

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

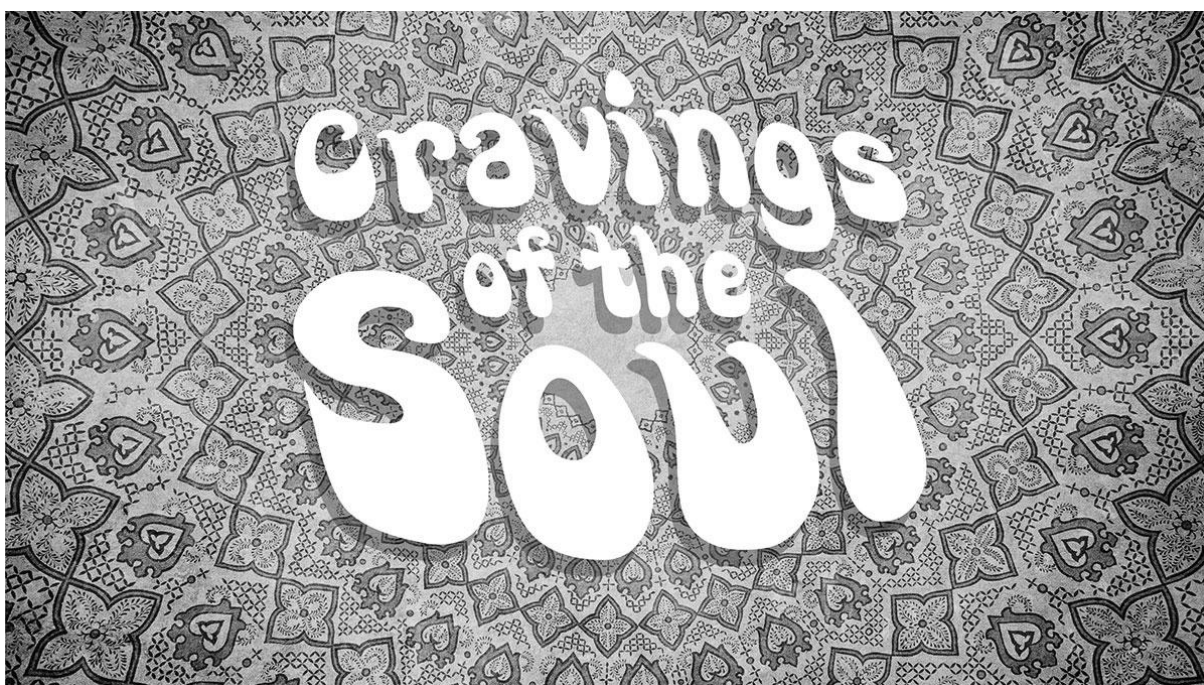
September 21st, 2014

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Gary Rakebrandt, Aimee VanderWeide, and Jesse VanderWeide



The Power of Fasting

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, 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 8th, 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 19th. 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.

Ladies Night Out

On Thursday, September 25th, all ladies are invited to meet at Cherry Creek Grill at 6:30pm for dinner and conversation. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own meal. Please RSVP to Deanna Moser at moser@sio.midco.net so she can reserve space.

Ladies Football 101

On Tuesday, October 14th at 6:30pm, the ladies of Hillcrest are invited to attend Football 101 with Deena Perry. Feel free to wear your favorite team shirt as we "fumble" our way through learning the terms, plays and excitement of football! The event includes a free "tailgating" meal, and a sign up will be available in the front foyer in the next couple of weeks.

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 10th and return at 6pm on Saturday, October 11th. 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.

Welcome Center

Please join us in welcoming Jenny Bartel to her new responsibilities at the Welcome Center! Stop by to ask questions, pick up SCRIP or small group materials, or sign up for upcoming events. The first 4 people from each service to ask Jenny why the children's bulletins are different colors each week will win a prize!

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. Today, we will be taking a special offering 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.

