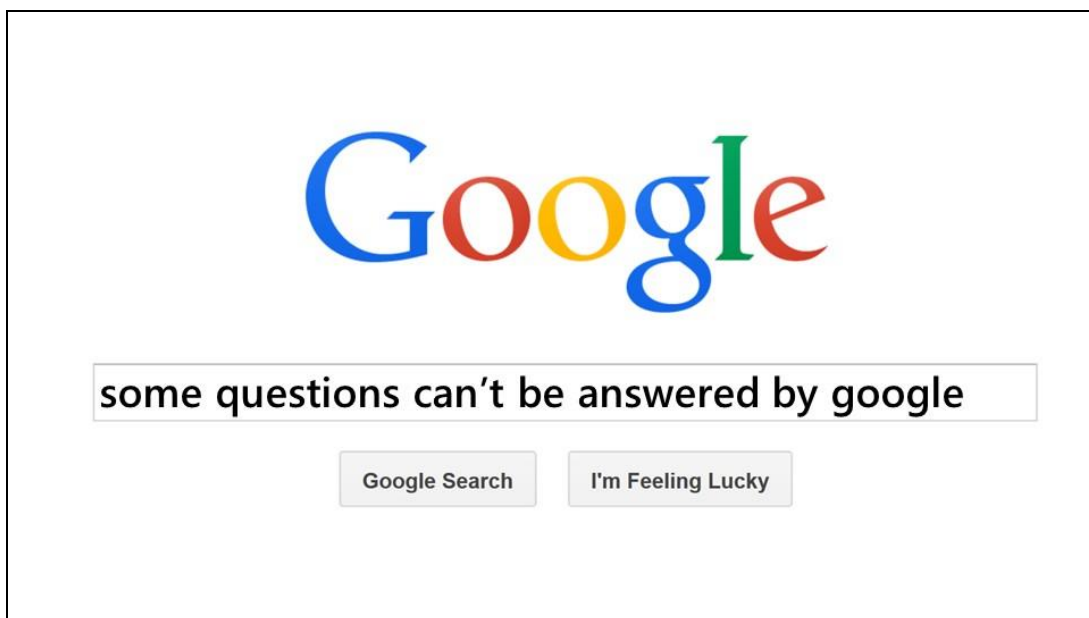


Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
September 13th, 2015

View from the Hill
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing
Cindy Cummins and Jesse VanderWeide



Why Would a Loving God Send People to Hell?
Pastor Doug Bartel

For the Kids

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Parents can go to the Children's Check-In to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Check-In is located on the north 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.siouxfallchurch.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

Directory

Today is your last chance to sign up for directory photos, which will be Tuesday, September 15th through Saturday, September 19th. Reminder that everyone who gets their picture taken will get a free copy of the directory.

BBQ at the Bartels

Do you ever eat lunch after church? Well, you need to do it with Pastor Doug and his family on October 4th after 2nd service. Come on over to his house for some BBQ (fresh smoked pulled pork) and all the fix'ns. Food and drinks are provided all you need to bring is your appetite and a chair.

Corn Maze

On Wednesday, October 8th, Hillcresters are invited to meet at the Heartland Country Corn Maze at 6pm for a family friendly event. Cost is only \$5 per person (ages 4 and under are free). Please sign-up and pre-pay at the Welcome Center.

Hillcrest Basketball

Like to play basketball? Join others for basketball at Hillcrest Thursday evenings, starting October 8th from 7-8:30 in the gym. Open to men and women, all skill levels! Must be high school age and older. Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested.

Sabbath Retreat

Pastor Doug will be leading a Sabbath Retreat at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton on October 16-17. The retreat will include times of instruction as well as times of solitude and prayer. We all need Sabbath time and this retreat is designed to refill your tanks and help you hear God and grow closer to Him.

The retreat is designed for adults but mature students may come along, too. We suggest not bringing younger children on this retreat.

The retreat will leave Hillcrest at 5:00 on Friday night and return Saturday by around 5:00 PM

Cost will be \$75 for an individual or \$100 for a couple. Scholarships are available for those that request it. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in attending.

“Stepping Up” Men’s Small Group

Join nationally renowned men’s ministry leaders and teachers on the most important journey of your life: the journey to courageous manhood. This 10 week video series, led by Jason Lounsbury, will meet in the Fireside Room on Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm, starting September 22nd. Cost for the book is \$15. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested.

