

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
August 9th, 2015

View from the Hill
Pastor Doug Bartel

Singing
Jesse VanderWeide



Two-Timing Heart
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 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

Hillcrest Picnic & Bean Bag Tournament

Hillcrest invites everyone to a picnic and bean bag tournament on Sunday, August 23rd at Laurel Oaks Park, following services. The cost is \$2 per person with a family max of \$10. Sign up at the Welcome Center to RSVP for the picnic. Mark on the sign up if you plan to participate in the bean bag tournament (if you have a partner you want to play with, make sure to sign them up as well). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Brian.

Men's Ministries

Brian is speaking at a **Men's Roundup** August 28-30 at Camp Judson in Keystone, SD and invites any interested Hillcrest men (and their sons) to attend the retreat! Cost is \$95/adult, \$60/kids age 10-17, and \$45/kids 9 and under. Includes meals and lodging at Camp Judson (<http://www.campjudson.org/>). Retreat begins with supper at 6:00 on Friday the 28th and concludes Sunday morning, August 30th. For more information, contact Brian.

The Hillcrest **Fantasy Football League Draft** will take place on Sunday, August 23rd at 5pm in the Fireside Room and Family Life Center. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in participating.

Directory

Wednesday, September 16th through Saturday, September 19th, we will be taking photos for our new directory! Everyone who has their photo taken will receive a free 8x10 and a free copy of the new directory. Life Touch will also be selling photo packages, but you are not required to purchase anything. You do not have to be a member to be in the church directory. As long as you consider Hillcrest your church home, we want you in it! We usually only do a new directory about once every 3 years, so it is really important to make it as complete as possible. You can sign up on-line by clicking on the button-link on the home page of Hillcrest's web site. On Sundays, August 30th, September 6th, and September 13th, you will also have the opportunity to sign up for your photo appointment between services. If you have a busy schedule, it's important to sign up early, as spots will fill up quickly!

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

August Outreach Focus – Powerhouse Tutoring Center

The Powerhouse is a partnership project with Wesley United Methodist Church of Sioux Falls, SD, and continues their successful model of community relationship building and academic skill development. Powerhouse is a tutoring program that focuses on continuing academic skill development with Whittier Middle School students.

During the month of August, we will be doing a drive for some supplies needed for the Powerhouse. Check the bulletin board in the front foyer for a list of items needed. Items should be returned to Hillcrest by Sunday, August 30th.

On Saturday, August 15th from 10am to 12pm, we will be having a Work Day at the Powerhouse Tutoring Center. Jobs include painting, cleaning, organizing, and yard work. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in volunteering.

The Powerhouse Tutoring Center can always use more volunteers to help out daily from 4pm to 5:30pm. Any amount of time that you can give is truly appreciated. Please contact Melissa Simpson at msimpson@siouxfallschurch.com if you are interested.

Hillcrest's SCRIP Program

For many of us, Back-to-School means shopping! When you head out to get new clothes and school supplies, consider using Hillcrest's SCRIP Program to give back to 180 Student Ministries. It is an easy way to help out with expenses for student events and trips without spending any extra money. The way it works is that vendors give a portion of the money that you spend on gift cards back to Hillcrest. You can choose to assign your donations to a specific student or for the money to go to the general fund to help whichever students need it. You can also use SCRIP for other Hillcrest events, like the upcoming picnic. Sign up on our web site at siouxfallschurch.com/scrip or contact Jennifer Simons 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

Move Up Sunday

Sunday, September 6th is when all of the children will move into their new classrooms (if applicable), to reflect their updated ages/grades. Teachers will be available to help the children find their new classrooms.

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.
- ❖ Sunday, September 6th is when 6th grade and 9th grade students will move into their new groups.

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

Our 4th Annual Back to School Championship will be held on Wednesday, August 26th from 6:30pm-8:00pm! Middle School students will compete against High School students for the Back to School Travelling Trophy. There will be games, food, and prizes. Wear clothes you are comfortable getting wet. This is the time when incoming 6th graders join us and the last hoorah for the outgoing 12th graders.

Message Notes:

Title: Two-Timing Heart

Scripture: Matthew 5:27-29; James 1:14-16; Romans 6:16;
Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 19:9;

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Hebrews 13:4 (NLT) Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

Monday

Subject: Whose Path Are You On?

Scripture: Proverbs 8:17-20

Commentary:

Do Solomon's words about wisdom and walking "**in the way of righteousness**" sound familiar? They're an echo of his father David's declaration that our Shepherd leads us "**in paths of righteousness for his name's sake**" (Psalm 23:3). Both men make it clear that walking in God's presence is necessary to a righteous life. Think about "**the way** (or paths) **of righteousness.**" By *path* or *way*, the writers of Scripture meant *a course of action; a life direction; a pattern of behavior*. You can choose many paths and directions for your life. Some are obviously wrong and will take you to destructive places. Have you followed those wrong roads? Have you found yourself wondering, *What am I doing here? I didn't want my life to be about this. I had bigger and better dreams.* If that's you, you're ready for God's way of righteousness. Seeking His way for answers is the first step to getting off those wrong roads and back into a way of living that God can bless. His directing presence will lead you "**in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice.**" Our part is to listen to His Word and respond to His leading.

Questions for further thought:

1. What is the path of righteousness God wants to lead me on?
2. What can I do today to submit to His guidance?

Challenge:

Pray for God's guidance in your everyday life, particularly in the area of righteousness. Prepare to be obedient to what He commands.

Tuesday

Subject: Are You Teachable?

