

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
March 15th, 2015

View from the Hill
Brian Stroh

Singing
Aimee VanderWeide and Jesse VanderWeide



Your Life is Not About You
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.siouxfallchurch.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 pages 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. 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.

Easter Schedule

- ✚ Hillcrest's Children's Ministry will be performing for both of our Palm Sunday services on March 29th. Pre-schoolers will be waving palms and grade schoolers will be ringing bells.
- ✚ Hillcrest's Good Friday Service will be held on Friday, April 3rd at 6:30pm. There will be no child care provided, but the service will be appropriate for all ages.
- ✚ On Saturday, April 4th, Hillcrest will be hosting an Easter EGG-stravaganza. Check the Children's Ministry section for more details.
- ✚ Easter Sunday services will be held on April 5th at normal times – 9:00am and 10:30am.

Easter Flowers

Hillcrest is again decorating the Worship Center with Easter flowers this year. If you are interested in purchasing a flower in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form at the Welcome Center, include \$7 to cover the cost and drop it in the purple box. You may take a flower after the 2nd service on Easter Sunday.

Men's Event

Hillcrest guys are invited to the Men's March Madness Event Thursday, March 26th from 6-9 PM. Activities include basketball in the gym, a bean bag tournament throughout the facility, March Madness tournament games displayed throughout the facility, awesome food, and door prizes. Cost is \$5/\$10 for dads who bring their son(s). Sign up at the Welcome Center, mark the back of your Connection Card, or contact Brian Stroh if you are interested in attending.

Also, guys who are interested in being part of Hillcrest's March Madness 'office' pool should let Brian know by Sunday, March 15th.

Men's Group

The Friday morning men's group begins a new book, *Scary Close* by Don Miller, on Friday, March 20th. Groups meets from 6-7am each Friday at the 26th Street Bagel Boy. Cost for the book is \$13 (it's cheaper if you order it on your kindle or similar device).

Ladies' Night Out

All ladies are invited to join us for Ladies Nigh Out on Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the All Day Café, located next to Scheels in the Western Mall. The restaurant is requesting a number of women attending, so please RSVP to Deanna Moser at 359-7203, at moser@sio.midco.net, or in person. This event is open to all ladies - all ages - and is a great way to get to know and connect with other ladies in the church.

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.

Adoption Celebration

Join us TODAY, Sunday March 15th from 2pm-4pm for an informal open-house event, celebrating Zach and Kay Perry's adoption of Lee and Phil and Erica Bell's adoption of Maelynn! Gifts are not necessary. If you would like to bring a gift, the Perrys and Bells have indicated that gift cards to Target would be very helpful. Cake and punch will be served.

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.

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.

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

Family Bowling Night

Children's Ministries invites all Hillcresters to Bowling! We'll be at Eastway Bowl on Sunday, March 22nd from 6pm-8pm. Cost is \$8 per person and includes 2 games and shoes. Sign up in the back foyer or mark the back of your Connection Card if you plan to attend.

Easter Egg-stravaganza!

The Hillcrest annual Neighborhood Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th, starting at 10am. We will be inviting families from the neighborhood, and Hillcrest children are encouraged to invite their friends. The event will also include a free breakfast, crafts, singing, and a story.

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.

Spring calendars are now available to pick up at the Welcome Center or at the Student Ministries bulletin board in the back foyer.

Message Notes:

Title: Your Life is Not About You

Scripture: Job 12:10; Luke 18:18-30; Luke 10:25-37

I am...

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Philippians 2:3 (NLT) Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

Monday

Subject: Saul's So-called Conversion

Scripture: Acts 9:1-19

Commentary:

This is the classic story of Saul's "conversion." In Western Christianity, we tend to over-emphasize the notion of Paul "converting" to a new religion (Christianity), but the truth is that Christianity didn't exist yet. To say that Saul converted is a misplaced piece of the narrative. Radical change happened, but that doesn't mean the change was finished.

Questions for further thought:

1. Is conversion a one-time event?
2. Do you agree that we over-emphasized the conversion experience in Western Christianity?