Weekend to Remember

Remember how captivating it was when you first fell in love with your spouse? Every moment was special. As real life takes over, that memory can grow less vivid, and you might not feel like the center of their world as often. That’s where the Weekend to Remember® marriage getaway from FamilyLife comes in.

The getaway weekend is a time to be together as a couple to invest in and strengthen the foundation of your marriage, no matter how firm or fragile it is. By getting away from the distractions of life, you can fortify your most important relationship and work toward building wonderful memories together, for decades to come.

The Getaway is held at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Friday, November 13th, starting at 7:30pm through Sunday, November 15th at 12:30pm. You can obviously stay at your home for the event but it is recommended that you get a hotel for Saturday night (date night). Many couples stay in a hotel for the whole event.

Cost is \$299. If you use the group code hillcrestsf, you will get a \$100 discount. Military families get in for free, just contact Family Life and tell them you’re with hillcrestsf! Register online at <https://shop.familylife.com/p-3964-sioux-falls.aspx>

Serve

September Outreach Focus – Cleveland Elementary

During the month of September, we will be collecting items that the school has identified as needs for the children. Please check the Outreach Bulletin Board, starting September 6th, 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

Baby Owl House: 0-4 year olds
(pre-schoolers will break off into a small learning group)

10:30 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: Infants & 1 yr olds
Bird House: 2 year olds
Tree House: 3 year olds
Dog House: 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

Family Game Night

Hillcrest Children's Ministries invites children and families to a good ol' fashioned game night! Join us Sunday, September 27th, from 6-7:30 for games, fun, and snacks!

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

Students meet upstairs in the Youth Room at 10:30am, then break up into small groups for lessons and discussion time.

180 Wednesday Nights

Middle School students 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

Boys' Video Game Night - September 25th starting at 8pm. This year will be a sleep over. We will have video games in the sanctuary, snacks, prizes, and a root beer keg! Cost \$10. Invite friends. Pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center.

Message Notes:

Title: Why Would a Loving God Send People to Hell?

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23, 32, 33:11;
1 Timothy 2:3-4

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Matthew 7:13 (NLT) "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way."

Monday

Subject: Is Everyone Going to Heaven?

Scripture: 1 John 5:6-12

Commentary:

If you've ever attended a funeral, it's possible this will sound familiar. *"He was such a good man. Of course he's in heaven."* Or, *"Everyone is going to heaven."* When was the last time you attended a funeral where the officiating person said, "We are remembering today a person who is not in heaven"? People never say that yet Scripture teaches that most people who die don't go to heaven. **"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many"** (Matthew 7:13). Few choose the narrow way. Believing is not a feeling, it's an act of the will; it involves the mind. If you don't believe, it is because you choose not to believe. The truths of Christianity have satisfied the greatest minds of human history. If you have not trusted Jesus Christ for your own eternal life it is because you have chosen not to. But that can change. You can choose today to exercise your faith and believe **"in Him whom to know is life eternal"** (John 17:3). *Not everyone is choosing to go to heaven.* Are you?

Questions for further thought:

1. Can I look to a specific time in my life when I recognized my sinfulness and trusted Jesus Christ as my only basis of forgiveness?
2. If not, what is stopping me from doing that right now?

Challenge:

Jesus Christ was so humble. He was willing to give up His personal rights in order to be obedient to God and actually serve us. Have you chosen Him and trusted in His forgiveness?

Tuesday

Subject: God's Longsuffering

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:9-10

Commentary:

These verses speak very clearly about God's impending return to this world and the reality of the judgment to come. However, God, in His rich mercy, has delayed His return not willing that anyone will perish (spiritually), but that all should come to repentance and faith in Him. This seems to demonstrate the very nature of God as longsuffering and compassionate. Jesus is delaying His second coming so that sinners will repent and turn to him for their salvation. God's will desires all to be saved, but He will not disallow the free will of the individual to reject His free offer. God is loving, but He also executes perfect justice. If the sinner chooses to reject the free gift of salvation through Christ Jesus on the cross, they must stand in judgment on their own accord and pay the sin debt of an eternal separation from God. (Hell). We must be ready to meet Christ at any time. He's coming again, are YOU ready?

