verses we are told that the life controlled by sin leads to death, but the life controlled by the Holy Spirit thinks of ways to please the spirit. We are born into a life dominated by sin but once we accept the life giving gift of Jesus the sinful nature has the Holy Spirit to contend with. The Holy Spirit seeks to please the Lord our God and search out His will for our lives so that we may live in accordance with Him. Give yourself over to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to do his work in you.

## Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways do you still find the sinful nature trying to take control of your life?
2. What have you learned from experience with your daily battle could you pass along?

## Challenge:

Over the next week, take notes of when that sinful nature wants to take control. At the end of the week, review and see if there is anything common with the particular sins. Then ask God to work in your life in these areas.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Cravings of the Soul  
Message Title: The Power of Fasting  
Scripture: Matthew 6:16-18; Mark 2:18-20;  
Acts 13:2-3  
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.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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**

Lead Pastor

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Children's Ministries Coordinator

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**Jennifer Simons**

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 Baptism & Communion Class on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ☐ Attend Corn Maze on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ Participate in Men’s Chili Cook-off on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ Volunteer to help out at the Craft Fair on Oct. 24 or Oct. 25.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

[www.sioxfordschurch.com](http://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:

☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Visit --- How did you hear about Hilcrest? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

_____
_____
_____
_____
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_____