

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
May 3rd, 2015

View from the Hill
Brian Stroh

Singing
Gary Rakebrandt and Jesse VanderWeide



Our Need to be Safe
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, 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 May 31st. 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.

Hillcrest Business Meeting

Hillcrest will have its semi-annual business meeting and lunch today 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. Even if you did not sign up, you are still welcome to join us.

We will not be having First Sunday at Pizza Ranch today.

Hillcrest at Newton Hills

Join us for a potluck picnic at Newton Hills on Saturday, June 6th. Bring your own meat and drink and a side dish or dessert to share. You may also want to bring a lawn chair for more comfortable seating. We will meet at picnic shelter #1 near the Overlook Tower, starting at 5:30pm. Feel free to stay later for the campfire. A state park license or daily pass is required to enter the park. For directions and/or a map, visit Newton Hills' web site at <http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/newton-hills/>

Craft Night

Procraftinators will get together on Friday, May 15th. We'll meet in the Family Life Center at 6:30pm and work until 11pm. Bring your unfinished crafts, sewing, scrapbooking, etc. to work on, as well as a drink and snack for yourself. Feel free to invite your friends! Contact Marti Lusk at 605-261-7753 to RSVP or for information.

Serve

May Outreach Focus – VBS

Hillcrest will be hosting “Agency D3” Vacation Bible School Sunday, May 31st through Wednesday, June 3rd 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 16th from 9am-12pm; and Saturday, May 30th 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-5th Grade

"Agency D3" VBS

Hillcrest's Vacation Bible School, "Agency D3" will be held Sunday, May 31st through Wednesday, June 3rd 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 Safe

Scripture: Psalm 55:22; Matthew 6:27

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Proverbs 29:25 (NLT) Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

Monday

Subject: Give Me Shelter

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-2

Commentary:

All of us want to feel safe, to have a sense of security. That is a basic human need. The question becomes, how do we fulfill that need? What do we rely on to feel safe? That can depend on our circumstances. Answers may vary from money to a state-of-the-art security system to a place to sleep tonight. For the psalmist, however, there is only one answer. God is the only trustworthy source of safety and security.

Questions for further thought:

1. When you feel insecure and afraid, what or who do you turn to first for comfort?
2. What would trusting in God as your true source of security look like for you, practically speaking?

Challenge:

Dwelling in God's shelter means living each moment knowing that He is where you feel safe: in the palm of His hand, under His wings, in His fortress. When feelings of apprehension and insecurity mount, picture yourself in a place where you see God holding you, covering you, or sheltering you. Can you see it? Feel it? Stay in that moment until you do.

Tuesday

Subject: An Unbreakable Bond

Scripture: Romans 8:35-38

Commentary:

Our sense of safety is derived, to some degree, from the level to which we can trust the key people in our life. It is hard to experience stability if those you care about most walk out on you. Human relationships can be fragile, as can the security they provide. God's love is different. No imaginable circumstances can separate us from His love and care through Christ.

Questions for further thought:

1. Think of a time in your life when someone you counted on left you hanging. How did that affect your ability to trust others?
2. Are there times when you find it difficult to truly believe that God loves and cares for you? Describe those times.

Challenge:

During blinding snowstorms, farmers would tie a rope from their house to the barn in order to reach it safely. That tether was the difference between returning home to their family and mindless wandering that often resulted in death. When you begin to feel yourself wandering and far from God and His choices for your life, grab hold of that rope that connects you to Him and His plan for you. Find a scripture that provides you with this security and memorize it for times when you feel lost and alone.

Wednesday

Subject: Fighting the 'If Onlys'

Scripture: Philippians 4:11-13

Commentary:

We are immersed in an economy that is driven by discontent. If only you have this car, this device, this home, this body, this career – then, at last, you will have arrived. Unfortunately, in a culture of comparison, we can always find someone who has a little bit more. Discontent breeds insecurity and feelings of failure. Paul found the antidote in the realization that circumstances don't create contentment. That can only come from God who gives us the strength to live secure in Him

Questions for further thought:

1. Think of a commercial you've seen recently that really made you want to buy/do/achieve the thing being advertised. What was it that appealed to you?
2. If you could identify the biggest area of discontent in your life, what would it be? Is it legitimate?

Challenge:

When you are at a social function, often one of the first questions you might be asked by a stranger is "What do you do?" or "Who do you work for?" What if we responded with the work or job that Christ has given for us to do and that we work for Jesus? Can you imagine the reactions you would receive? How much more content you would feel in this world knowing this is not your home? Try it!

Thursday

Subject: Focus, Focus, Focus

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3

Commentary:

Even when we know that our safety and security lie in God alone, it can be hard to remember that fact. Life is hard, and full of hurdles that require our attention. It can be difficult to keep the ultimate goal of our life in mind. The author of Hebrews rightly compares our life to a race and stresses that best way to run is to keep our eyes fixed on the source of our security, our prime example, and the reason we run – Jesus. When we lose that focus, the cares of life can overwhelm us.

Questions for further thought:

1. As you run your race of life, what most often distracts you from focusing on Christ?
2. Have you found ways to keep you focused on the prize? How can you put these into practice more regularly?

Challenge:

During childbirth, we women are asked to find a focal point and concentrate on it during our breathing and contractions. The labor is worth the ultimate reward. The focus helps us to get there. When you are faced with issues of the day that take your focus off of Christ, what focal point can bring you back to Him and what He desires for you? The cross around your neck? The picture of your family on your desk? The bible sitting by your bed? A memorized scripture? Find something that will refocus you on Christ and get you back in the race.

Friday

Subject: The Path to Peace

Scripture: Philippians 4:6-9

Commentary:

When we don't feel safe, we become anxious. We worry about what will happen next, often going over scenarios in our head that never come to pass. In the process, we waste precious chunks of our time on earth living in fear instead of by faith. In Philippians, Paul gives us a simple formula for security. Peace = prayer + practice. Instead of giving in to worry, ask the One who has charge of our entire life to take care of the concern. Take action, when necessary, by putting the truths we've learned in the Bible and from other mature Christians into practice. That's the best path to peace.

Questions for further thought:

1. Despite Paul's excellent advice and our best efforts to follow it, most of us find ourselves worrying from time to time. What circumstances in your life right now most need to move out of the worry category and into prayer?
2. It can be helpful to have a good friend who is well-grounded spiritually to pray with us and help us see how best to put our faith into practice. Do you have someone like this? Can you think of someone who could be this person for you?

Challenge:

Anxiety is grounded in the unknown. Peace is grounded in truth. Write out, with pen and paper, what you know to be true. When anxiety and a restless heart and mind begin to take over your day, bring out the list. The list of truth- it may only be one sentence: God loves me. This statement is excellent and praiseworthy.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Thrive
Message Title: Our Need to Be Touched
Scripture: Matthew 8:3; Matthew 9:20-22
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**

My next step today is to:

- Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- Volunteer for a VBS work day!
- Volunteer to help out with VBS May 31st-June 3rd.
- Help out with 180 Thrift Store Formal on May 20th.

Additional Comments:



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

605-371-0546

www.siouxfallschurch.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
