

# Hillcrest CHURCH

## Today's Gathering

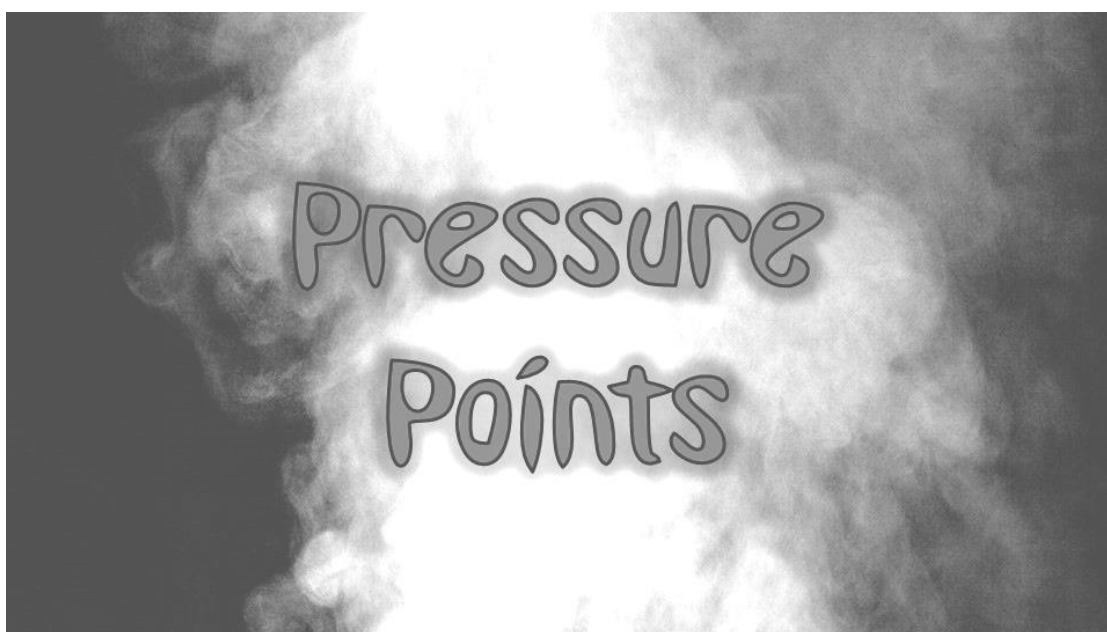
November 8th, 2015

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Tarina Stroh, Cindy Cummins, and Jesse VanderWeide



## Getting Wisdom

Pastor Doug Bartel

## 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.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 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 TODAY, 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 are available to pick up at the Welcome Center. Please feel free to come, even if you did not sign up.

## Cookies & Cocoa

Ladies! Please join us for our 2nd annual cookie exchange, "Cookies & Cocoa" to be held on Tuesday night, November 17th at 6:30 p.m.

in the Family Life Center. We will taste, talk, pack and play!

Sign-up begins Sunday, November 1st at the cookie table in the front foyer.

There is no cost to attend that evening. You bring cookies, you take home different cookies - all details at the sign-up table. Hope to see you there!

## Adoption Fundraiser

On Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Chevys restaurant in Sioux Falls will be hosting an adoption fundraiser to help Ryan & Chariti Oaks bring home their daughter, Jooi, from China. Chevys will donate 15% of your bill total to Jooi's Adoption Fund when you present a copy of a special ticket, which you can pick up at the Welcome Center.

### November Outreach Focus – Food to You

Hillcrest is excited to start a new mission focus with Food to You, which is a Mobile Food Pantry for individuals and families in need of food. They offer government commodities, produce, bread, pastries, and assorted frozen food. It is a grocery-style distribution, with the families taking the food home to be cooked and consumed. Hillcrest's own Nick Welder is the Executive Director of Food to You.

