

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
June 21st, 2015

View from the Hill
Meriah VanderWeide

Singing
Jesse VanderWeide



Ten Spies and One Prisoner
Pastor Brian 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, 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

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.

Canaries Game

Monday, July 6th at 7pm, join other Hillcresters for a night at the ballpark, watching the Sioux Falls Canaries. Tickets cost \$1 each (yes, you read that right!). Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Brian to reserve your tickets.

Wild Water West

Join Hillcrest at Wild Water West on July 15th! We have a fantastic deal for you- \$8 for an all-day pass (the normal price for this is \$26.00 - a discount of \$18!) The pass is good from 11am-8pm and includes all the attractions at the park (except Paintball). You need to sign-up and prepay for this deal by Sunday, July 12th.

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, July 22nd 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.

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.

Life 96.5 Sticker Stop

On Thursday, July 9th from 4-6pm, Christian radio station, Life 96.5, will be inviting the community to drop by the Hillcrest parking lot to meet the radio personalities, get a free bumper sticker, and register for other prizes. We don't need any volunteers for this event, but we will be handing out free sugar cookies (July 9th is National Sugar Cookie Day), so feel free to stop by and invite your friends!

July Outreach Focus

Urban Plunge: Unfortunately, the Urban Plunge that was scheduled for July 17-19 had to be cancelled, because not enough people signed up for this local mission. We would like to know if this is something that people would be interested in taking part in at a different time of year or with more time to prepare. Please send all feedback to Pastor Brian.

Abbott House: Instead of the Urban Plunge, Hillcrest will be partnering with Life 96.5 to support their mission focus for July, which is the Abbott House in Mitchell, SD. Abbott House is a private charity that provides residential treatment services to girls between the age of 7 and 18, who have little or no family support and who have endured extreme trauma, experienced abuse, or who have been diagnosed with depression, anxiety, or ADHD. The agency provides not only intensive treatment but also foster care in a therapeutic home.

During the month of July, the radio station will be doing a drive for Abbott House and will provide drop-offs at each of their "sticker stops." They will take donations for new or gently used girl's and women's jeans, and large teddy bears. We will also collect these items here at Hillcrest and deliver them to the station.

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 – 2nd & 3rd Grade

Thunder Road Mini Golf & Lazer Tag

Sunday, July 12th, 2-4pm

Cost is \$5 and children must memorize the 10 Commandments. If you memorized it last year, this year you will memorize The Fruits of the Spirit.

Parents can drop off their kids and pick them up at Thunder Road, but are also encouraged to attend with their child. Pick up a brochure with more information and/or sign up in the back foyer.

Contact Tarina Stroh at tarinastroh@siouxfallschurch.com with any questions.

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. Students will be watching "AD: The Bible Continues" throughout the summer.

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: Ten Spies and One Prisoner

Scripture: Genesis 42-45

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT) ⁸"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

Monday

Subject: Subject

Scripture: Acts 9:1-19

Commentary:

This is the classic Bible story of Saul's "conversion" that we all were read in Sunday school. In our Western Christian context, we tend to over-emphasize the notion of Paul "converting" to a new religion (Christianity), but the truth is that Christianity didn't exist yet. To say that Saul converted is a misplaced piece of the narrative, often used to manipulate people. A radical changing of the mind ("metanoia" in Greek) surely happened, but that doesn't mean the change was finished.

Questions for further thought:

1. Is conversion a one-time event?
2. Do you agree that we over-emphasized the conversion experience in Western Christianity?

Challenge:

Read the second account of Saul's story in Acts 22 and 26 and compare the narratives.

Tuesday

Subject: Saul's scapegoat

Scripture: Acts 8:1-3

Commentary:

Preceding Saul's experience that we studied yesterday, we see here that he was very violent and discriminatory towards these new Jewish "Christ-followers." Saul was a Jew, and he saw this new, radical movement as a disgrace to the system. The human race was advancing in their understanding of God, and Judaism couldn't keep up. Saul, however, wanted to keep things the way they were. He placed his beliefs above all, and saw this new way as a threat to his certainty and comfort. Instead of confronting the actual problems with his religion, he simply made a people into a scapegoat.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you agree that this new Way was pulling humanity forward?
2. Do you see mirror images of Saul's violence in today's Christianity?

Challenge:

Who are the scapegoats that threaten your way of life? How do we blame others for our insecurities?

Wednesday

Subject: Violence begets violence

Scripture: Acts 9:19-30

Commentary:

Going forward with Saul's story, we see how he is now at the receiving end of religious violence. If it weren't for Barnabas following through, Saul surely would have been killed or imprisoned.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are there any ways in which your religious affiliation causes you to cause harm? Are there subtle judgments being made in your heart about other people or people-groups?
2. Does this violence ever come back at you?

Challenge:

Meditate on the grace of God, and visualize yourself loving others and pushing negative thoughts about others out of your mind.

Thursday

Subject: Slave to happiness

Scripture: Galatians 4:8-11

Commentary:

Fast-forwarding from Saul/Paul's story, we see here that the church of Galatia is slowly but surely veering off course by "turning back to those weak and miserable forces". We could change the word "forces" to "principles". Here again we can compare these Jews-turned-Christ-followers to Western Christians: They seem to find it difficult to give up their ideals and principles for a new Way.

Questions for further thought:

1. What kinds of "ideals and principles" function as idols today?
2. Do you agree with Paul that the church of Galatia is veering off course?

Challenge:

Consider this: Modern (American) Christianity tends to attach to the principle of the freedom of the pursuit of happiness. But try meditating on what life would be like with freedom FROM the pursuit of happiness. Does it look different? Do you act different?

Friday

Subject: Don't live for God

Scripture: John 1:1-2

Commentary:

This is the crux of what all Paul's fuss was about. One of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith is on display here: The Word (Christ) exists eternally in community with God the Father. And in Genesis, God walks with Adam and Eve in community with them as humans. The key word in these passages is "with"—God lives WITH us. We hear from various religious circles that we're supposed to live "under God" or "for God" (e.g., Evangelicalism, culture-war Christianity). But we can't forget the scandalous nature of Christianity, which is that God is like Jesus—walking alongside us, living with us.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are you recognizing God's presence in your life right now, just as it is? (Work, social life, daily grind, etc.)
2. Have you been waiting for your "big break" in your walk with God to reach some idealistic Christian lifestyle? (A mission trip, a job in ministry, a Christian education, etc.)

Challenge:

Instead of changing your circumstances, try recognizing God's presence in your current circumstances, and the ways His presence makes every detail and activity of your life holy.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Spies Like Us
Message Title: Double Agents
Scripture: Galatians 2:1-10
Speaker: Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?

Staff Contact Information



Doug Bartel
Lead Pastor
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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.
- Volunteer to help with the Neighborhood Rummage Sale on June 27th.
- Attend picnic at Strohs' house on June 28th.
- Attend Canaries Game on July 6th.
- Attend Wild Water West event on July 15th.
- Attend Dinner with Doug on July 22nd.

Additional Comments:



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

605-371-0546

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:

- 1st Visit --- How did you hear about Hilcrest? _____
- 2nd 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
