

# Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering  
August 23rd, 2015

View from the Hill  
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing  
Kelsey Moser and Jesse VanderWeide



Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire  
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

## Baptism

Our next baptism service will be on August 30th. If you are interested in baptism, contact Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian to reserve a spot.

## Small Groups

If you are interested in joining a small group, please stop by the Welcome Center or mark the back of your Connection Card for more information.

- ❖ The Friday Morning Men's Group began a new book on August 21 titled *How God Makes Men*. Meet at 26<sup>th</sup> Street Bagel Boy every Friday at 6am. Contact Pastor Brian or mark your connection card if you are interested in joining.
- ❖ The Saturday Morning Women's Study will resume their regular schedule on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. They meet every Saturday from 9am to 11am in the Fireside Room. All women are welcome to join at any time.
- ❖ The Monday Night Women's Study will resume their regular schedule on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. They meet every Monday 6pm - 7:30pm in the Fireside Room. Studies are usually 8 - 12 weeks each session. The topic is selected by the participants. Next topic to be announced. All women are welcome to join at any time.
- ❖ Serving & Connecting Group meets every Wednesday from 6pm-7:30pm. They serve the community two Wednesdays a month, do something fun one Wednesday a month, and learn/discuss something one Wednesday a month. Children are welcome. They will kick-off with supper on September 16th.
- ❖ Sunday Adult Study Group The 10:30 class launches on Sunday, September 13th in the upstairs classroom. We'll be studying "Authentic: Developing the Disciplines of a Sincere Faith" Cost for workbook is \$10.
- ❖ Sunday Bible Study meets in the Fireside Room during the 10:30 service. Anyone is welcome to join at any time.

## Directory

Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, and September 13<sup>th</sup>, 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!

## Parent Meetings with Baptism & Communion Class

Hillcrest Student and Children's Ministries will be teaming up to host Parent Meetings and Baptism & Communion Classes on Sunday, September 13th, following the second service. A free lunch will be served for the whole family, as a brief overview of both Children's Ministries and Student Ministries is given. Then parents and children can break out into different sessions, including information on baptism, communion, and a 180 Q&A time. Childcare will be provided for younger children. Books for the Baptism and Communion Class will also be available for \$5 on the day of the class. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

## 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.

On Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30pm, we will be finishing up some painting and other projects to get the Powerhouse ready for the start of school. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pastor Brian.

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 30<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:msimpson@siouxfallschurch.com) if you are interested.

### September Outreach Focus – Cleveland Elementary

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30am, we will be providing lunch for Cleveland's teachers and staff for their back to school in-service meeting. Hillcresters are welcomed to join Hillcrest's staff and Cleveland's staff for this lunch.

During the month of September, we will also be collecting items that the school has identified as needs for the children. Please check the Outreach Bulletin Board, starting September 6<sup>th</sup>, for more information on these items.

Hillcrest is also once again committing to provide mentors and reading buddies at Cleveland Elementary for the 2015-2016 school year. Please contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

# 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

There will be no Clubhouse next Sunday, so that children can participate in Communion with their families. Child care will still be available for infants through pre-school.

## **Move Up Sunday**

Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> is when 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will move into their new groups.

There will be no class next Sunday, so that students can participate in Communion with their families.

## **180 Wednesday Nights**

Starting September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Middle School students will meet at Hillcrest from 6-7:30pm and High School students meet from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, and games!

## **180 Events**

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Championship will be held on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> graders join us and the last hoorah for the outgoing 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

180 Campfire - September 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:30. Come Hang out at Meriah & Jesse's for a camp fire. We'll make s'mores and have a great hang out time. Bring a chair & a friend.

# Message Notes:

Title: Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire!

Scripture: Exodus 23:1-3; Psalm 101:7; Proverbs 12:22,  
18:7; Colossians 3:9-10; John 18:37b, 14:6, 8:32

**For those going deeper:**

This week's memory verse

*Proverbs 28:23 (NLT) In the end, people appreciate honest criticism far more than flattery.*

# Monday

Subject: Liar, Liar

Scripture: Exodus 23:1-3

## Commentary:

"You must not pass along false rumors. You must not cooperate with evil people by lying on the witness stand. You must not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you are called to testify in a dispute, do not be swayed by the crowd to twist justice."

