

# Hillcrest CHURCH

## Today's Gathering

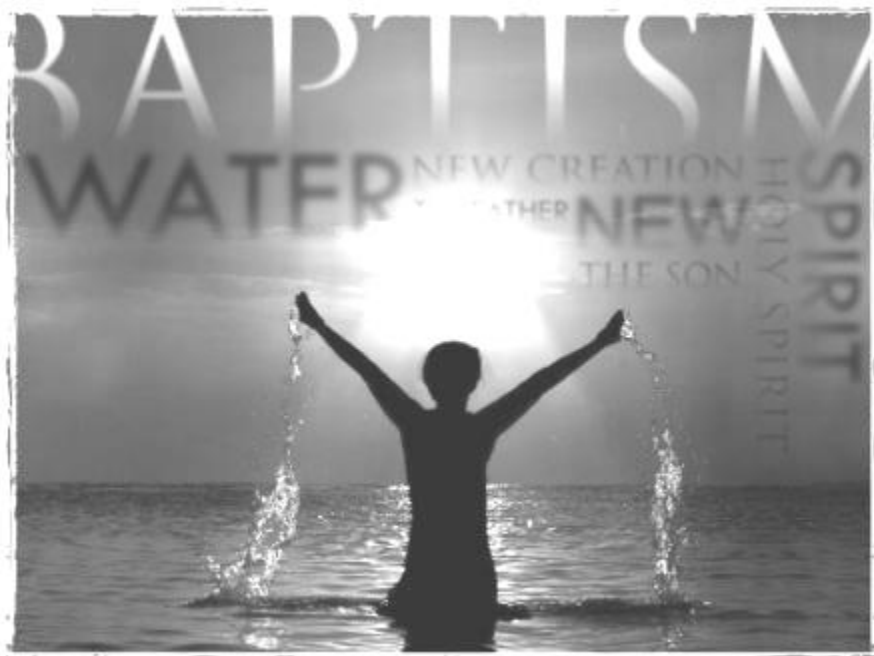
March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## View from the Hill

Brian Stroh

## Singing

Kelsey Moser and Jesse VanderWeide



## Baptism & Communion

## Palm Sunday

Tarina Stroh

## 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](http://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 3-5, 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

Please join us in celebrating Dawson VanDeVendel, Kinsley Stroh, Matthew Rench, Matthew Goehring, Jaden Gluf, Tiana Barnes, and Gabbi Oaks on their decision to publicly accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through baptism today. Our next baptism service will be on May 31st. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian.

## Easter Schedule

- ✚ Hillcrest's Good Friday Service will be held on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm. There will be no child care provided, but the service will be appropriate for all ages.
- ✚ On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> service on Easter Sunday.

## Hillcrest Amazing Race

On Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM, all Hillcresters are invited to participate in our version of the "Amazing Race"! Similar to the TV show, you'll race throughout Sioux Falls, use clues to figure out where to go, and complete simple challenges with the goal of being the first to cross the finish line! Cost is \$2 per person with a family max of \$10. Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark your connection card if you are interested in participating.

## Dinner with Doug

Would you like to get to know Pastor Doug and his wife, Jenny? Are you interested in getting to know more about Hillcrest? Are you wanting to become a member? Then sign up at the Welcome Center or mark your connection card for Dinner with Doug on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. You'll spend an evening at Pastor Doug's house, eating dinner together and learning about Hillcrest as well as asking any questions you might have.

## Parents Night Out

The 180 Chicago mission team is offering ANOTHER babysitting night on April 17th from 6pm–8pm. 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.

## Women's Pinterest Party!

Join us on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the FLC for a Pinterest themed gathering. Jessi Copeland will lead us through basic Pinterest information including where to find it, how to join Pinterest, how to "pin", how to create boards and secret boards and how to find your pins once you've pinned them. Bring your smartphones to be able to follow along for yourself! Jessi will also be leading us in a fun Pinterest craft (see sign-up table for a sample). We will enjoy Pinterest foods/snacks, Pinterest projects that have been created will grace our tables as centerpieces. If you are interested in providing a snack, food that you have made from Pinterest, there will be a place for you to let us know on the sign-up sheet. We are also looking to secure child care if that is a need. There is a \$5.00 fee for this event to cover the cost of the craft. Please sign-up at our table located by the Welcome Center in the front foyer.