Challenge:

Read the second account of Saul's story in Acts 22 and 26.

Tuesday

Subject: Saul's Scapegoat

Scripture: Acts 8:1-3

Commentary:

Preceding Saul's experience that we studied yesterday, we see here that he was very violent and discriminatory towards these new Jewish "Christ-followers." Saul was a Jew, and he saw this new, radical movement as a disgrace to the system. The human race was advancing, and Judaism couldn't keep up. Saul placed his beliefs above all, and saw this new way as a threat to his certainty. Instead of confronting the actual issues, he simply made the Christ-followers a scapegoat.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you agree that this new Way was pulling humanity forward?
2. Do you see mirror images of Saul's violence against the Way in today's world?

Challenge:

Who are the scapegoats that threaten your way of life? How do we blame others for our insecurities?

Wednesday

Subject: Violence Begets Violence

Scripture: Acts 9:19-30

Commentary:

Going forward with Saul's story, we see how he is now at the receiving end of religious violence. If it weren't for Barnabas following through, Saul surely would have been killed or imprisoned.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are there any ways in which your religious affiliation causes you to cause harm? Are there subtle judgments being made in your heart about other people or people-groups?
2. Does this violence ever come back at you?

Challenge:

Meditate on the grace of God, and visualize yourself loving others and pushing negative thoughts about others out of your mind.

Thursday

Subject: Slave to Happiness

Scripture: Galatians 4:8-11

Commentary:

Fast-forwarding from Saul/Paul's story, we see here that the church of Galatia is slowly but surely veering off course by "turning back to those weak and miserable forces". We could change the word "forces" to "principles". Here again we can compare these Jews-turned-Christ-followers to Western Christians: They seem to find it difficult to give up their ideals and principles for a new Way.

Questions for further thought:

1. What kind of "ideals and principles" function as idols today?
2. Do you agree with Paul that the church of Galatia is veering off course?

Challenge:

Consider this: Modern (American) Christianity tends to attach to the principle of the freedom of the pursuit of happiness. But meditate what life would be like with freedom FROM the pursuit of happiness.

Friday

Subject: Don't Live for God

Scripture: John 1:1-2

Commentary:

This is the crux of what all Paul's fuss was about. One of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith is on display here: The Word (Christ) exists eternally in community with God the Father. And in Genesis, God walks with Adam and Eve in community with them as humans. The key word in these passages is "with"—God lives WITH us. We hear from various religious circles that we're supposed to live "under God" or "for God" (e.g., Evangelicalism, culture-war Christianity). But we can't forget the scandalous nature of Christianity, which is that God is like Jesus—walking alongside us, living with us.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are you recognizing God's presence in your life right now, just as it is? (Work, social life, daily grind, etc.)
2. Have you been waiting for your "big break" in your walk with God to reach some idealistic Christian lifestyle? (A mission trip, a job in ministry, a Christian education, etc.)

Challenge:

Instead of changing your circumstances, try recognizing God's presence in your current circumstances, and the ways His presence makes every detail and activity of your life holy.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Life's Great Truths
Message Title: You are Not in Control
Scripture: Isaiah 55:8-11; Proverbs 19:21
Speaker: Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?

Staff Contact Information



Doug Bartel
Lead Pastor
dougbartel@siouxfallschurch.com



Brian Stroh
Ministry Pastor
brianstroh@siouxfallschurch.com



Jesse VanderWeide
Worship Ministries Coordinator
jessev@siouxfallschurch.com



Meriah VanderWeide
Student Ministries Coordinator
mvanderweide@siouxfallschurch.com



Tarina Stroh
Children's Ministries Coordinator
tarinastroh@siouxfallschurch.com

Jennifer Simons
Administrative Assistant
jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com

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**

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 Children's Ministry Family Bowling Night on March 22nd.
- Attend Men's March Madness Event on March 26th.
- Attend 180 Students Chocolate & Canvas event on March 28th.

Additional Comments:



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

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

(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

