

# Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering  
April 26th, 2015

View from the Hill  
Brian Stroh

Singing  
Jesse VanderWeide



Our Need to be Blessed  
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.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

## 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. Lunch Menu includes grilled hamburgers & hot dogs, baked beans, corn cobbles, assorted chips, fresh baked cookies, Country Time lemonade, 1/2 lemonade & 1/2 tea, water, and coffee. The agenda includes vacant elder positions and the 2015-16 fiscal budget. Full agendas and reports are available at the Welcome Center this week. If you take one, please remember to bring it with you next week. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

## Graduation

Hillcrest would like to recognize its graduates of 2015, during our church services on May 17th! Whether you are graduating from High School, College, or other post-secondary school, please send your name, school, graduation date, and future plans to Jennifer Simons at [jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com). Please send in information by May 1st. We will also be recognizing 5th graders, who will be "graduating" from Children's Ministry Club House into 180 Student Ministry in the fall.

## Summer with Hillcrest

As you are making your summer plans, make sure to mark these dates on your calendars!

- May 31st – June 3rd Agency D3 VBS
- June 6th Potluck Picnic, Games, and Campfire at Newton Hills
- June 17th Family Night at Thunder Road
- June 27th Rummage Sale
- July 15th Family Fun at Wild Water West
- August 23rd Picnic & Bean Bag Tournament

Remember that Hillcrest Children and Student Ministries also run programs all summer!

## Serve

### May Outreach Focus – VBS

Hillcrest will be hosting “Agency D3” Vacation Bible School Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6pm to 8pm each evening. Check out the children’s area for more information on registering.

We are still in need of volunteers in several areas, especially “Agents of Truth,” who will hang out with a small group of kids and get them where they need to go. You can volunteer as a Agent for two days or the whole week.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with set up on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-12pm; Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm; and Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm.

There is a sign up board near the Children’s Check-In if you are interested in helping out with VBS.

Lastly, the Outreach Bulletin Board is full of other ways you can help. Donations will be used for various expenses, including crafts supplies and snacks.

## 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

Hillcrest's Vacation Bible School, "Agency D3" will be held Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6pm-8pm at Hillcrest.

Registration is FREE! Brochures with more details and registration forms are available at the display in the front foyer. Don't forget to pick up a music cd for each family and an iron-on badge for each child when you register. You can also register for VBS on our web site.

## 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!

### Thrift Store Formal

May 20th is our First Annual Thrift Store Formal End of Year Bash! Middle School and High School will meet in the gym at 7pm for food, music, and to show off their awesome clothes. Invite your friends and celebrate the coming of summer! Come in your classy thrift store finds. Prizes will be awarded for most thrifty guy and gal.

Looking for Parents who are willing to make desserts or snacks and help with serving.

# Message Notes:

Title: Our Need to be Blessed  
Scripture: Matthew 3:17; Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 3:1;  
Genesis 12:1-20

**For those going deeper:**

This week's memory verse

*Psalm 5:12 (NLT) For you bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love.*

# Monday

Subject: Blessing from a father

Scripture: Matthew 3:17

## Commentary:

John the Baptist was baptizing people with water, for those repentant from sin. The intent was to make a public confession and have your sins washed away. Jesus—the perfect sinless human, allowed himself to be baptized by John the Baptist. He had no sins to confess or to be washed away yet he was baptized. He gave us a model to follow—confession, repentance, baptism, and follow Jesus as a disciple. What was God's reaction to this act? He declared from the Heavens "this is my son whom I love, with Him I am well pleased." This was a powerful statement for Jesus to hear publically that his father loved him and was pleased with his action. Imagine the impact it also had on all those who were present as witnesses.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Who have you longed to hear a blessing, words of encouragement or affirmation?
2. Is there someone who needs to hear the same from you?

## Challenge:

The reality is you may not be able to change your answer to the first question but you can to the second. Begin praying today for the opportunity to bless the person in question two.

# Tuesday

Subject: God has the last word

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

## Commentary:

The Israelites had been disobedient for many years, choosing to worship other gods in place of the One True God. There are consequences for these actions – they would be in captivity in Babylon for seventy years. The people of Israel were being told lies from false prophets. God communicated his message to them through the prophet Jeremiah – who carried God’s message – a blessing.

God had plans for His people – plan for them to prosper, not harm them, plans to give them hope and a future. As the people called to God, he would hear them and bring them back home and be their God. There is hope for us when we mess up, God wants us to call out to him, pray to him and he promises he will listen and be our God.

## Questions for further thought:

1. When have you felt exiled or punished for things you’ve done?
2. How did you find your way back to God?

## Challenge:

God has the last word. He wants us to receive His blessing. Sometime we get in the way of receiving His blessing. Call upon God, pray to Him, and He promises he will listen. (Jer 29:12-14)



# Wednesday

Subject: Blessed to be a blessing

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

## Commentary:

We have a worship song that says "I have been blessed, now I want to be a blessing." God called Abram (later changed to Abraham). That worship song is Abraham's story. God spoke to him and told him to leave his country, and people, to leave everything and go to the land God would show him. God promised he would make him into a great nation (land and property) and God would bless him, make his name great, and he would be a blessing to others, that all people on earth would be blessed through him. What a huge request with so many unknowns and so many possibilities.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Would you have been willing to do what God asked Abraham to do?
2. How do you respond to requests when you don't have all the answers?

## Challenge:

Imagine you were Abraham. Now think about what things God has been asking **you** to do? What is holding you back?

# Thursday

Subject: God of everyone

Scripture: Ephesians 3:1, Acts 9:15-16

## Commentary:

Israelites were God's chosen people. He chose them to have a close and personal relationship with him. He would be their God, and they would be His people. That relationship was to be an example to the rest of the world—to be a blessing to all nations so God would their God— the God for everyone.

Paul was a devout Jew, who believed God was the God of the Jews only. He was a persecutor of Christ's followers until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Jesus declared that Paul was His chosen instrument to carry His name to gentiles (people who weren't Jews). So Paul was to declare that God was the God for everyone, and His son Jesus was the savior/messiah for everyone.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do you ever have difficulty seeing Jesus as the savior for everyone? Explain.
2. Are there people you have written off? People who you don't think would ever accept hearing about a savior?

## Challenge:

We can become so "devout" to our beliefs that we can be very narrow in who Jesus loves and died for. Do you need to be praying for someone specific?

# Friday

Subject: Is your light shining

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

## Commentary:

Hillcrest is a church on a hill; we are to be a light to the world. We are to be a beacon of light to for others to see- providing light in a world of darkness. As people of Hillcrest, followers of Christ, we are to provide light to a dark world. We are to behave in such a way that others will see the good we do and praise our Father in heaven. Our actions should draw others to God. Our behavior should cause others to ask questions which lead them to discover the God we serve and His son our savior Jesus.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do your actions cause people to ask questions, such as why do you do the things you do?
2. Who needs you to be the light of Christ to them?

## Challenge:

If being a Christ follower was a crime- would your life provide enough evidence to convict you? If your answer was no, what changes do you need to make today?

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Thrive  
Message Title: Our Need to Be Safe  
Scripture: Psalm 55:22; Matthew 6:27  
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.
- Attend Business Meeting on May 3rd.
- Volunteer for a VBS work day!
- Volunteer to help out with VBS May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Help out with 180 Thrift Store Formal on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Additional Comments:

---

---

---

---



4301 E. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

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

**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**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_