October Mission Focus – Cleveland Elementary School

Hillcrest's mission for October is to supply Cleveland Elementary School with some of the items that the school has identified as needs for the children. This year's wish list includes Ear buds and headphones, deodorant, Kleenex boxes, Clorox/Lysol wipes, Bottles of hand sanitizer, Dum-Dums (suckers), Gallon size zip lock baggies, Boys and girls underwear- size 4T and 6, Socks- mostly for kindergarten age students, shoes sizes 1-5, sweat pants, new books for the library, puzzles/games. Starting next week, you can take a tag from the bulletin board near the Welcome Center and return your donations by October 26th.

Hillcrest Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale

On Saturday, October 25th, 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-5th Grade

Music & Movement Play Date

Sunday, October 19th from 6-7pm. Children, infant thru pre-school, are invited to join Tarina for a fun-filled hour of listening to music, singing, and dancing. Please sign up in the back foyer if your child will be attending.

Trunk or Treat

This year's Trunk or Treat event will be held on Sunday, October 26th from 12pm to 2pm at the parking lot behind the Powerhouse Tutoring Center (1708 E. 6th St.) Decorate your trunk and dress in costume with a theme, while handing out candy to the neighborhood kids. There will be food and games, provided by Wesley United Methodist Church, too! If you are unable to attend, you can also donate candy to hand out and give away as prizes on that day. Sign up for the event at the Kids Zone in the back foyer or drop off your candy donation near the Children's Check-In.

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 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!

Message Notes:

Title: The Power of Fasting

Scripture: Matthew 6:16-18; Mark 2:18-20; Act 13:2-3

Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Matthew 6:16 (NLT) "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get."

Monday

Subject: When Should We Fast?

Scripture: Isaiah 58

Commentary:

Isaiah 58 describes God's objection to the misplaced religious fasting of the people. The people complained when God did not recognize their religious actions, but God responded that their fastings had been only half-hearted at best. They had been going through the fasting motions, but their hearts were far from God. They wrongly had presumed on the grace of God while living lives of blatant moral disobedience. Beginning in verse 6, God expresses His longing for a righteous kind of fasting.

When should we fast? (1) When we are caught in a sinful pattern (v.6) (2) When we have a heavy burden (v.6), (3) When we are oppressed by the enemy. (v.6) (4) When we want to give to someone else (v.7) (5) When we need to be encouraged (v.8) (6) When we need answer to prayer (v.9) (7) When we need to examine ourselves (vv.9-10) (8) When we need direction (v.11) (9) When we need spiritual restoration (v.11) and (10) When we need to be revived (v.12). It appears we have little wiggle room for our ignoring this rarely practiced spiritual discipline.

Questions for further thought:

1. How has this passage helped me to understand the importance of fasting?
2. How will this impact the way I approach fasting in the future?

Challenge:

Resolve to at least explore and investigate the discipline of fasting. Commit this to prayer and seek God's guidance in this regard.

Tuesday

Subject: Three Enemies of Prayer

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:5-11

Commentary:

Getting serious about prayer always involves running into resistance. Someone doesn't want you praying without ceasing. Satan uses terrorist tactics to unsettle our lives and distract us from giving our attention to the only in which we are truly secure. Watch out for these 3 enemies of prayer in your life...(1) *Anger* – When I'm angry, I don't pray or don't want to. Anger can be righteous, but most often it's an unrighteous response to circumstances. Anger is an enemy of prayer. (2) *Fear* – Fear before real or imagined danger can drive you to prayer but it often raises questions that derail prayer: Will God really come through?? Is He trustworthy? Rather than casting my cares on Him (1 Pet. 5:7), I remain prayer less and afraid. (3) *Doubt* – We are all prone to doubt, but we shouldn't dwell in it. We ask questions like "*Is God really good?*" "*Is He really listening?*" In these times, we must know that we can cast our anxieties to God in prayer and know that He cares for us.

