

# Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering  
April 12th, 2015

View from the Hill  
Brian Stroh

Singing  
Tarina Stroh & Jesse VanderWeide



Our Need to be Heard and Understood  
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 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

### Hillcrest Business Meeting

Hillcrest will have its semi-annual business meeting and lunch on Sunday, May 3rd after the second service. The cost for lunch is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and children, with a family max of \$12. The agenda includes vacant elder positions and the 2015-16 fiscal budget. Full agendas and reports will be available at the Welcome Center the week before the meeting. Sign up information will be available next week.

### 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.

### 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.

## Hillcrest Amazing Race

On Sunday, April 26th 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.

## 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.

## 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.

### Facility Work Day

Hillcrest's Spring Facility Work Day will be Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8am. There are several projects both inside the facility and outside. We hope to be done by around noon, but if you can only come for an hour or two, please let us know by signing up at the Welcome Center or marking the back of your Connection Card.

## 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

### "Agency D3" VBS

Save the Date! VBS will be held May 31st – June 3rd from 6pm–8pm. Registration will begin May 1st. If you would like to volunteer for VBS on these days or on any of the work days (May 2nd 10am–12pm, May 13th 6pm–8pm, May 16th 9am–12pm, May 30th 9am–1pm), please contact Tarina. Later this month, we will start a sign up for all the open volunteer spots.

## 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!

# Message Notes:

Title: Our Need to be Heard and Understood

Scripture: Psalm 77:1-2; Isaiah 55:3; James 1:19

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

*Matthew 11:15 (NLT) Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!*

# Monday

Subject: Three Things

Scripture: James 1:19

## Commentary:

In today's passage, James tells us that in order to live a life worthy of Christ, we must master 3 key aspects of relationships - listening more, speaking less, and being very slow to anger. Although often difficult, mastery of these elements is absolutely necessary when forming and maintaining healthy relationships with one another as well as with God.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do you consider yourself a good listener?
2. Are you always trying to interject in conversation instead of listening?

## Challenge:

Pray for the opportunity to truly listen. Focus on what the other person is saying and wait until they are done before you interject thoughts or ideas. Many times it is more difficult than it seems.

# Tuesday

Subject: Are You Spiritually Deaf?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

## Commentary:

Paul tells us in verse 16 that "we understand these things for we have the mind of Christ". God does not reveal the truths of scripture to those who do not know Him or seek to know Him. To one who doesn't have the gift of the Holy Spirit, hearing God's Word is like hearing a conversation in a different language. It sounds like foolishness and almost impossible to understand.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do you ask for wisdom in discerning God's Word?
2. Do you have the "Spirit of Truth"?

## Challenge:

Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding in regard to God's Word. If you haven't invited Him in, do it today.



# Wednesday

Subject: Can You Understand?

Scripture: Mark 4:1-9

## Commentary:

Jesus' preferred method of teaching was the parable – a short story using familiar themes or scenes with which His listeners could relate. This method really required the people to listen and think and draw conclusions. Why did Jesus use this method? Jesus knew there were many different people in the audience. Some eagerly received and accepted the message. Others were skeptical or down-right hostile to His views. The beauty of the parable is that those with open hearts and minds were usually enlightened in the mystery of the parable, while those who were callous and hard-hearted usually went away frustrated.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Are you ready to listen and understand?
2. Are you skeptical and hard – hearted?

## Challenge:

Are you daily studying the Bible? If so, great. Are you in prayer for understanding of what you are reading? Are you in a small group or a study in which you can share ideas with others? We all need others to help us understand, much as Philip helped the Ethiopian eunuch to understand as recorded in Acts 8.

# Thursday

Subject: Hear and Obey

Scripture: Luke 6:46-49

## Commentary:

This, in my opinion, is one of the most understandable comparisons Jesus makes in His teaching. I think He was very transparent here for a reason. He didn't want us to miss this one! He desperately wants us to not only hear Him, but to hear and obey. He doesn't desire us to be superficial and shallow, but bold and deep in our relationships with each other and with Him. He desires our attention, affection and allegiance. From this passage it is clear that everything we do and say should be a reflection of Jesus to those around us. Our lives should be lived for Him.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Have you built your life on "Jesus the Rock"?
2. Do you hear Him and obey Him?

## Challenge:

Reread today's passage. Imagine looking into Jesus' face as He asks you "Why do you call me Lord and do not do what I say?" How will you answer Him?

# Friday

Subject: Live or Die

Scripture: Isaiah 55:3; Proverbs 1:23-28

## Commentary:

These verses offer a stark contrast in regard to listening and obeying God versus rejecting God. According to God as recorded by Isaiah, if we listen and obey we will live and prosper. Solomon, on the other hand, has quite a different message to deliver in the case of our disobedience - disaster, suffering and separation from God.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Has your pride ever gotten in the way of your listening to and obeying God?
2. What was the result?

## Challenge:

Compare high points and low points in your life. Can you draw conclusions based on the consequences you received for your obedience or disobedience? Pray for forgiveness for those times you disobeyed and wisdom to turn from disobedience.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Thrive  
Message Title: Our Need to Be Affirmed  
Scripture: Romans 3:21-26  
Speaker: 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



**Doug Bartel**

Lead Pastor

[dougbartel@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:dougbartel@siouxfallschurch.com)



**Brian Stroh**

Ministry Pastor

[brianstroh@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:brianstroh@siouxfallschurch.com)



**Jesse VanderWeide**

Worship Ministries Coordinator

[jessev@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:jessev@siouxfallschurch.com)



**Meriah VanderWeide**

Student Ministries Coordinator

[mvannderweide@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:mvannderweide@siouxfallschurch.com)



**Tarina Stroh**

Children's Ministries Coordinator

[tarinastroh@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:tarinastroh@siouxfallschurch.com)

**Jennifer Simons**

Administrative Assistant

[jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto: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.

☐ Attend Women’s Pinterest Party on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

☐ Participate in the Facility Work Day on April 25<sup>th</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>.

☐ Attend Business Meeting on May 3rd.

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(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**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____