

# Hillcrest CHURCH

## Today's Gathering

June 28th, 2015

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Tarina Stroh, Kelsey Moser, and Nic Torbert



## Double Agents

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 page 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

### Canaries Game

Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</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.

## Serve

### Life 96.5 Sticker Stop

On Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Summer Fun Days – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 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: Double Agents  
Scripture: Galatians 2:1-10

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

*Isaiah 29:13 (NLT) And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote."*

# Monday

Subject: That Isn't Normal

Scripture: Matthew 11:18-19

## Commentary:

We are great at spotting differences in those around us. Anything that varies from our perception of normal makes us uncomfortable and suspicious. Neither John the Baptist nor Jesus fit into the "normal" Jewish culture of the day. However, Jesus points out that it is the substance of a life that matters, rather than the outward appearance.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What are a few ways other people might make you uncomfortable? (Mannerisms, appearance, habits, etc?)
2. How do you think you might have reacted to seeing John the Baptist or Jesus presenting their message in such different ways?

## Challenge:

Be mindful this week of your interactions with other people. Are superficial things influencing how you value a person or what they have to say?

# Tuesday

Subject: Freedom to Choose

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

## Commentary:

In this passage, Paul is trying to correct people who have misunderstood what freedom in Christ means (See also: 1 Cor. 10:23). We are free from the law, but our choices still have consequences. Using our freedom for selfish desires is not why Jesus set us free. Doing so is destructive to us and others. Feeding these appetites quickly puts them in a position of power in our lives and we lose the very freedom we are meant to enjoy. Rather, freedom in Christ allows us to wrench our focus off ourselves, and follow His purpose in our lives individually and as His church.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Sex with prostitutes and eating food that had been sacrificed to idols were common parts of idol worship in Corinth when Paul wrote this letter. What kinds of things are culturally acceptable today despite being counter to God's design for our lives?
2. In what ways has Jesus set you free?

## Challenge:

Write down one area where you may be feeding a selfish appetite, and one area where God might be prompting you to exercise the freedom He provides. Then pray and seek his direction in these two areas.



# Wednesday

Subject: Heart not Status

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

## Commentary:

Samuel has been appointed by God to anoint the next King, but even he cannot guess which of Jesse's sons it will be. He is looking for a mighty warrior to lead Israel. God, who sees the hearts of men, chooses David though he is just a boy.

## Questions for further thought:

1. We can't search the hearts of those around us like God can. How can we choose our leaders, employees, friends, etc?
2. Saul was still the king when Samuel selected David to replace him. Has someone's status or position intimidated you when trying to do something you knew was right?

## Challenge:

Consider what it means to have your heart inline with God. Spend some dedicated time in prayer, discussing how you can increasingly become a man or woman after God's own heart

# Thursday

Subject: Don't Sugar Coat It

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

## Commentary:

In this passage we get a glimpse of how Paul approaches his work of spreading the gospel. He is willing to confront opposition and ill treatment. He goes to great lengths to avoid being a burden to those he is trying to reach. He doesn't force or trick people into following God. In the end he is trying to please God rather than men, so he strives to stick to the truth and let God work in men's hearts.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Have you ever experienced an incomplete or sugar-coated version of the gospel from someone who was trying to please others?
2. Have you felt the urge to change the gospel based on who you are sharing with? What pieces of the gospel made you uncomfortable?

## Challenge:

Journal about your understanding of the gospel and what it means to share it.

# Friday

Subject: Dangerous Hypocrisy

Scripture: Matthew 23:25-28

## Commentary:

We can be very good at telling people one thing and doing the opposite. In ch. 23 of Matthew, Jesus is warning the disciples of the dangers of hypocrisy. Verses 25-28 show us that just because we clean up what others see does not mean that we are right with God on the inside. Jesus is reminding us that saying one thing and doing another will cause the people we are trying to win for Christ to become even further separated from God.

## Questions for further thought:

1. In your experience, what ways are people hypocritical and still feel right with God?
2. How has another person's or your own hypocrisy caused you to stumble?

## Challenge:

Take some time to discern how hypocrisy has affected your walk with God, and how you might avoid this pitfall in your own walk.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: X Commandments for Today  
Message Title: Who's Your Daddy?  
Scripture: Matthew 22:35-40; 1 Timothy 6:10;  
1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Deut. 6:5  
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.

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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



**Brian Stroh**  
Ministry Pastor  
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**Jesse VanderWeide**  
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**Meriah VanderWeide**  
Student Ministries Coordinator  
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**Tarina Stroh**  
Children's Ministries Coordinator  
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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**

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My next step today is to:

- Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- Attend Canaries Game on July 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Attend Wild Water West event on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Attend Dinner with Doug on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Additional Comments:

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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

(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**

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