Questions for further thought:

1. Which of these 3 anxieties do I struggle with most? Why?
2. How can I cast these distracting emotions on the Lord as to keep my focus on Him?

Challenge:

Choose not to worry about these things as you commit to the Lord in fervent prayer.

Wednesday

Subject: Find the Armor

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-12

Commentary:

In this passage, Paul assures the true believer that is living in the Spirit controlled life can be sure to be in a spiritual war. The Lord provides his children with sufficient armor to combat and thwart the advances of our adversary, but we must first know where these are located. In the first few verses, Paul briefly sets forth the basic truths regarding the believer's necessary spiritual preparation as well as truths regarding his enemy, his battle, and his victory. We must be fervent partakers in God's word to help us first find the armor. Find the armor... now put on the armor.

Questions for further thought:

1. How have I searched for God's armor in order to be able to withstand the attacks of the enemy?
2. How can I be more fervent in my pursuit of God's word in order to know the "strength of the Lord" and the "strength of His might?"

Challenge:

Take time to meditate on these few verses and discover what God is calling you to.

Thursday

Subject: Put on the Armor

Scripture: Ephesians 6:13-16

Commentary:

In these verses, Paul describes four of the six pieces of the spiritual armor with which God equips His children to resist and overcome Satan's assaults. He emphasizes the necessity for the Christian to appropriate God's full spiritual armor by taking it up, or in other words, putting it on. The belt that pulls all the spiritual loose ends in is "truth" or "truthfulness". A sincere commitment to fight and win without hypocrisy. The breastplate of righteousness (holiness) is given to the believer as he/she is continually sanctified in the alien righteousness of God the Son and thus produces a daily righteousness not of our doing but of the author of righteousness himself, Jesus Christ. The shoes of peace bring the good news that, through Christ, believers are at peace with God and He is on their side. The shield of faith is continual trust in God and His word in protection from temptations to every sort of sin. Temptation (flaming darts) may come, but the power it has over you and I is broken. Put on the armor... now secure the armor.

Questions for further thought:

1. How have I "put on" the armor of God?
2. How has this been a comfort to me as I engage in the daily spiritual battle that ensues?

Challenge:

Put on and appropriate the armor of God in order to stand against the schemes of the enemy.

Friday

Subject: Secure the Armor

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17-20

Commentary:

The helmet was a major protective means in battle as it protected the head which contains the mind. Satan seeks to destroy the believer's assurance of salvation with his weapons of doubt and discouragement. But although a Christian's feelings about salvation may be seriously damaged by Satan-inspired doubt, his/her salvation is secure in the One who saved them to begin with. The One who saves us is the One who keeps us saved. What a relief!!! Security is a fact; assurance is a feeling that comes to the obedient Christian. The sword of the Spirit is indicative of the soldier's only offensive weapon; so God's word is the only offensive weapon needed for the believer. God's word is "active and sharper than any two edged sword" (Heb. 4:12). It is infinitely more powerful to combat any of Satan's attempts at victory. It is the truth of Scripture which gives us our foundation in which to build our hope. It is truly an offensive weapon indeed. Have you secured the armor in the partaking of the truth of God's word?

Questions for further thought:

1. How do I plan to get into God's word more regularly as to stand against the schemes of the devil?
2. What is the plan or strategy I might use to accomplish this?

Challenge:

Find a Bible study plan that will work for you and stick to it. There are many to choose from and there is one that is right for you!

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Cravings of the Soul
Message Title: The Power of Worship
Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:32-31; Romans 12:1-2;
Revelation 4:8-11
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



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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 Corn Maze on Wednesday, October 8th.
- ☐ Participate in Men’s Chili Cook-off on Sunday, October 19th.
- ☐ Volunteer to help out at the Craft Fair on Oct. 24 or Oct. 25.

Additional Comments:



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

605-371-0546

www.siouxfallschurch.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**

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| _____ |
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| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |
| _____ |