



Today's Gathering

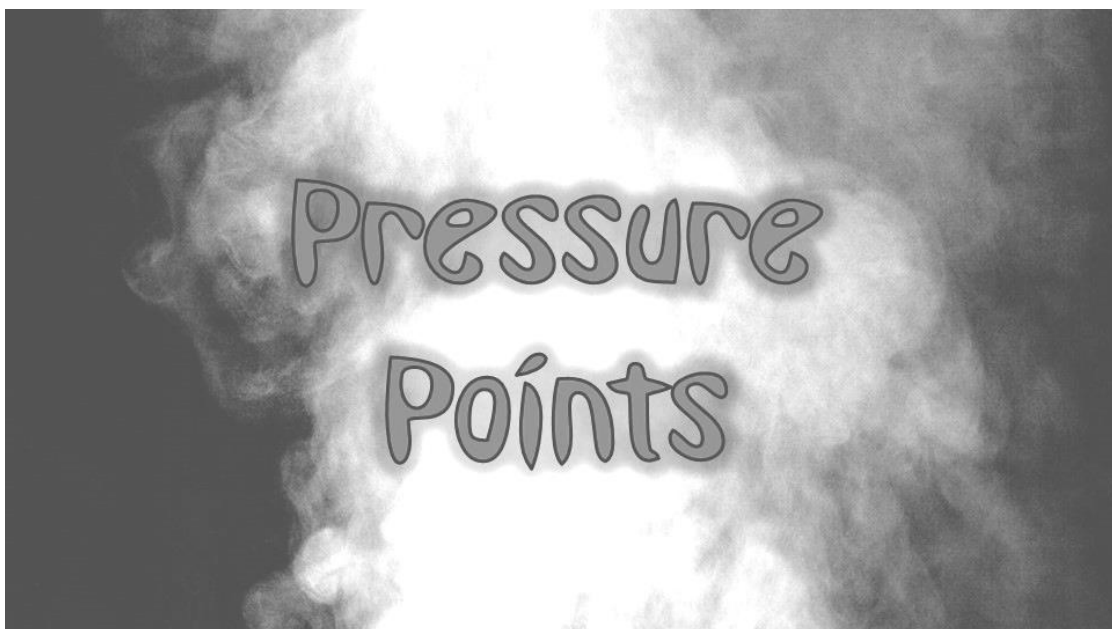
October 25th, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Doug Bartel

Singing

Kelsey Moser and Jesse VanderWeide



Doing Good

Pastor Brian Stroh

For the Kids

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.sioxfordchurch.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 November 29th. 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.

Hillcrest Business Meeting

Hillcrest will have its semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, November 8th after the second service. Food will be served. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and students with a family max of \$12. Agendas and reports will be available the week before the meeting. If you would like to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark your connection card, or contact Pastor Brian.

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 10th Street Pizza Ranch (CHANGED from 41st Street location) following the 10:30 service. This is an informal event, so simply show up and enjoy lunch with other Hillcresters. There is no need to RSVP and each person/family will be responsible for the cost of their own meals.

Serve

October Outreach Focus – Feeding South Dakota

Hillcrest's October Mission Focus is Feeding South Dakota. We'll be taking an offering for the Backpack Program during the services on Sunday, October 11th. It costs approximately \$150 to sponsor a backpack for the school year. Each Friday, Feeding South Dakota backpacks go out to under-resourced students throughout the region, ensuring students have food to make it through the weekend.

Facility Work Day

On Saturday November 7th, starting at 8am, join others for Hillcrest's Fall Facility Clean Up Day! We have lots to do both inside and outside. Come for however long you can! Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your Connection Card if you plan to volunteer.

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

Bingo Night

On Sunday, November 15th from 2:30-3:30, we'll be singing Christmas carols, playing Bingo, and having a snack with the residents of Stoney Brook Assisted Living! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the back foyer if your family plans to attend.

Operation Christmas Child

This year, Hillcrest Children's Ministry is once again supporting Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, which provides gifts for needy children around the world. Next Sunday, November 1st, your child should be receiving an envelope with instructions on how they can help. They can do chores to earn money to donate in the envelopes and return by Sunday, November 8th. If you would like to put together a shoebox of your own, you can stop by the Welcome Center to pick up instructions.

Aloha Christmas

On Sunday, December 13th, during both services, Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be performing their Christmas Program, "Aloha Christmas." All children in pre-school through 5th grade will participate. Children should be bringing home a note that has more information and a rehearsal schedule.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

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

180 Wednesday Nights

Next Wednesday, the skating party (see below) will take the place of our normal Wednesday night activities.

180 Events

Skate Party – On October 28th from 6–8pm we will meet at Skate City for a night of costumes and skating! All students welcome. There will be a costume contest for Obscure Biblical Characters with prizes awarded to the winners. Come have fun! Invite Friends!

