

# Hillcrest CHURCH

## Today's Gathering

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Norma Dalen, Gary Rakebrandt, and Jesse VanderWeide



## Ask Like Gideon

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

## Baptism & Membership

Our next baptism service will be on November 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 Doug or Pastor Brian to reserve a spot.

Interested in joining Hillcrest as a member? Please check the box on the connection card on the back of the program or talk with Pastor Doug or Brian.

## Hillcrest Business Meeting

Hillcrest will have its semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> after the second service. Pork loin, potatoes, green beans, and dessert will be served. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students with a family max of \$12.

Agendas and reports will be available the week before the meeting. If you would like to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark your connection card, or contact Pastor Brian.

## Ask Anything

In November, we will be starting a series called "Ask Anything", in which Pastor Doug will answer any question that you have. To submit a question, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SKBQM6H> or write it on your comment card in the bulletin. You can submit it anonymously, or you can provide your name.

## Connection Group

Join us in November, the 14<sup>th</sup> at Shane and Jessi Copeland's house at 6:30pm. We'll have a fire and smores, or play games and drink hot cider depending on the weather! All are welcome to join us! The address is 46206 Weis Circle, Hartford, SD. Let us know if you can make or email Jessi (JLCopeland85@gmail.com) if you have questions!

## Women's Ministries

You are invited to participate in Hillcrest's first annual Cookie Exchange to be held on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Sign-up in the front foyer at our cookie table. Sign-up will END on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Once the sign-up closes, you will be notified as to the quantity of cookies you need to bring to the exchange. Questions can be asked at the table when you sign-up or directed to Marti Lusk, Vicki Tigner or Deanna Moser.

## Women's Exercise

Women's Exercise is moving from Tuesdays to Thursdays at 7pm. Join other women of Hillcrest to work out to our favorite dvd's in the Clubhouse weekly!

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Today is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 41<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Serve

### SCRIP

Great News! SCRIP now includes gift cards for **Pizza Ranch**! Now you can eat great pizza, earn money for Hillcrest events, and connect with other Hillcresters on the first Sunday of each month at the 41<sup>st</sup> street Pizza Ranch. If you have not yet signed up for SCRIP, contact Jennifer Simons to get started!

## November Mission Focus – Safe Families

Safe Families is a bridge between under-resourced families and the foster care system. A Safe Family would take in children to allow a mom or dad time to locate work, locate housing, complete treatment, etc. without the child having to move into the foster care system.

During the month of November, Hillcrest will be collecting diapers, wipes, and WalMart gift cards for Safe Families. (Reminder that you can order WalMart cards from SCRIP! We will have some available to pick up at the Welcome Center, too!)

On Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tracy Folkerts, Safe Families Coordinator, will be at Hillcrest for both services to present some information and answer any questions we may have.

There are many other ways to get involved with Safe Families for Children. If you would like more information about how you can volunteer, please visit their web site at <http://www.safe-families.org/default.aspx> or contact Pastor Brian.

## Facility Work Day

On Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9am, the Facility department will be doing some fall clean-up projects outside, as well as some interior projects. We need lots of volunteers to help get everything done. Please come any time you can on Saturday morning and stay for however long you are available. Any assistance you can give would be appreciated.

## 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

## Family Game Night

Children's Ministries will be hosting a Family Game Night on Sunday, November 9th from 3:30-5pm. Meet as a family at the Good Samaritan Society's Luther Manor on 37<sup>th</sup> & Lake for Christmas Carols and Bingo! Please sign up in the back foyer if you plan to attend.

## 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

On Saturday, November 15th, High School and Middle School Girls are invited to the 4th annual Girls Sleepover at Hillcrest. There will be games, crafts, snacks, and movies. Invite your friends! Cost is only \$8. Pick up a registration form at the Student Ministries table in the back foyer.

# Message Notes:

Title: Ask Like Gideon

Scripture: Judges 6:13-14

## Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

*John 8:32 (NLT) And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

# Monday

Subject: Why do the wicked prosper?

