

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

June 7th, 2015

View from the Hill

Brian Stroh

Singing

Jesse VanderWeide



I Spy Giants

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

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Today is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 41st Street Pizza Ranch following the 10:30 service. This is an informal event, so simply show up and enjoy lunch with other Hillcresters. There is no need to RSVP and each person/family will be responsible for the cost of their own meals.

Adoption Celebration

Join us today from 3pm-4:30pm for an informal open-house event, celebrating Nick and JoEllen Welder's adoption of Musa! Gifts are not necessary. If you would like to bring a gift, gift cards to Target or HyVee would be very helpful. Cake and punch will be served.

Hillcrest at Thunder Road

Join Hillcresters at Thunder Road on Wednesday, June 17th at 7pm. \$16 for a 2 hour unlimited wrist band or \$14 for 4 universal tickets. One ticket is good for go karts, mini golf, and other attractions. You can buy 4 tickets and share among your family or use them all for yourself! Sign up at Welcome Center or contact Brian.

Craft Night

Procraftinators will get together on Friday, June 19th. 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.

Picnic at the Strohs'

Brian and Tarina Stroh would like to invite all Hillcresters to their home on Sunday, June 28th from 6-8pm. There will be hamburgers and/or hot dogs to eat and yard games to play. No need to bring anything except a lawn chair. If you plan to come, please mark the back of your connection card or send Pastor Brian an e-mail so they can properly plan.

Serve

June Outreach Focus – Our Neighbors

Hillcrest's Neighborhood Rummage Sale will be held in our parking lot on Saturday, June 27th from 9am-3pm. This is a free event that we host to thank our neighbors for allowing us to be a part of their neighborhood. Hillcrest provides the space, some tables, advertising, and a free lunch for all buyers and sellers. Hillcresters and their friends are also welcome to participate in the rummage sale. Please contact Jennifer Simons if you are interested in a spot.

In order to pull this off, we need volunteers! Set up will start at 7:30am; the rummage sale will start at 9am; and we will start serving food at 10am. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are available to help.

Urban Plunge

Hillcresters are invited to a unique short-term mission opportunity July 17-19 right here in our own city! Hillcrest's own Kevin Skogstad will be leading a team of Hillcresters through an opportunity called Urban Plunge. You'll experience a completely different side to Sioux Falls as you minister and interact with under-resourced people from Sioux Falls. The cost is \$130 for the weekend and includes meals, lodging, and a T-shirt. Participants must be at least 12 years old, and we need a minimum of a group of 10. A deposit of \$25 is due by **June 15th** in order to reserve your spot. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in this opportunity.

Giving Convenience

Summer is a busy time for many individuals and families, with weddings, sports, camping, vacations, and other recreation. If you would like to remain faithful in your giving, regardless of your schedule, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up this summer, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit www.siouxfallschurch.com or contact the church office for more information.

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
Dog House: 3 & 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

Summer Fun Days – Kindergarten & 1st Grade

Sunday, 6/14 from 2-4pm. Parents can drop children off at the Butterfly House & pick them up at the Outdoor Campus, or they can attend with their children. Cost is \$5 and children will memorize John 3:16 or John 3:17 (if they memorized John 3:16 last year.) Sign up in the back foyer or on our web site if your child plans to attend.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

This summer, Middle School and High School students will meet together in the Youth Room during the 10:30am service.

180 Wednesday Nights

This summer, Middle School students meet from 7-8pm and High School students meet from 8-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, and games!

180 Events

July 12th – 18th, Middle School students are invited to attend Village Creek Bible Camp in Northeast Iowa. Village Creek Bible Camp is a year-round ministry offering life-changing camp experiences enabling people of all ages to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Meriah will be attending with the students and transportation will be provided. If you are interested in learning more about activities, cost, and registration, please contact Meriah VanderWeide or visit the camp's web site <http://villagecreek.net/#/village-creek-bible-camp>.

Message Notes:

Title: I Spy Giants!

Scripture: Numbers 13

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Monday

Subject: Grace or Truth?

Scripture: John 1:14-17

Commentary:

Isn't Christianity revolutionary? Jesus Christ is the Word of God who became flesh. God didn't leave us in our sin, but He came to do for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. He provided a means for forgiveness of sin through His death and resurrection. Now how ought we to respond to receive such a gracious offer? In Mark 1:15 Jesus says "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; *repent* and *believe* in the gospel" It seems as if the king of the universe might be asking something of us. God's glory is on display throughout the entire New Testament in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It's interesting that John does not focus on Jesus' love and kindness, though He certainly possessed those traits. He didn't even choose to focus on Jesus' obvious wisdom. John reports the glory of Jesus was that He was full of grace and truth. Nothing He did with truth diminished His grace and nothing He did with grace diminished His truth. He was full of BOTH. Now that's what I'm going for, how about you?

