



Today's Gathering

February 28, 2016

View from the Hill

Pastor Doug Bartel

Singing
Kelsey Moser, Nic Torbert, and Doug Bartel



Check Out My Yoga Pants

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

Hillcrest Camping Trip

This year, our annual camping trip at Newton Hills State Park will be held June 10th-12th, the weekend after VBS. On Saturday evening, June 11th, we will also have a picnic for everyone, even if you are not camping. This is an annual tradition at Hillcrest and we encourage everyone to join in whatever way they can. In order to secure enough spots, we will need to make reservations for camping sites and cabins on March 12th, so please sign up for camping and have your **payment in no later than Sunday, March 6th**.

- Cabin - \$100 for weekend
- Electrical Site - \$19 a night; \$38 for weekend
- Tent site - \$15 a night; \$30 for weekend

Spots (especially cabins) are limited. Those staying in tents & campers may register for Friday night, only, or for Friday and Saturday night, but preference for cabins will be given to those that can stay the whole weekend. Checks and credit cards will be accepted at the Welcome Center or you can pay on-line by through the online giving option on our web site, and choosing "Events." If you would like to use SCRIP, please contact either Brian or Jennifer. There will be no refunds, unless we are unable to secure your spot. Reminder that if you do not have a yearly pass, the state park entrance fee of \$6 per day (per vehicle) will also be required at the time of arrival.

Family Bowling Night

Hillcrest's Children's Ministries invites all Hillcresters to Family Bowling Night Sunday, March 13th from 6-8 PM at Eastway Bowl! Cost is \$8.42 per person and includes shoes and 2 games. Sign up in the back foyer or mark your connection card if you plan to attend.

Sioux Falls Prayer Breakfast

Join other Hillcrest guys for an inspiring start to your Easter Weekend! Hillcrest has 30 tickets available for the Sioux Falls' Prayer Breakfast on Friday, March 25th at 7am at the Ramkota Inn Exhibit Hall. The featured speaker is Daryl Strawberry, former Major League Baseball player who played in 4 World Series, 8 All-star games, and was the Rookie of the Year at age 21. Daryl has a powerful message of fame, fortune, and his fall to grace. Tickets normally cost \$18.75, but thanks to a generous donation, Hillcrest guys can get a ticket for \$10! You won't want to miss this event! Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your Connection Card.

Dance Ministry

The dance ministry group will be moving their mandatory dance rehearsal to Sunday March 6th from 1-5pm instead of Saturday February 27th. The cost has been reduced to \$25- which will be used to purchase the skirt the dancers will be wearing for the performance. If dancers want shoes and do not have any, they will be in charge of purchasing their own. (Shoes are not required.) Please sign up at the welcome center by February 28th. You may contact Heidi Klein with questions at: hkbooks3@gmail.com.

Mitch McVicker Concert

On Thursday, March 31st, Christian artist and award winning singer- songwriter, Mitch McVicker, will be performing at Hillcrest Church, starting at 7pm. Cost is \$5 at the door, and kids age 12 and under are free. If you would like more information about Mitch McVicker and his music, you can visit his web site at mitchmcvicker.com.

Serve

February Mission Focus – Restoration Generation

Restoration Generation is about one thing: Relationships. Students today are living in a world where the majority of them have known nothing but broken relationships – with family, friends and themselves. Restoration Generation exists to partner with schools, organizations and communities to help Restore a Generation of Relationships.

March Mission Focus

Hillcrest's March Mission of the Month is Children's Home Society and Children's Inn. We'll be serving pizza for the students and staff at Children's Home Society on Wednesday, March 2. We need 6 volunteers to help serve the pizza. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested in helping out.

We're also collecting items all month for both Children's Home Society and Children's Inn. The lists can be found at the Outreach Bulletin Board.

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

Palm Sunday

Children's Ministries students will be performing songs during the 9:00 and 10:30 services on Palm Sunday, March 20th. Children will be practicing the songs Sunday morning during Clubhouse. Children should be to Hillcrest by 8:40 AM on March 20th and to stay for both services.

Easter Eggstravaganza

The Hillcrest Annual Neighborhood Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 26th, starting at 10am. We will be inviting families from the neighborhood, and Hillcrest children are encouraged to invite their friends. The event will also include a free breakfast, crafts, singing, and a story.

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

Summer Camp - Current high school students will be attending Senior High Camp June 19-25. Current middle school students will be attending Teen Camp 2 July 10-16. To secure the best (i.e. lowest!) price, registrations are due with a \$75 deposit by **March 10**. You can turn in registrations to Hillcrest and we'll mail them off together. Registrations are available at the Welcome Center, or at <http://villagecreek.net/summer/2016-camps-dates>. As a bonus, for every 4 registrations turned in by March 10th, one lucky camper will receive \$50 off of camp! If there are 8 registrations by the 10th, we will draw 2 winners (and so forth).

Message Notes:

Title: Check Out My Yoga Pants

Scripture: Job 31:1, Matthew 5:28, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20,
1 Timothy 2:9-12

Notes:

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Proverbs 6:25 (NLT) Don't lust for her beauty. Don't let her coy glances seduce you.