## Serve

### April Mission Focus – Furniture Mission

Hillcrest's mission focus for April is the Furniture Mission. The Furniture Mission collects donations of gently used furniture and distributes the furniture to those in need, who have been referred to them from other organizations, such as Community Outreach, churches, schools, etc.

On Saturday morning, April 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday evening, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Hillcresters will be delivering furniture for the Furniture Mission. Please sign up at the Welcome Center for one of these dates, or contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in volunteering.

### Empowered to Connect Adoption Conference

Empowered To Connect, together with Show Hope, hosts the Empowered To Connect Simulcast - a two-day conference designed to help adoptive and foster parents, ministry leaders, churches, and professionals better understand how to connect with "children from hard places" in order to help them heal and become all that God desires for them to be.

Cost is \$20. Register at <http://www.bethany.org/siouxfalls/events>

## 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

Reminder that today Sunday is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, and there will be no Club House, so that children can also participate in communion and celebrate baptisms with their families.

### **Easter Egg-stravaganza!**

The Hillcrest annual Neighborhood Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Reminder that today is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. There will be no Sunday School, so that students can participate in communion and celebrate baptisms with their families.

### **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!

# Message Notes:

Title: Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21:9

**For those going deeper:**

This week's memory verse

*John 12:25 (NLT) Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.*

# Monday

Subject: Sow What?

Scripture: Matthew 13:18-23

## Commentary:

If a doctor were to perform surgery on you and remove a terminal tumor, you would say that he "saved" you. The Bible teaches that we all have a terminal tumor called sin. It points out that life has such a strong undertow of sin that it is dragging you out to sea and that you are headed toward death. We are all part of the ultimate statistic...10 out of 10 die. In the parable of the sower, Christ explains the four soils. Some miss the message...In v.19, it describes someone who hears the Gospel and doesn't really get it. Then Satan comes and removes the message. Some drop the message... In v.20-21, it describes the person that makes an emotional, superficial commitment to salvation in Christ as they remain interested only until there is a price to pay and then abandon Christ in favor of something else. Some lose the message... In v.22, it describes the person that superficially embraces salvation, but the cares of the world win out over true repentance and they produce no fruit. Some get the message...In v.23, the good soil brings forth fruit in varying degrees as all truly saved people bear fruit. How am I doing in fruitfulness?

## Questions for further thought:

1. If I was being totally honest, which of these four soils would represent me?
2. What is my reason and defense for my answer to question #1?

## Challenge:

Take time this week to examine the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 13 and take inventory of my life in relation to the different soils.

# Tuesday

Subject: Judgment, Me?

Scripture: Hebrews 11-28

## Commentary:

This is one of the greatest texts in the Bible describing the redemption found only through the shed blood of Christ. Redemption is a term describing a release of slaves by payment of a ransom. It is Christ making right our relationship with the Father. We are bought at the price of the perfect Lamb being sacrificed on our behalf. Christ offered Himself by His own volition and with a full understanding of the necessity and consequences of His sacrifice. Christ was the fulfilment of the old covenant of sacrificing of bulls and rams as He superseded that covenant in the one time, all-inclusive, perfect sacrifice at the cross. Moreover, "it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment". (Heb. 9:27) So how do we avoid this coming judgment? We must respond to and appropriate Christ's gracious offer of salvation through repentance and faith. (Mark 1:15). So what is stopping you from responding today?

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do I agree with the notion that I can do nothing to save myself? Why or why not?
2. Why do I need an "alien" righteousness that only comes through Christ to be truly redeemed?

## Challenge:

Share this truth with someone this week that needs to know this TRUTH.



# Wednesday

Subject: What's Down with Hell?