Questions for further thought:

1. How does today's culture reflect an attitude of indifference towards the Lord's promise of return?
2. Have I personally experienced any form of persecution when I speak about Christ's return? How did I respond?

Challenge:

Be actively seeking individuals with which you could share your faith. Be ready as God provides those opportunities.

Wednesday

Subject: Finding the Way

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14

Commentary:

Have you found the way that leads to life? Maybe this question should be asked in a slightly different way, "Am I truly a Christ-follower?" Maybe you would answer this question in one of these ways: "I have been a believer all my life" or "I was raised in a Christian home" or "I go to church every Sunday". None of these really fit the bill though, do they? For example, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives His listeners an urgent appeal to make a decision. He surmises that right living is not enough and there needs to be a time when there is a decision to follow Him that will lead to the narrow, hard, and less traveled path. In contrast, the wide gate is easy and well-traveled and many go there, but here leads to eternal destruction. The wide gate teaches all religions are the same, all opinions should be tolerated, a works based philosophy in order to sooth our aching conscience, and the like. Have you done the hard thing? Have you confessed your sin to God, turned from it, and, in faith, embraced Jesus Christ for your forgiveness? If so, you have discovered the Narrow Gate.

Questions for further thought:

1. Can I point to a time that I discovered the "Narrow" Gate?
2. If not, what is stopping me from discovering it right now?

Challenge:

Read and meditate on Matthew Chapter 7. What is God teaching you in this reading?

Thursday

Subject: Why I'm Thankful for Forgiveness

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-10

Commentary:

When we make the decision to turn from our sin and embrace Jesus Christ as our Savior, a whole lot of incredible things happen. One amazing gift that I am thankful for is God's provision in Christ for my forgiveness. I can work in my own effort all I want and never gain God's favor. Only the blood of Christ, offered freely to all who believe can release us from the condemnation of sin and our subsequent chosen reality of hell. But there are other reasons why we should be thankful. Here are a few. I'm thankful for God's forgiveness because I am a sinner. – We are ALL sinners. Just put a small group of us together and between us we've probably done it all. I'm thankful for God's forgiveness because it's freely given. – All you need to do to receive forgiveness is reach out and take it; that's it. No matter what you've done, God's offer still stands. Now the question is... Do you have it? Many people are on the "try harder and we'll see" approach to forgiveness but that was not God's plan. Can you look to a time in your life when you turned from your sin and embraced Jesus by faith for your forgiveness? You didn't always have this, so make sure you possess it now.

Questions for further thought:

1. How would I explain the Gospel message to someone that I might witness to?
2. Would I use the Bad News reality of hell to propel me to the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ?

Challenge:

Write your sins on a paper and after you ask for forgiveness and destroy the paper as a symbol of the total forgiveness God gives freely to those who have received forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

Friday

Subject: Choose Wisely

Scripture: Psalm 1

Commentary:

This wisdom psalm basically functions as an introduction to the entire book of Psalms. Its theme is as big as the entire Bible because it tells of people, paths, and ultimate destinations. By two cycles of contrast, it separates all people into their respective spiritual categories. However, take notice that there appears to be NO middle ground. There does not seem to be any suggestion of a fence and how to ride it. According to the Psalm, it appears that the blessed man "delights in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night" (v.2) He is fed and he yields fruit. However, "not so the wicked as they are like chaff that is unsubstantial and windblown" (v.4). The Lord knows who are His and He will judge perfectly and without prejudice. He will also keep those who are His. So maybe we have been asking the wrong question. Maybe the question isn't "Does God keep His own?", but "Am I one of His own?"

Questions for further thought:

1. Have I ever pondered the questions in the final sentence of the commentary?
2. How has this scripture challenged me? Called me to action?

Challenge:

Seek to share God's truth of salvation with someone this week. Pray for opportunities and watch for God's faithfulness.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Some Questions Can't be Answered by Google
Message Title: Can Science and Religion Co-Exist?
Scripture: Genesis 1:1; John 3:12
Speaker: Pastor 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:

- Join the "Stepping Up" Men's small group, starting September 22nd.
- Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- Attend BBQ at the Bartels on October 4th.
- Connect at the Corn Maze on October 8th.
- Play basketball with other Hillcresters on Thursdays, starting October 9th.
- Find out more information about Reading Buddies or Mentoring.

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
- 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