Monday

Subject: Do Not Worry

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34

Commentary:

What do we concern ourselves with most? Fashion, relationships, food, illness, activities, or money? In this section of scripture, Jesus reminds us that worrying about these things not only does no good, but it also shifts our focus away from God and what He is doing in and around us. With our focus pointed the right direction, Jesus promises our needs will be provided for as well.

Questions for further thought:

1. What do you tend to worry about most?
2. Why do you feel the need to worry about these things?

Challenge:

Take time this week to be aware of what you're worrying about and prayerfully attempt to hand it over to God to handle and let it go.

Tuesday

Subject: Value in Christ

Scripture: Psalm 139

Commentary:

God knows who you are. Stop and think about that. God. The One creator of everything, knows you. He knew you before you did. He knows what you are going to say and do. He knows where you have missed the mark, and all those things you see as flaws. And He loves you. He created you, and He doesn't make mistakes. Sometimes it is easy to feel ashamed and worthless, but God doesn't see you that way.

Questions for further thought:

1. Have you diminished your own self-worth? In what ways?
2. How might it affect your life if you could hang onto the idea that God loves and values you for who you really are?

Challenge:

Write a journal entry considering how God values you, and what that means to you.

Wednesday

Subject: Grace and Judgement

Scripture: John 8:1-11, Matthew 7:1-2

Commentary:

Choices have consequences. Sometimes we want the consequence, like feeling full after choosing to eat. However, when we make bad choices, we have to endure a negative result. In this passage, the consequence for adultery was death. Yet Jesus didn't bring down the heavy hand of the law. Nor did he turn a blind eye to sinful behavior. Rather, He modeled something similar to His own teaching in Matthew 7, where he instructs us not to judge each other. In this way He shames the teachers of the law, demonstrates grace, and gives the woman the opportunity to repent.

Questions for further thought:

1. It can be easy to look down on other people who are racking up negative consequences with their choices. What do you think about Jesus' decision to not punish the woman according to the letter of law?
2. Have you been judged harshly by others? How did you respond? Can you think of a better way?

Challenge:

Think of an area where you may be prone to judging others choices. Spend some time thinking through ways you could approach the situation more gracefully so you are prepared when you are confronted with it again.

Thursday

Subject: Freedom Through Dependence

Scripture: Galatians 5:13-25

Commentary:

Through the power of the cross we have freedom from the law. We no longer stand condemned. But what does a life of freedom look like? Paul illustrates both sides of the coin, starting with "acts of the flesh". This is the sinful nature of man on display. It is selfish, destructive, and out of control. These actions squander your freedom in exchange for the same old slavery you escaped from. Next comes the well known list of the fruits of the Spirit. Interestingly, these aren't acts of the Spirit. They are fruits. Characteristics that guide our actions. That is a key difference that points to perhaps a deeper truth. We can't change our fruit on our own. It is only through giving up control and relying on the Spirit that these characteristics can flourish in our lives.

Questions for further thought:

1. What characteristics do you think describe your life today? Has this list changed over time?
2. What does it mean to live by the Spirit, or keep in step with the Spirit?

Challenge:

Review the fruits of the Spirit as listed in today's passage. Can you see one that God has been especially cultivating in your life? Is there one that seems to be especially hard for you to identify with? Spend some time praying over this list and thanking God for his work in your life. Then try to be mindful of how these fruits affect your daily interactions.

Friday

Subject: Your Neighbor & the Heart of God

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34; Zechariah 7:9-10;
Romans 14:10-13

Commentary:

Love God and love others. It is an easy thing to say, but living it out can get confusing. Should you invite that homeless person to sleep on your couch? Do you have to give to every charity that comes asking? The Zechariah passage echoes the heart of God seen throughout the scriptures to care for those in compromised situations. Perhaps the two greatest commands are linked so closely because you cannot begin to follow one without pursuing both. Loving God aligns your heart with His. And His heart yearns to love and care for those with hurts or needs. In Romans, Paul speaks more directly against judging others in favor of helping them on their journey of faith. We are not God. These commands don't ask us to single-handedly fix the whole world. Our role is to focus on God and let Him guide our responses to the people He brings into our lives.

Questions for further thought:

1. Have you run into a situation where you felt like you should help, but didn't know if you should get involved? Explain.
2. Have you experienced someone coming alongside and helping you? What did that mean to you?

Challenge:

Write some thoughts about how you feel you are doing at loving vs. judging those around you. Then relax. Put these thoughts in God's hands for a week and then pull them out and review what you have written. Has your outlook shifted this week?

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: The Counselor
Message Title: Why Are You So Afraid
Scripture: Mark 4:35-41; Psalm 46:1; Hebrews
13:5; James 1:2-4
Speaker: Burke Perry

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.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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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Administrative Assistant
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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**

My next step today is to:

☐ Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.

☐ Attend Family Bowling Night on March 13th.

☐ Volunteer to serve pizza at Children’s Home Society on March 2nd.

☐ Attend the Men’s Prayer Breakfast on March 25th.

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**