Scripture: Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1;  
Ecc. 3:11; Hebrews 11:6

## Commentary:

What is Hell? Historically, hell was defined as eternal, conscience torment for the wicked. However, maybe a better definition would be "Hell is eternal torment for the impenitent". Impenitent is the term to describe a person who is not repentant. Repentance is when you come to the place in your life when you tell God, "Lord, I've been wrong! I've thought wrong and I've done wrong! I thought I could get to Heaven on my own efforts. I thought you would grade on the curve and weigh up the good things vs. the bad. I realize that the only entrance to Heaven is gained through Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sin found in Him. Hell is a place for God's righteous anger at sin to be poured out. But, aren't there many people that have not heard about God and His gracious gift? That would be a good argument if our Lord hadn't presented these three unmistakable evidences. 1) They see God in creation. The creation screams "There's a GOD, There's a GOD! 2) They have the voice of conscience. You don't have to teach a child that it is wrong to lie. They know by evidence of conscience. 3) Saving evidences of people reached by missions have proven that to all that want to know God, He will make himself known. However, I suspect that it is not a problem with not hearing, but that most do not WANT to know.

## Questions for further thought:

1. How is the rationalization for my sin keeping me from experiencing God's saving power this day?
2. What steps will I take to get alone with God and confess my sin to Him personally? When will I do that?

## Challenge:

Read Romans 1 and meditate on the truth that is found in this passage.

# Thursday

Subject: What's Up with Heaven?

Scripture: John 14:6; Revelation 21

## Commentary:

In a survey of 100 people that were asked to name a commonly held misconception about Heaven, this was the top answer given; You get to Heaven by being a good person. This seems to fly directly in the face of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. The idea that Jesus was a good example and a good teacher seems like a compliment, but if that is it, it just leaves people without hope. He is the hope of eternal life as He explains in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". Revelation 21 reads like a travel brochure on Heaven. It gives five remarkable facts about Heaven and its reality. 1) In Heaven, everything is always new. Revelation 21:5 talks about "Behold, I am making all things new". 2) In Heaven, God is near. Imagine a place where God never feels distant; where you and I will never have to turn around and return because we will never wander away. 3) In Heaven, suffering is absent. Imagine leaving all hurts behind and facing life without the possibility of further pain. 4) In Heaven, satisfaction is abundant. Imagine a place where "wanting" will not be in your vocabulary. 5) Everyone is not going to Heaven. Revelation 21:8 gives eight characteristics of those that will not be in Heaven. Which of these strike a chord with you?

## Questions for further thought:

1. How can I know for sure that I am going to Heaven? What source can I go to for my assurance?
2. Who is a trusted person I can confide in if I am struggling with question #1?

## Challenge:

Confess my willingness to give into prideful tendencies and see how God will work in His Spirit to change that.

# Friday

Subject: Born Once, Die Twice;  
Born Twice, Die Once

Scripture: John 3:1-21

## Commentary:

The story of Jesus and Nicodemus reinforces John's themes that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God and that He came to offer salvation to all who would believe. Jesus' ability to know men's hearts points to an unmistakable evidence of His deity. Jesus also presented God the Father's ordained plan of salvation to Nicodemus, showing that He was God's messenger, whose redemptive work would bring about the promised salvation to his people. Being born is first a matter of the physical. Being born again is most definitely a matter of the spiritual. The new birth must be appropriated by an act of believing faith. This is more than mere intellectual assent to the claims of the Gospel. It includes trust and commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior, which will result in a new nature that produces a change of heart and mind and will result in obedience to the Lord. After you are born *physically*, you have to be born again *spiritually*. If not, you will not only die physically (which we all will), but you will also die spiritually in a place called hell. But God is rich in mercy and desires to forgive, but He will not force your hand. Come today to the living water of Jesus Christ and drink deeply. He always satisfies!

## Questions for further thought:

1. How can I know for sure I have been born again?
2. When will I confess and forsake my sin and put my trust in Christ alone as the basis for my forgiveness?

## Challenge:

Seek God's guidance in this matter and He will give you clarity of thought. Our God is a God of order and not the author of confusion.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Thrive

Message Title: There Has Got to Be Something More  
to This Life

Scripture: John 10:10

Speaker: Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?



# 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**

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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 April 17<sup>h</sup>.
- Attend Women's Pinterest Party on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Participate in Hillcrest's Amazing Race on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Attend Dinner with Doug on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Additional Comments:

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605-371-0546

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

- 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**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_