

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
July 5th, 2015

View from the Hill
Meriah VanderWeide

Singing
Norma Dalen and Jesse VanderWeide



Who's Your Daddy?
Burke Perry

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 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

First Sunday at Pizza Ranch

We will NOT be meeting at Pizza Ranch this afternoon. Mark your calendars to join us on August 5th!

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.

Baptism

Our next baptism service will be on August 30th. 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.

Serve

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 – 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: Who's Your Daddy?

Scripture: Matthew 22:35-40; 1 Timothy 6:10;
1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Deuteronomy 6:5

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Exodus 20:2-5 (NLT) ²"I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ³"You must not have any other god but me. ⁴"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods...."

Monday

Subject: Whose Slave Are You?

Scripture: Romans 6:17–19

Commentary:

Through grace we are to be for Christ what Paul calls “**slaves of righteousness**,” but too often we’re enslaved to a particular sin. To illustrate, let’s visit the sin Rolodex, flip to the letter “S,” and survey just a few of the sins that enslave.

Stuff. If you’re a slave to material things, you find yourself thinking, *more money, newer car, nicer clothes, bigger house, more, more, more.*

Sexuality. Sexuality is a gift from God and a wonderful part of marital happiness. But if sex is always on your mind, you have twisted it into something God never intended—which will do you great harm.

Substances. Some seem to be powerless against substances: alcohol, tobacco, legal and illegal drugs, caffeine, sugar. Addicted and unable to say no, they have become slaves to a substance.

Someone. Sometimes people wield undue influence or even outright control over others. The slave is controlled by and addicted to securing the approval of a particular person. Willing to do whatever is required by another, we have entered yet another form of slavery to sin. Though Christianity is often wrongly viewed as a restriction on freedom—where God’s rules are seen as bondage—the reality is that everyone is a slave to someone or something. And we only have a couple of choices: we can be “**slaves of sin**” (Romans 6:17), yielding to whatever our sin natures demand, or “**slaves of righteousness**” (Romans 6:18), with the single focus of doing the will of our Master. You can’t have it both ways: either you’re a slave to sin or a slave to God

Questions for further thought:

1. Whose slave are you? What evidence is in your life that shows your allegiance to your Master?
2. After considering Paul’s warning, what specific conviction do you hear from the Holy Spirit?

Challenge:

Pray for God’s grace to convict me very specifically of my sin. Open my eyes to see it, and show me how to make it right with others.

Tuesday

Subject: Be Reasonable

Scripture: Philippians 4:5

Commentary:

Paul says we should be known for being reasonable. It starts with rejecting unreasonableness and embracing reason. A reasonable mind has peace and joy. In fact, a good, working synonym for “reasonableness” is *gentleness*, as used in the NKJV. For many of us, gentleness isn’t natural; it’s the pure product of Christ’s sanctification in us. And it’s a very good thing. Gentleness is not unnecessarily rigorous. With veins pounding in his forehead, the unnecessarily rigorous person demands, “You short-changed me four cents! Why are you robbing me of my change?” To which the reasonable person calmly replies, “First of all, yes, let me give you the right change back, and second, you seem more than four-cents’ upset.” That’s unnecessarily rigorous—more severe than the situation rightly demands. When Paul coaches us, “**Let your reasonableness** [or gentleness] **be known to everyone,**” he means we shouldn’t be unnecessarily rigorous where a perceived right is the issue. These are every day, moment-by-moment decisions. Think about the past week or two. The issues over which you may have forfeited your peace of mind already seem, in retrospect, much smaller and simpler to decide. It’s in the moment that we battle our urge to be unreasonable.

Questions for further thought:

1. Would others describe you as reasonable or unreasonable? Think of specific, recent scenarios in the spheres of your life (work, home, church, etc.).
2. Look for evidence of gentleness in your life. How do you see the Spirit growing you in gentleness?

Challenge:

Ask the Lord to show you when you’re being unreasonable, and teach me to yield to reason, moment by moment.