Questions for further thought:

1. Do I gravitate more toward grace or truth? Why?
2. In what ways do I need to adjust so I am seeking to have my life marked by both grace and truth?

Challenge:

Seek to follow Jesus more closely through exhibiting both grace and truth.

Tuesday

Subject: Buried Treasure

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

Commentary:

I once heard it said that refusing to pray is like owning a field filled with buried treasure but refusing to pick up a shovel and dig. I found that interesting as we struggle through this thing called prayer. Is there something special wording formula for prayer? Do I have to pray at a certain time or in a certain place? This passage exhibits one of Paul's prayers as he is praying for spiritual strength. And what is God's response to our petitions? He acts on our behalf, for He longs to hear His people cry out to Him "I need you!" However, this strength may not be what we would expect. Strength comes from knowing and understanding the love of Christ. For just as Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:14 "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this; that one has died for all, therefore all have died". Christ passionately desires that we would be filled with the fullness of God. He continues to give us strength daily as we pray for the filling of His Holy Spirit. Now that is something to be excited about.

Questions for further thought:

1. What are the areas of weakness in my life that I need His strength?
2. How will I go about pursuing that strength today?

Challenge:

Be encouraged. It is the desire of the Lord to fill ALL of you with ALL of Him. Work to appropriate that strength in humble serventhood to Him.

Wednesday

Subject: I Spy "Unbelief"

Scripture: Numbers 13

Commentary:

What keeps many of us from achieving all that we could achieve as followers of Jesus Christ? It is the same reason the Israelites so often failed. The first and primary reason for all spiritual failures is not to trust in God's Word. The issue is always: Will God's people believe God's Word or won't they? Do you believe it? The account of the 12 spies, their divided report and the failure of the people to trust God and pursue the conquest of Canaan is one of the great accounts of the Bible. After all the people had gone through in the previous months of preparation, at long last it was time to claim God's promises, march forward and take the Promised Land. But they did not do so! Instead, they failed to trust God and suffered the consequences of that unbelief.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do I consider unbelief a small matter?
2. What difference might it make in my life if I would learn to look to look to God first and trust Him and then look at the circumstances?

Challenge:

Seek the Lord and His truth to know who you truly are in Christ Jesus. Let this serve to encourage you to share this Good News with others.

Thursday

Subject: Lamb of God

Scripture: John 1:29-34

Commentary:

The old covenant sacrificial system described how there needed to be a lamb/animal sacrificed on behalf of the people and their sin. However, this small animal was not sufficient as the "Lamb of God" in the person of Jesus Christ was ushered in resulting in a new covenant. Death was the payment required for the forgiveness or atonement of sin. But not just God" to satisfy the just demands of a Holy God and His holy hatred of sin. When John says "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" he is announcing the perfect lamb work Jesus would do for us. Because Jesus is that Lamb, we can say, I am under His forgiveness. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, brings forgiveness. So I must ask. Do you have that? Have you embraced Jesus Christ by faith for your forgiveness? Is He *YOUR* Lamb?

Questions for further thought:

1. How would I explain to someone what it means to say Jesus is the Lamb of God who died in my place?
2. What are the main points I would want to make?

Challenge:

Take some time this week to examine the similarities and differences between the Old sacrificial system and the New Covenant revealed in the Cross of Christ.

Friday

Subject: Humility in Repentance

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 7:8-16

Commentary:

All God's grace is dispensed when we admit our powerlessness against sin and its degrading effects. This is most true when we admit our weakness and Christ's power in us is displayed for His glory. Repentance is far more than a mere change of mind or remorse. It is the agreement with God that our sin is exceedingly sinful causing us to turn from and forsake that sin and turn toward God which then results in righteous living. These verses then describe how genuine repentance will manifest itself in one's attitudes.

Earnestness – we will aggressively pursue righteousness and ends our indifference to our sin. Eagerness to clear yourselves – a desire to clear one's name and aims to restore the trust and confidence of others.

Indignation – righteous, holy anger toward one's sin and displeasure how it soiled the Lord's name. Longing – a desire to repair the relationship against the one who we have sinned. Zeal – loving something so much that it hates anything that harms the object of that love. Punishment – The desire to see justice done. From this passage, it sure appears that true repentance should result in a changed life. Wouldn't you agree?

Questions for further thought:

1. Have I truly repented of my sin and put my trust in Christ for my forgiveness?
2. What evidence in my life could I point to in order to prove that this is indeed true? Who could I ask to check my story?

Challenge:

Take a real inventory of your life this week to see if your walk lines up with your talk. If not, ask the Holy Spirit to change you to be more like Jesus.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Spies Like Us
Message Title: The Spies and the Prostitute
Scripture: Joshua 2
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 Family Night at Thunder Road on June 17th.
- Volunteer to help with the Neighborhood Rummage Sale on June 27th.
- Attend picnic at Strohs' house on June 28th.
- Participate in Urban Plunge mission July 17-19.

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