Girls Sleepover – On Saturday, November 14th starting at 7pm, 180 Girls will have a sleepover including games, snacks, crafts, movies, and fun! Invite Friends. Cost is \$10. Stop at the Welcome Center to pick up a registration form.

Message Notes:

Title: Doing Good

Scripture: James 2:14-26

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

John 14:12 (NLT) "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

Monday

Subject: Faith without action

Scripture: James 2:14-16

Commentary:

When you see a couple together, how do you know they are in love or committed to one another? You look for evidence or signs. Do they treat each other the same or different from other people in their life? How much time do they spend together? Do they do nice things for each other? How do they talk to one another and about each other when they are apart? All of these actions help determine their connection. Faith is the same way. There should be a connection to what we believe and how we act.

Questions for further thought:

1. Consider the people you love. How do you treat them compared to strangers?
2. What do people see in your actions?

Challenge:

Do something today to demonstrate your love toward someone in your life.

Tuesday

Subject: More than knowing

Scripture: James 2:17-19, Mark 1:23-24

Commentary:

Many people claim to have knowledge of God or things of faith. What good is head knowledge if it doesn't translate into motivating our heart to action? In Mark an evil spirit speaks out to and calls to Jesus of Nazareth stating I know who you are-the Holy One of God. He recognized that Jesus was from God and asked if he was going to destroy him. He had knowledge of who Jesus was. Head knowledge is not enough. James tells us faith without action is dead. Our faith needs to produce deeds (action).

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you have head knowledge or heart knowledge of Jesus? Explain.
2. What deeds do you have to show this?

Challenge:

Take a look at your schedule for this week. What does it tell you about where your heart is?

Wednesday

Subject: Abraham's belief

Scripture: James 2:20-21, Gen 22:6-11

Commentary:

Abraham was called by God at age 75 to go to the land God promised him, where he would become a great nation. God promised him his descendants would outnumber the stars in the sky. At age 100 his son Isaac was born. Some time later God asked Abraham to take his only son to Mt. Moriah and to sacrifice this son. Abraham was ready to follow through on God's request when a animal was provided for the sacrifice. Abraham trusted God and took the steps of obedience to follow through on God's request to this long awaited son. Abraham believed God, credited his righteousness to Him. This was proved out through his actions of obedience.

Questions for further thought:

1. How do you respond to requests from people? From God?
2. What requests do you need to respond to now?

Challenge:

To believe is one thing, to act on that belief is quite another. Abraham is a great example of putting faith into action. Have you taken that first step of faith to believe?

Thursday

Subject: Faith plus works?

Scripture: James 2:22-24, Romans 10:9,
Gen. 15:6

Commentary:

The Roman scripture says if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. So is our faith enough? James tells us that Abraham's faith and actions were working together and his faith was made complete by following what God asked him to do. A person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. To be justified means to be restored to a right relationship with God, just as if you had never sinned.

Questions for further thought:

1. What is your reaction to this James scripture?
2. What does justification mean to you?

Challenge:

We are saved by our faith in God at the confession that Jesus is Lord and belief that God raised Jesus from the dead. We become right with God, then we live out that belief through our actions.

Friday

Subject: Faith without works

Scripture: James 2:25-26, Joshua 2

Commentary:

In Joshua we read the story about Rahab, the prostitute. She protects the Joshua's spies from the King of Jericho. After she has hidden the spies, she tells them she recognizes their God is the Supreme God. She requests protection for her family when they return. James tells us that Rahab was considered righteous for what she did for the spies. James concludes by telling us that faith without evidence is dead. Our belief in God should produce results that are evident to others. We should be changed by our faith and that faith should produce changes that can be seen by others.

Questions for further thought:

1. Have you followed Romans 10:9? Have you confessed and believed in Jesus?
2. What evidence is there for others to see?

Challenge:

As people of faith, followers of Jesus—we should be moved to act. We should desire to serve God and His people. We should love His people and want to help them. What are you doing to live out your faith? Listen to announcements or check the bulletin for opportunities for you to live out your faith.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Pressure Points
Message Title: The Wild Tongue
Scripture: James 3:1-12
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.

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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
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Melissa Simpson
Power House Director
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Jennifer Simons
Administrative Assistant
jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.co



Bill Lewis
Custodian

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.

☐ Volunteer for Facility Work Day on November 7th.

☐ Attend Business Meeting and lunch on November 8th.

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 Hillcrest? _____
☐ 2nd Visit _____
☐ Returning Guest _____
☐ Regular Attender _____
☐ Members _____

I am interested in:

- ☐ beginning a relationship with Jesus ☐ being baptized
☐ receiving the Hillcrest Informational E-mail.
☐ joining a small group ☐ becoming a member of Hillcrest
☐ volunteering ☐ praying for my Hillcrest 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**