Wednesday

Subject: Equal Opportunity Submission

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:13-16

Commentary:

To some people, submission sounds like a dirty word. The very concept has been hijacked by cruel, selfish authoritarians who have twisted and distorted the truth for their own purposes. But true submission, when properly understood and applied, replaces the pain and strife of rebellion and greatly increases human happiness. Submit is a military term that refers to placing oneself in order under established authority. Operating within the chain of command. Yielding to authority without resisting or rebelling. Finding one's place of humility and cooperation under the influence of others. No one is to force you to submit; God's Word specifies "submit yourselves" (1 Peter 2:13, NKJV). Nowhere does the Bible teach forced, top-down submission. People in authority should never demand or command submission. Leaders receive that from those under their authority. Leaders should win the favor of those under them through selfless, servant leadership. A Godly response to that servant leadership is the choice of submission. Submission is a choice—not top down but bottom up. Submission is not slavery. God does not want His children living or acting like slaves.

Questions for further thought:

1. While it's easy to submit to a caring, gentle leader, how have you responded to authorities who have placed unpleasant demands on you?

Challenge:

Make a list of the primary authorities in your life. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = total rebellion, 5 = willing submission), how would you rate your attitude toward each authority? Consider one way you could improve your attitude of submission toward each person.

Thursday

Subject: Because He Lives

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:10-11

Commentary:

Why is Jesus alive? Pause to consider that question for a moment. Yes, He's alive because He rose from the dead—but why? Yes, He's alive because He is God—but why? Yes, He's alive "because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him" (Acts 2:24, NIV)—but why? What purpose does His present life serve? Over and over the New Testament tells us Jesus is alive and active. He makes intercession for us, He comes before the throne of heaven as our mediator, and He makes requests before the Father for our moment-by-moment needs (Hebrews 7:25). Payment for sin is complete; that's a past accomplishment (John 19:30). Someday Christ will rule the earth; that's a future promise (Revelation 19:15). But what about today? Today Christ lives to bring His victorious power to bear upon our character. Not only does He offer victory over sin and death and give forgiveness to all who believe, He also wants to live His life through us. That is what Christian living is all about—"that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh" (2 Corinthians 4:11). He is the only true resource, the only power for lasting transformation.

Questions for further thought:

1. What in your life indicates living in your own strength? How is that working for you?
2. How might your life look different if you embraced the exchanged life—Christ living in you?

Challenge:

Pray this week for God's power to live the Christian life. Expect that He will show up.

Friday

Subject: Called to Perfection or Perseverance?

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12-15

Commentary:

When the apostle Paul was training his protégé Timothy in the disciplines of faith, he established a healthy standard. That standard wasn't perfection; it was perseverance. "Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress." He wasn't asking Timothy to simply try, but rather to train. Note in the passage above that Paul included both personal and public practices as part of his training regimen for Timothy. This younger disciple was to make sure his speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity were worthy of a follower of Jesus. His public teaching and preaching were to be based on the Scriptures, including intentional use of his unique gifting as he ministered to others. This would make a long and daunting to-do list if the expectation was perfection. If we aim at perfection, we fall short. But if we persevere at making genuine progress and are willing to let God work on us as long as it takes, good things happen. We won't ever "arrive" at perfection this side of heaven, but we are growing and moving forward. We're farther along than we were a year ago—and wiser than we were six months ago. God delights in such progress. How you run today and how you'll run tomorrow reflect how much you have benefited from all the training you've received.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you say you tend toward perfectionism or sloppiness in your life and character?
2. In this next phase of your life, where do you discern you most need spiritual growth?

Challenge:

Resolve this week and in the weeks ahead to pursue spiritual growth through Bible study, prayer, and service to others.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: X Commandments for Today
Message Title: Oh My God!
Scripture: Ex 20:7; Matt 15:8-9; Ps 50:16-17; Rev
3:8; Ps 139:20; Jer 29:8-9
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.

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



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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.
- 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