On November 19, 2015 at Augustana Lutheran Church, Hillcresters are invited to volunteer to assist with the distribution of food. They need 18 - 22 volunteers (6<sup>th</sup> grade and older) for the distribution, starting at 5:15pm, as well as 4 - 5 individuals to help unload the truck and set up the room, starting at 4:15pm. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to volunteer.

Food to You also offers a Food of the Month every month. For November, they need Peanut Butter collected and donated for the distribution. Please drop off donations near the outreach bulletin board in the front foyer by Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

### SCRIP Program

Now is the time when many of us start thinking about Christmas shopping! If you like to give gift cards, 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. We can now take credit and debit cards! Sign up on our web site at [siouxfallschurch.com/scrip](http://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

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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Bingo Night

On Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Aloha Christmas

On Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, during both services, Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be performing their Christmas Program, "Aloha Christmas." All children in pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> 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

Middle School meets at Hillcrest from 6-7:30pm and High School meets from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, & games!

### 180 Events

Girls Sleepover – On Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 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: Getting Wisdom

Scripture: James 3:13-18

**For those going deeper:**

This week's memory verse

*Psalm 111:10 (NLT) Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Praise him forever!*

# Monday

Subject: Wisdom From Above

Scripture: James 3:13, 17-18; 1 Cor. 1:26-31

## Commentary:

In this portion of the passage, James now makes a transition from discussing teachers and the tongue to dealing with wisdom's impact on everyone's life. He supports the truth of OT wisdom literature that wisdom is divided into two realms- man's and God's. God's wisdom came to mean "skillfully applying scriptural knowledge to the matter of practical living". James is asking about those who are truly skilled in the art of living. Notice how this "wisdom" is supposed to be demonstrated, in meekness. This is the opposite of arrogance and self-promotion. It is defined as "strength under control". Notice the other qualifiers of Godly wisdom that are described in verse 17. Wisdom from above is pure (spiritually sincere), peaceable (peace promoting), gentle (reasonableness), open to reason (teachable and compliant), full of mercy (concern for those who suffer), and impartial and sincere (genuineness). How are we doing in the "wisdom" category? Any questions?

## Questions for further thought:

1. If I was being totally honest, which of the qualifiers of wisdom from above would be lacking in my life?
2. What is my reason and defense for my answer to question #1?

## Challenge:

Take time this week to examine the teaching of this passage and to do a mental "inventory" of my understanding of Godly wisdom. Commit to living this out by the Spirit's help.

# Tuesday

Subject: Folly From Below

Scripture: James 3:14-16; 1 Cor. 1:18-25;  
1 Cor. 2:14-16

## Commentary:

James pulls no punches as he describes the "wisdom" that originates from the world, which is really nothing but folly. Take notice of the contrast of terms to Godly wisdom that we learned about yesterday. James describes this "earthly" wisdom as bitter jealousy (harsh, resentful attitude toward others) and selfish ambition (self-seeking that creates strife). In verse 15, he describes this wisdom as "unspiritual" and even "demonic". Man's wisdom is limited to earth, characterized by humanness, frailty, an unsanctified heart, and an unredeemed spirit and is ultimately guided by Satan's forces. Ouch!! It appears that this type of wisdom is unable to produce anything other than confusion, chaos, instability, and inevitably worthless works. Anyone game for Folly?

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do I exhibit any of the characteristics of earthly wisdom that James describes?
2. Who can I consult in matters of gaining Godly wisdom?

## Challenge:

Seek out someone that you view as wise. Consult them on matters of wisdom that may be eluding you.



# Wednesday

Subject: Eat the Word, Gain Wisdom

Scripture: Jeremiah 15:16

## Commentary:

The last time you had a Bible in your hands, how did you handle it? Did you casually flip it open to a suggested passage or quickly fan the pages using the headings as your guide? Maybe you had to check the table of contents—or perhaps the truth is, you held the Bible but didn't open it. Whatever your story, do you know how to find the joy and delight promised us in Scripture?