Scripture: Proverbs 17:10

Commentary:

Are you a teachable person? According to this verse in Proverbs, you can get more ROI (return on investment) from a wise person in a single gentle conversation than you can gain from talking to a fool a hundred times. Which are you? A teachable person will listen when God speaks and change direction accordingly. I believe God can sometimes speak through supernatural ways, but more often, His voice has come through other people. I have received critical course correction through those who love me enough to say, "There's something you need to change." And as He speaks through His Word, His Spirit, and other people, we are always faced with a choice: will we be foolish or wise?

Questions for further thought:

1. What evidences of being teachable are in your life?
2. Where is there room for improvement?

Challenge:

Even if you recognize you've been a fool, you don't have to stay that way. The answer to foolishness is wisdom. It's available—in God's book, through His Spirit, and often communicated through His people. Correcting your course with God's help is not some awful thing.

Wednesday

Subject: Do You Want To Change?

Scripture: Romans 7:24-25

Commentary:

Do you want to change?

Maybe you're tired of cycles of defeat and empty self-help programs.

Maybe you're enslaved to a habit and feel the pain of falling flat on your face after you vowed (and really meant) you would never do that again. Maybe your marriage is in trouble. Maybe there is a sin that keeps coming back to haunt you.

Maybe you're deeply wounding those you love and want to stop. Maybe you realize your life is turning out far differently than you'd hoped, and you want to change direction before it's too late. Change begins with admitting, "I am the problem." Once and for all, let's accept that our problems are not due to other people, our parents, or our past. While we may bear very real wounds and scars from our past, before we can change, we must take full responsibility for who we're becoming. Only God can change our hearts. After Paul's long description of his sinfulness and his inability to change himself, he simply says, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:24-25)! It's so simple that we almost miss it. The answer is Jesus Christ. He wants to change our hearts. In our desperation, we need to come to Him and ask Him to do what only He can do. Does God still change people? Oh yes—and He wants to change you.

Questions for further thought:

1. What specific things about my life or myself would I like to see changed?
2. How sincerely can I admit, "I'm the problem"? In what ways am I tempted to blame externals (people or circumstances)?

Challenge:

Change begins with the genuine, humble, contrite admission, "I'm the problem." Start with that today.

Thursday

Subject: Family Pain

Scripture: Psalm 127:1

Commentary:

There's no pain like family pain. "Unless the Lord builds the house," the house will be built in vain and filled with pain. Family life is delightful and dynamic if prioritized, but difficult and draining if neglected. If life is not working at home, it's not working period—no matter how "successful" we may be in other places. And if our families are the biggest target of pain in our hearts, our children are the bull's-eye. The Bible makes no effort to sanitize the pain families can experience. In fact, Scripture is rife with examples of dysfunction: the family of Noah, the man of faith; of Eli, the Lord's priest; of Hosea, God's chosen prophet. The stories parallel our own lives and confirm there is no pain like family pain. Even Christian homes are crippled by divorce, absent parents, abuse, and financial distress. So is all hope lost? Hope begins by identifying our problems as sin. Until we are willing to call the issues in our home what they really are—my sin, my neglect, my avoidance of the issues, my refusal to live according to Scripture—we are closed to the grace of God for transformation. If we call an indiscretion what God calls iniquity, we forfeit His grace. Unless you are linked in partnership with God, all your efforts to transform your family will fall short. But if you are partnering with Him, your best days are ahead.

Questions for further thought:

1. Reflect on a time in your life when you experienced deep family pain. What did you feel during the low points?
2. What seeds of hope helped you endure?

Challenge:

Talk to God about the seemingly insurmountable problems in your family now. What would you love to see Him heal or resurrect?

Friday

Subject: Silent in Sin

Scripture: Psalm 32:3-4

Commentary:

Guilt is a very painful place to live. Attempts to remove a person's guilt include a company that sells ordinary brown paper bags on which are printed these instructions: "Place the bag securely over your mouth, take a deep breath and blow all your guilt out, then dispose of the bag immediately." The product receives kudos for creativity but a lame award for reality. Sounds crazy, but people will try almost anything to remove the heaviness of their guilt. King David knew guilt. What was the central problem of his guilt? Silence. David kept silent about his sin. Who was David silent with? David was silent about the sin with God. And that's not good. Remaining silent in sin before God is like the little boy who holds his hands up to his eyes and because he can't see the person right in front of him he thinks they can't see him. Have you ever done that? It may work with a child, but it's not a game to play with our omniscient God. Yet King David thought being silent in sin somehow meant God was unable to see his condition and his sin. David's experience is a warning for us all. It's warning that the momentary enticement of sin is not worth the pain of sin. Even more, staying silent in sin rather than repenting before God is not worth its cost. Staying silent in sin before God is indeed a very bad place to live.

Questions for further thought:

1. Has there been a time in my life when God's hand was heavy on me in order to bring me to a place of repentance?
2. Is there any sin in my life I have been holding onto and staying silent with God about?

Challenge:

Repent of secret sin and place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ for your forgiveness. God is just and the justifier of sinful man who trusts in Him. (Romans 3:26)

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: X Commandments for Today
Message Title: I Want What You've Got
Scripture: Deut 5:21; 1 Tim 6:17-19; 6:10; 6:5-8;
Phil 4:11; Rom 12:1-2; Ps 37:21-27
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 picnic on Sunday, August 23rd.
- Attend Men's Retreat August 28th – 30th.
- Participate in the Men's Fantasy Football League Draft on August 23rd.
- Volunteer in a Hillcrest Ministry. (Please write your interests below)

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 (web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)
- 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.

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
