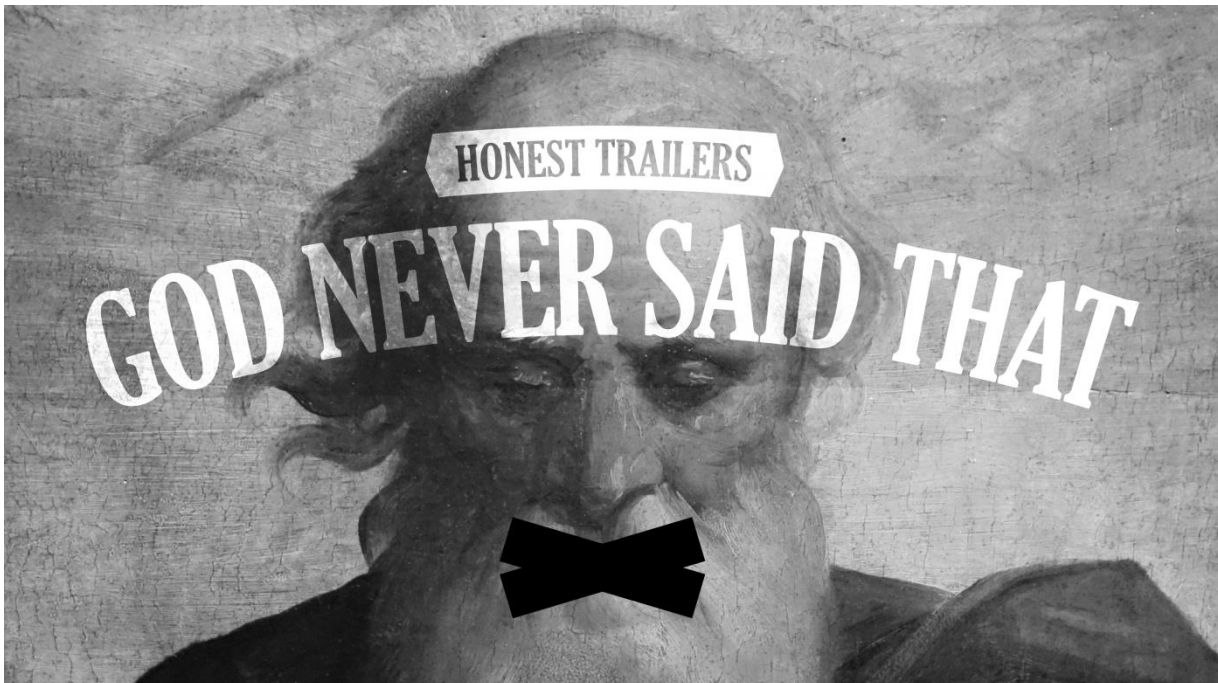


# Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering  
April 17, 2016

View from the Hill  
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing  
Jacob Van Engen



God Wants Me to Be Happy  
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.sioxfordchurch.com](http://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 May 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's semi-annual business meeting is set for Sunday, April 24th. A meal is also served and costs \$2/student, \$3/adult, and a \$12 family max. Reports and agendas will be available on Sunday, April 17th at the Welcome Center. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you plan to attend.

## Graduation

Hillcrest would like to recognize its graduates of 2016, during our church services on May 15th! Whether you are graduating from High School, College, or other post-secondary school, please send your name, school, graduation date, and future plans to Jennifer Simons at [jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com). Please send in information by May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will also be recognizing 5<sup>th</sup> graders, who will be "graduating" from Children's Ministry Club House into 180 Student Ministry in the fall.

## Serve

### April Mission Focus – Royal Family Kids

Our mission focus for the month of April is Royal Family Kids Camp, a summer camp designed for students in the foster care system. We will be collecting items throughout April for the camp as well as hearing from the camp's director on Sunday, April 10. Please check the Mission Focus board for ways to support this unique camping experience for foster children here in Sioux Falls.

### Facility Work Day

Hillcrest's spring facility work day is Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 8am. Projects include raking and yard clean-up, painting, and general cleaning and organizing. Come for as long as you're able! Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark your connection card if you are able to help.

## 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

## VBS Work Days

We would love volunteers to join us for part or all of these VBS work days as we get ready for this year's VBS "Journey Off the Map"!

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm

Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 9am-12pm

Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm

On Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9am, we will prepare the entire facility for VBS! Come for when you can to help us get the building ready for a great week!

Please sign up in the back foyer or contact Tarina if you are able to help out any of these days.

## 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!

### Thrift Store Formal

May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-9pm. For our end of year bash we will be celebrating 80's style. Find some fun costume at the thrift store or bust out some acid wash jeans, Zubas, or Michael Jackson style. We will have food, games, music, and prizes to celebrate the end of the school year. Invite your mentor to join you in awesome 80's style. If both of you attend you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card for you and your mentor to share. Cost is \$5. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Meriah if you plan to attend.