Scripture: Job 21:7-15, 40:1-14

## Commentary:

Job has lost his children, his wealth, his reputation and his health. In his pain, he compares his situation to those around him who defy God and yet seem happy and successful. It isn't fair. Isn't God supposed to vindicate the innocent and crush the wicked? He doesn't seem to be doing his job. Then God replies. He sounds a little sarcastic, but the message is clear. Job is unable to understand, because he is just a man. But God is divine, and has all things in control. Job can trust Him completely.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Have you been in a situation where God didn't do what you expected of Him? Explain.
2. God responded to Job, but he didn't really answer all his questions. Why do you suppose that was?

## Challenge:

Consider a time you thought you knew how to handle things better than God. Prayerfully confess your thoughts and ask God to help you trust that He is good, even in difficult times.

# Tuesday

Subject: Can I mess up God's plans?

Scripture: Jonah 4:1-11

## Commentary:

Jonah is a prophet for God, but he spends most of his time complaining, or feeling sorry for himself. He has chosen to ignore God's direction in his life, and things aren't going well for him. God, on the other hand, is persistent and forgiving with everyone, orchestrating opportunities for people to learn and repent of their sins. By the end of the book, pretty much everyone mentioned is turning towards God (except Jonah). But even the reluctant prophet ended up doing what God asked of him. If God wants something done, he can make it happen!

## Questions for further thought:

1. Why do you think Jonah didn't want God to spare Nineveh?
2. If God is in charge of the results, how does that affect your thinking about something He may be asking you to do?

## Challenge:

Pause and consider if you have been putting off, avoiding, or otherwise running away from something God is asking you to do. Pray for the strength and clarity of purpose to take a step in that direction.



# Wednesday

Subject: Please don't let this child die

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:13-25

## Commentary:

David has repented of his sin, but there are still consequences for his actions. We see him pleading for the life of his son, even though God has declared that he would not live. He knows God is merciful and fully in control of the situation. When the child dies, he gets up and goes to worship God. Not because he is happy, but because he is working to accept God's will in his life. David once again is putting God in His rightful place.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What is the difference between being forgiven for a sin, and the consequence of sin?
2. Have you been in a place where God has said no to your prayers?  
How did you respond?

## Challenge:

Can you think of someone who could use comfort or encouragement? Make time to contact them or spend time with them in some way today.

# Thursday

Subject: Is doubt okay?

Scripture: John 20:24-29

## Commentary:

"I can't believe this unless I experience it myself." This is a natural reaction when someone shares an incredible experience. Thomas had seen Jesus die. He couldn't believe Jesus was alive again on someone's word alone. Jesus generously gave Thomas exactly the experience he asked for. Thomas, for his part, embraced the experience and believed. While we rarely get all the answers we want, the Truth can withstand questions and doubt as we seek to understand and believe.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do you have specific doubts about God or Jesus that you are struggling with today?
2. Do you think God will provide enough information and experiences to allow us to embrace and believe in Him, as he did for Thomas?

## Challenge:

God knows your doubts and fears. Confess them to Him. Pray for peace and understanding as you wrestle with these questions.

# Friday

Subject: Just ask

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-6

## Commentary:

John the Baptist didn't beat around the bush when he had questions. He was already in jail after calling people to repentance, and declaring that the Messiah was coming. Now he wanted to make sure Jesus was the right guy. Here is a man with a strong and active faith, and he is still asking questions and checking to make sure he is in line with God's plan.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Why might John have been confused about whether Jesus was the true Messiah?
2. Do you have questions that you have been afraid to ask?

## Challenge:

How would your life change if you found answers to your forbidden questions? Take some time today to explore your thoughts and fears around these questions.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Ask Anything  
Message Title: Ask Like Moses  
Scripture: Exodus 5:22-23  
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 run 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**

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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 Business Meeting on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ Volunteer to help with the Facility Work Day on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ☐ Find out more information about baptism and/or membership.

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
- ☐ 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**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____