

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

February 22nd, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Doug Bartel

Singing

Jesse VanderWeide



Two-Faced God

Meriah VanderWeide

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.siouxfallschurch.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 3-4, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On pages 5-6, 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

Our next baptism service will be on March 29th. 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.

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Today 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.

Hillcrest Camping Trip

This year, our annual camping trip at Newton Hills State Park will be held June 5th-7th, the weekend after VBS. On Saturday evening, June 6th, we will also have a picnic for everyone, even if you are not camping. Sign up at the Welcome Center by March 6th to reserve your spot!

Membership

Interested in joining Hillcrest as a member? Membership at Hillcrest is simply a commitment to one another as we seek to love God and love others. For more information, please check the box on the connection card on the back of the program or talk with Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian.

Parents Night Out

The 180 Chicago mission team is offering a babysitting night on March 20th from 6pm-8:30pm. We will have a movie and snacks in one room, and games and activities in another. Cost is \$5 per kid, additional donations are welcome. Proceeds will go towards the cost of the 180 Chicago Mission Trip. Please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark the back of your connection card, or contact Meriah if you are interested.

Serve

March Mission Focus – Children’s Home Society

CHS cares for more than 2,000 children each year, providing a continuum of services primarily related to child abuse and domestic violence. Programs include emergency shelter, residential treatment, education, adoption and foster care, forensic interview & examination centers, and prevention services. The common thread of CHS programs is “a second chance”--to help children work through the trauma that has adversely affected their lives; facilitate the healing of mind, body and spirit; and work toward their successful transition into a healthy family setting.

On March 18th, Hillcrest will be providing a pizza party for the kids at Children’s Home Society. We need 5 adult volunteers to arrive at CHS at 4:30pm to help serve food. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in this opportunity.

Throughout the month of March, we will be taking donations for the Children’s Home Society. Starting next week, you can find a copy of their Wish List on the Outreach Bulletin Board next to the Welcome Center. Please drop off items by March 29th.

Donate from your smart phone!

Hillcrest Church offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone’s Quick Response (QR) code reader!



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

Children's Ministry Volunteer Appreciation & VBS Training

Sunday March 8th, after 2nd service, we will have our Annual Teacher Thank You Lunch for everyone who helps in Children's Ministry and anyone who plans to help with VBS this year. We will feed you, train you and thank you for being a part of this Ministry. We will also preview this June's VBS theme and have a sign-up ready for those who can help. Child care will be provided but we must have a proper head count for this event so please sign-up in the back foyer.

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 March 28th from 2pm-4:30pm, 180 students will meet in the Youth Room for a 2 hour session of painting much like our Women's Chocolate & Canvas experience. Cost is \$15, supplies are provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark your connection card, or contact Meriah, if you are interested in attending.

<https://adashofeverythingg.wordpress.com/2013/11/17/dandelion-canvas/>

Message Notes:

Title: Two-Faced God

Scripture: Ex 20, 34:6-7; Num 14:18-19; Deut 28; Mic 7; Mat 5:17-20; Col 3; 1 Pet 2

Monday

Subject: God in the Old Testament:
His Rules!

Scripture: Exodus 20 (10 Commandments)

Commentary:

God, after just leading Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt, gave the 10 Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai as a guide for the Israelites to live godly lives and escape the righteous judgment of God in their daily lives. But, oh, how those commandments were so hard to keep for the Israelites!

Questions for further thought:

1. With the 10 Commandments, are they too difficult for us Christians to follow?
2. Do we think that God is too harsh for us in our daily lives, even now?

Challenge:

We should remember that God, in fact, is a righteous God, and always has been. We should strive to ask for His help in attaining that same righteousness in our own lives, for He did give us a way to attain it (just not by ourselves, nor good works on our own).