# Message Notes:

Title: God Wants Me To Be Happy

Scripture: James 4:17, Galatians 6:9, 1 John 2:15-17,  
John 16:33, Philippians 4:7

Notes:

If God wants me to be happy above all else:

1. Whatever makes me happy must be \_\_\_\_\_.  
Whatever makes me unhappy must be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Discomfort, delay, risk, suffering, inconveniences and obstacles can't be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Without knowing it, I begin to \_\_\_\_\_ the false gods of comfort, money, pleasure and things.

God does not want you to be happy:

1. When it causes you to do something \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When it is only based on things of this \_\_\_\_\_.

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Psalms 89:15 (NLT) Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord.

# Monday

Subject: Who is in Charge?

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:14; James 1:2

## Commentary:

God has given all the events in our lives to us. Not by mistake. God has designed the events in our lives. In a world where we are told that we are in control that we make or break our own happiness. It is easy to believe because of the free will God has given us. But that is not true, God is in control! What God gives us is for our benefit, the good along with the bad.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Life is full of ups and downs. Does this make us fearful or worried?
2. Have you learned to trust God's wisdom and love, or do you try to control your future?

## Challenge:

Try to embrace the adversities of life this week by letting go of your need to control.

# Tuesday

Subject: Happiness vs. Joy

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:8–9

## Commentary:

The bible never promises happiness. It does however promise you joy. Happiness is temporary and is the results of happenings. Joy comes from the Lord. Happiness is fleeting but joy is permanent. Only those who trust in the Lord have this kind of indescribable, unexplainable kind of joy.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What does the bible describe as joy?
2. How do we get this kind of joy?

## Challenge:

Take a moment to meditate on the pure joy we will have when we see Jesus face to face and how that feeling will never end!



# Wednesday

Subject: Asking Why

Scripture: Job 40:1-2

## Commentary:

Job asked God many times why. We often do it when we experience things that is completely out of our understanding. Even Jesus himself asked God 'why, have you abandoned me?' Asking why isn't the issue as long as we don't get the idea that God owes us an answer. God let Job know that He didn't owe Job an explanation, saying "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding" (Job 38:4) When we see God for who he is. How big He is, our problems become small.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Do we really want to know why or is it that we don't want to go through the problem we are facing at the moment?
2. Why do some people think they are owed explanations for what God allows?

## Challenge:

Think of a time in your life that you wondered why and at the end of your trial you finally understood.

# Thursday

Subject: Be Holy or Be Happy?

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

## Commentary:

Having the desire to be happy isn't wrong. God wants us to enjoy the beauty of this earth, the friendships, our families and spouses. But just like everything in life, it can be fleeting. Relationships can be destroyed, marriages broken and things of this earth decaying and rotting away. True happiness is finding our joy in God and it becomes greater in our pursuit of knowing God and his word better.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What are some things of this earth that you take joy in?
2. Do these joys here on earth hinder you from pursuing God?

## Challenge:

When facing decisions this week, keep in mind that God wants us to be holy rather than be happy.

# Friday

Subject: Joy Stealers

Scripture: Philippians 1:5-6

## Commentary:

Charles Swindoll lists the 3 major "joy stealers" in our lives. Fear, worry and stress. Worry is defined as "an inordinate anxiety about something that may or may not occur." Fear—"dreadful uneasiness over danger, evil, or pain." And stress, "Intense strain over a situation we can't change or control." Paul reminds us that even stress, worry and fear will not stop God from continuing his work in you. With this confidence we begin each day knowing God is in control.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Which joy stealer do you suffer with the most?
2. What are some new coping ways that you can try to distinguish your fear, worry or stress?

## Challenge:

Resist those "joy stealers" by renewing your confidence in God every morning.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Honest Trailers: God Never Said That  
Message Title: All Things Work Together for Good  
Scripture: Rom 8:28, 31-39; 5:3-5; 11:36; Eph  
1:11-12; 1 Cor 3:21-23  
Speaker: 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.

[illegible]

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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**Brian Stroh**  
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**Jacob Van Engen**  
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**Tarina Stroh**  
Children's Ministries Coordinator  
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**Meriah VanderWeide**  
Student Ministries Coordinator  
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**Melissa Simpson**  
Power House Director  
msimpson@siouxfallschurch.com



**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 to help at the Facility Work Day on April 23rd.

☐ Attend the Business Meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

☐ Volunteer for a VBS Work Day. (indicate which date)\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Attend the 180 Thrift Store Formal on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Additional Comments:



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

605-371-0546

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____