We know that we should not distort the truth, individually, legally, or otherwise. But, oftentimes, we do just that, even though God specifically tells us not to (and, in one case, we could be in legal trouble). Why?

## Questions for further thought:

1. Why would distorting the truth for other people **ever** be in a good service for any reason?
2. Would we ever wish to be on the receiving end of a deliberate distortion of truth in our own cases?

## Challenge:

Not just in a legal setting, but with friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc, let's always remember the **commandment** of God to not bear a false witness against anyone else. It disobeys Him and it harms other people who may be innocent of the slander put forth.

# Tuesday

Subject: The foolishness of lies

Scripture: Proverbs 10:18-19

## Commentary:

Oftentimes, we forget that one lie spoken usually begets another. And another. Until, of course, the original lie is brought forth (as is the original liar). Proverbs is quite direct on the **foolishness** of the whole business: (Prov. 10:18-19) "Hiding hatred makes you a liar; slandering others makes you a fool. Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut." Lies **and** foolishness, together, compound the sin of lying, which is an outgrowth of hatred, as well.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Have we been foolish, thinking that our lies would somehow stay hidden forever?
2. Even if they have (on earth), do we recognize that God knows all of our untruths? How shall we answer **Him** when confronted with the whole truth of our lives in meeting Him?

## Challenge:

Let us strive to not only put aside the lying (which we know is against God's eighth commandment), but also recognize (and put aside) the foolishness of lying, and the lies upon lies, that that original foolishness brings. Let us ask Christ to help us in that endeavor.



# Wednesday

Subject: In strictest "confidence"

Scripture: Proverbs 11:13

## Commentary:

Proverbs 11:13 shows us that lying is also a breach of trust, of confidence, in us as Christians and believers of the truth. It reads: "A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence."

People have **confidence** in us in order to keep the truth with us. We should honor that request from our friends and neighbors, and not disclose, or distort, that confidence by disclosing it or by "amending" that confidence to become a lie.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do we gossip (which is a form of lie)?
2. Would we wish to be gossiped about?

## Challenge:

We should not gossip, because that is a lie. It's also a breach of confidence, as noted in the scripture above. We should ask God to honor all confidences (unless they are **plainly** illegal, immoral, or both) in that we are to not spread false rumors among others, and to keep trusts confided to us, as Christians. Amen.

# Thursday

Subject: The Sin of our Tongues

Scripture: James 3:5-6

## Commentary:

Our tongues are among the worst "sin parts" of our bodies. James 3:5-6 sums this up so well: "In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself."

The above is about as strong as an exhortation of the dangers of our speech as anyone can find (re-read the last sentence, in particular).

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do we sin (not just lying) with our words every day?
2. Do we ask for **self-control** in what we not only say, but think (before we say it)?

## Challenge:

Clearly, our speech directs our thoughts (or, is directed by them) and our actions. We must ask for self-control against this most wicked of body parts, and in Christ's name and with all of His power in order to be effective against it. Do not delay; ask for this power today, and be a speaker of **truth**. Amen.

# Friday

Subject: Lying is hate; Thou shalt not hate

Scripture: Romans 13:9-10

## Commentary:

Romans 13:9-10 "For the commandments say, 'You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.' These - and other such commandments - are summed up in this one commandment: '**Love your neighbor as yourself.**' Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law."

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do we hate, daily?
2. Do we ask forgiveness for that hate, and strength to fill our hearts with God's love?

## Challenge:

Lord Jesus, help us to not hate others, but to show them the same love you showed us. Your love is the **truth**, and which is the opposite of all lies, big or small, and which are subordinate sins of hate itself. Let us do this today, Lord. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and you above everything in our mind, hearts, souls, and bodies. Amen.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Baptism & Communion  
Message Title: The 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Obedience  
Scripture: John 14:15  
Speaker: Tarina Stroh

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



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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**

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My next step today is to:

- Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- Attend Parents' Meeting with Baptism & Communion Class on Sept. 13th.
- Join a small group (write interests below)

Additional Comments:

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4301 E. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

[www.siouxfallschurch.com](http://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:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Visit --- How did you hear about Hilcrest? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

<p><b>Your Age Group:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 18-24    <input type="checkbox"/> 25-35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 36-45    <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 56-65    <input type="checkbox"/> over 65</p>	<p><b>Names &amp; Birthdays of members of your household</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Single    <input type="checkbox"/> Married</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Divorced</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Widowed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	