Jeremiah's testimony can help you move from treating the Bible as just another book to treasuring it for what it is—God's Word. What was his approach to the Scriptures? Jeremiah said, "**I ate them.**" An open Bible is a meal spread before you. On every page is nourishment prepared and provided by God for you. Do you want God's Word to become a joy and delight of your heart? Have you discovered for yourself how it can satisfy your deepest hunger? Consider these steps, which will help you get increasingly more from Scripture. (1) ***Discipline yourself to get into God's Word.*** (2) ***Watch as discipline gives way to desire.*** (3) ***Beyond discipline and desire you will find delight.*** These are choices you can make that God will use to change your life. And they never need to end—the longer you walk with Jesus Christ, the more you will find Him leading you through these stages in your lifetime, as He takes you deeper into His Word and all He has for you.

## Questions for further thought:

1. The first stage involves discipline, altering your schedule to commit to daily Bible reading. What could that look like for you?
2. How does time in God's Word affect your whole day, your whole life even, not just the minutes spent reading?

## Challenge:

Commit to a Bible reading plan that works for you. For example, you read a chapter of Proverbs each day for 31 days.

# Thursday

Subject: Pointless Pursuits

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:17-19, 24-25

## Commentary:

Every person who walks this earth has something in common: a longing for fulfillment. As Ecclesiastes 3:11 teaches, the Creator has endowed us with eternity in our hearts. Every discussion of human nature or of the meaning of ministry must begin with this reality. Humans are unique among living creatures in that at our core, we all hunger for something that the experiences of this planet cannot satisfy. Solomon had the means to do a lot of things that would seem to bring pleasure (and he did). Yet his frustration is easily heard in his words. He had it all but he said, **"So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity."** Vanity means *emptiness*. He basically confessed, "I experienced everything that's possible, and it was worthless to me." He called it **"vanity and striving after the wind."** Solomon discovered what so many fail to realize: history is a repetitive loop of personal and societal futility. God created us this way. It's in our DNA. By design, we can never find satisfaction in the things of this world. God's point is clear and compelling: In our very make-up, we have an innate longing for Him, and life has no meaning apart from Him.

## Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways have you been tempted to fill your desire for God with the lesser things of this world?
2. At some point, all humans experience a deep longing for God. How have you experienced this?

## Challenge:

Confess my willingness to give into prideful tendencies to replace God with the lesser things of this world and see how God will work in His Spirit to change that.

# Friday

Subject: Born Once, Die Twice;  
Born Twice, Die Once

Scripture: John 3:1-21

## Commentary:

The story of Jesus and Nicodemus reinforces John's themes that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God and that He came to offer salvation to all who would believe. Jesus' ability to know men's hearts points to an unmistakable evidence of His deity. Jesus also presented God the Father's ordained plan of salvation to Nicodemus, showing that He was God's messenger, whose redemptive work would bring about the promised salvation to his people. Being born is first a matter of the physical. Being born again is most definitely a matter of the spiritual. The new birth must be appropriated by an act of believing faith. This is more than mere intellectual assent to the claims of the Gospel. It includes trust and commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior, which will result in a new nature that produces a change of heart and mind and will result in obedience to the Lord. After you are born *physically*, you have to be born again *spiritually*. If not, you will not only die physically (which we all will), but you will also die spiritually in a place called hell. **But**, God is rich in mercy and desires to forgive, but He will not force your hand. Come today to the living water of Jesus Christ and drink deeply. He always satisfies!

## Questions for further thought:

1. How can I know for sure I have been born again?
2. When will I confess and forsake my sin and put my trust in Christ alone as the basis for my forgiveness?

## Challenge:

Seek God's guidance in this matter and He will give you clarity of thought. Our God is a God of order and wisdom, not the author of confusion.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Pressure Points  
Message Title: Why We Fight  
Scripture: James 4  
Speaker: Pastor Brian 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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**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**

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My next step today is to:

- Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- Volunteer for Food to You on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Additional Comments:

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

605-371-0546

[www.sioxfordschurch.com](http://www.sioxfordschurch.com)

### Connection Card

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

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