Tuesday

Subject: The consequences of sin and the blessings of obedience to God

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28

Commentary:

This chapter really goes into the two choices that we have with regards to God and living by His precepts, or not. We read of (for the disobedient) "your fields will be cursed," and "The Lord will strike you with wasting diseases, fever, and inflammation," etc. However, for the obedient, He "will guarantee a blessing on everything you do, and will fill your storehouses with grain." Stark differences, indeed. But, what if one merely makes a mistake in sin, not a willful disobedience?

Questions for further thought:

1. What do we believe that the Israelites thought about God and His supreme righteousness?
2. Do we think that His righteousness, and His blessings, are *not* to be enjoyed by us, even though He specifically promised them?

Challenge:

Let's remember that God, although righteous and harsh in condemnation, really will bless us when we follow His commandments. Blessings beyond what we could imagine or hope for. Let us pray for that righteousness in our lives, and strength to live it!

Wednesday

Subject: God's righteous anger explained

Scripture: Numbers 14:18-19

Commentary:

In this chapter, we see that God's anger, though complete and furious with regard to sin, actually manifests itself slowly. In fact, it states that He is "filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion." (Though, sin's consequences continue, even unto the "third and fourth generations" after the original sinner/generation).

Questions for further thought:

1. Do we remember that God actually forgives every kind of sin and rebellion, and that this was mentioned in the Old Testament?
2. Have we asked for forgiveness from Him today? Do we NEED to ask for some forgiveness from Him this very day?

Challenge:

God's forgiveness STAYS His righteous anger. His forgiveness is open to us this very day. Why not obtain that forgiveness right now, for whatever situation or sin that we need it from? Don't delay! Ask for God's forgiveness and healing TODAY!

Thursday

Subject: Putting to death our sins
(and others')

Scripture: Colossians 3

Commentary:

The tenderness of God, and of His people, is on full display here. He asks us to "clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you." This call for we believers to be merciful mirrors the mercy of not only Jesus, but also God the Father who created us. He forgives us, so we must forgive others. As with His 10 commandments, God is strict on this rule of mercy as well.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do we need to learn how to be more tenderhearted, and kind, humble, and gentle, particularly towards others who've wronged us?
2. Do we know anyone, personally, that we need to forgive today?

Challenge:

Once again, we must remember that God, who forgives all manner of sin against Himself (who has never sinned) from us, also tells us to forgive others who've sinned against us. It's not an "option;" it's a rule.

Friday

Subject: Old or New Testament: the same God and Lord. Let us be His creation in every way.

Scripture: 1 Peter 3

Commentary:

In this chapter, we see that God is the same as He has always been. More importantly, He tells us that "you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession." What a wonderful heritage! Therefore, "As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of darkness into His wonderful life." Amen.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do we fully claim our heritage as "God's very own possession?"
2. Have we led others out of darkness "into His wonderful life"?

Challenge:

God was, is, and always has been the same: our creator and Father, who loves us as only the one who created all COULD love His creations. He wishes that all could come back to Him, and He sent His son Jesus to accomplish that task. He wishes us to, as He always has, share in and be as righteous as He. Not to condemn, but to redeem. Amen, Father, and may we grow in your righteousness and lead others back TO you and your grace and mercy. Amen.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Life's Great Truths
Message Title: Life is Hard
Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 17:33
Speaker: Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

1 Peter 2:24 (NLT) He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

Prayer Page:

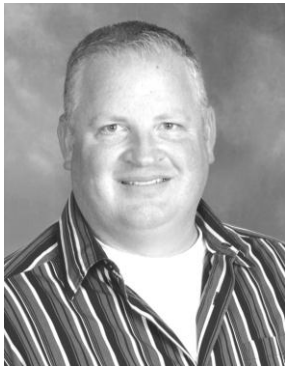
Write down the prayer concerns and praises you want to remember throughout the week. Pray every day!

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.

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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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.
- Participate in 180 Babysitting Night Chicago Trip Fundraiser on March 20th.
- Attend 180 Students Chocolate & Canvas event on March 28th.

Additional Comments:



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605-371-0546

www.sioxfordfallschurch.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

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.

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

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
