

# Hillcrest CHURCH

## Today's Gathering

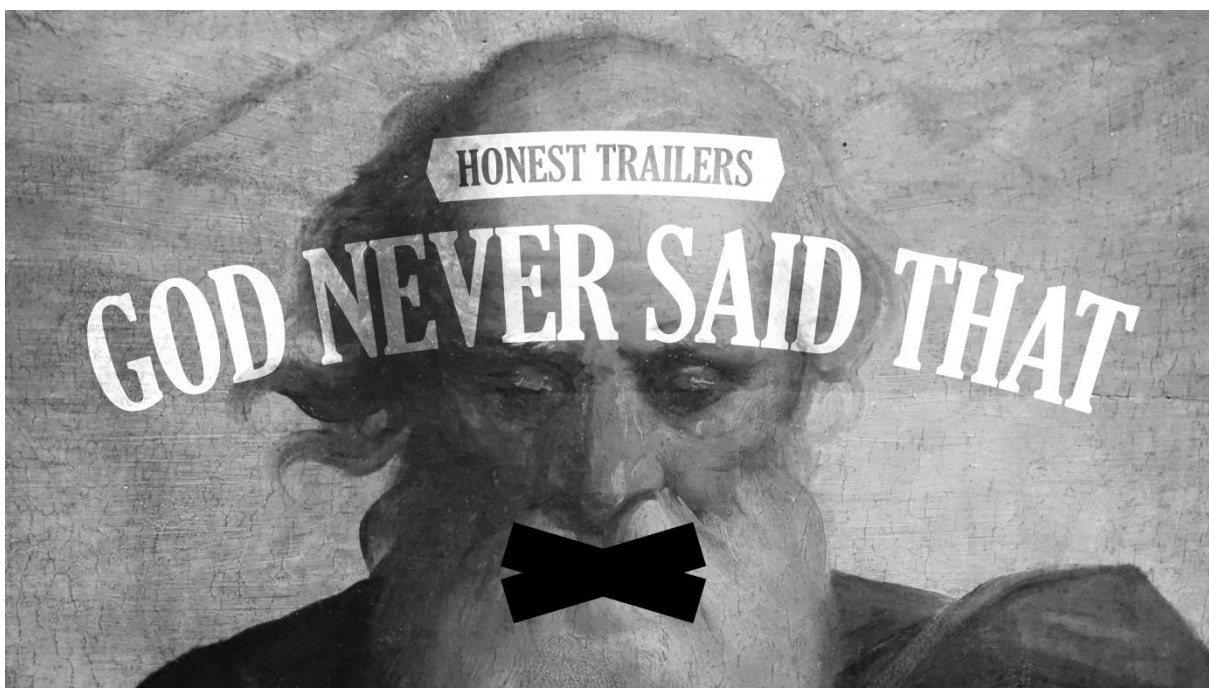
April 24, 2016

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Jacob Van Engen



## All Things Work Together for Good

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.

### 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.

### Watoto Children's Choir

Save the Date! The Watoto Children's Choir will be performing at Hillcrest during both services on Sunday, May 22nd. If you have not experienced one of the African Children's Choirs before (or even if you have), this is an amazing experience that you do not want to miss. You can learn more about the Watoto Choir on their web site.

We will be asking for Hillcrest families to host the children in their homes on Saturday night. If you are interested in hosting, contact Pastor Brian for more details.

### Birthday Party!

Bee Westerman is having a birthday party and you are all invited! The open house celebration will be held on Saturday, April 30th from 1-4pm in the multi purpose room at Trail Ridge Retirement Community (3408 W Ralph Rogers Rd).

## Summer with Hillcrest

As you are making your summer plans, make sure to mark these dates on your calendars!

- June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Journey Off the Map VBS
- June 11<sup>th</sup> Potluck Picnic, Games, and Campfire at Newton Hills
- June 18<sup>th</sup> Rummage Sale
- June 29<sup>th</sup> Family Night at Thunder Road
- July 20<sup>th</sup> Family Fun at Wild Water West
- July 29<sup>th</sup> Drive-In Movie (tentative)
- August 21<sup>st</sup> Picnic & Bean Bag Tournament

Remember that Hillcrest Children and Student Ministries also run programs all summer!

## 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.

### 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.

## 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&4 year olds  
Club House: K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## "Journey Off the Map" VBS

Hillcrest's Vacation Bible School, "Journey Off the Map" will be held Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm at Hillcrest. Registration is FREE! Starting next week, we will have a display set up with more information and registration forms. You can also register for VBS on our web site.

## 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-8:30pm. 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: All Things Work Together for Good

Scripture: Rom 8:28; Jer 29:11; Ja 1:17; Mal 3:6a;  
Rom 5:3-5; Is 14:24; Gen 50:20; Heb13:14;  
1 Jn 2:6; 1 Pet 2:21; Eph 5:1-2

Notes:

How does God cause everything to work together for good?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of a promise – "WE KNOW"
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the promise – "ALL THINGS"
3. God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the promise – "GOD CAUSES"
4. The promise has a \_\_\_\_\_ – "THOSE WHO LOVE GOD"
5. The purpose of the promise is \_\_\_\_\_ – "CALLED  
ACORDING TO HIS PURPOSE"

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Romans 8:28 (NLT) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

# Monday

Subject: All things are good?

Scripture: Romans 8:28

## Commentary:

How does God define good? Does your definition of good match His?

What God thinks is best for us might not always be what we expect. God has a view that we don't (and wouldn't want to have). He knows our past, our present, and our future—He has the bigger picture.

Our job is not to question the good or the bad in our life but have faith to know that in the end everything is in His hands and He will see that ultimately good will come out of any situation.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What bad things or situations in your life did you experience that you would now classify as having been a good thing?
2. Why do you feel they are a good thing?

## Challenge:

Thank God for those bad things or situations and the good that came out of them.

# Tuesday

Subject: Suffering produces good?

Scripture: Romans 5:3-5

## Commentary:

What do you classify as suffering? Have you suffered?

All of us have suffered at some point in our life. Jesus told us we would have troubles (John 17:33). Our response to those troubles determines what can come out of the situation.

Persevering through troubles builds strength of character. Strength of character produces hope in our future destiny and God's eternal love for us. A person who just whines and complains about their situation will not grow in character or in hope. Instead of wallowing in ourselves, seek Christ and then follow His direction. Remember: He has a plan; we just have to do our part.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What suffering are you currently going through?
2. What is Christ asking you of you? Is there something different you should be doing? Should you be letting go and just moving forward?

## Challenge:

If you know what you should do based on question 2, take that step. If you don't know, take time to pray and learn what Christ wants you to do.



# Wednesday

Subject: Boast about weaknesses?

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

## Commentary:

In this passage, we learn that Paul suffered from an affliction of some sort. God didn't agree to take the pain away either as it would be used to remind Paul of God's divine power. Paul became thankful and when he was at his weakest, God was/is at His strongest.

The same is true for all that believe. Image what could be done to further God's kingdom if we didn't allow our "weaknesses" to be crutches.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What "weakness" are you allowing to be a crutch?
2. What could you be doing relative to furthering God's kingdom if "your weakness" was not a crutch?

## Challenge:

Pray for the courage to take the first step towards following God's plan for your life.

# Thursday

Subject: God's Promise

Scripture: Psalm 23

## Commentary:

We are all familiar with this Psalm and may even be able to recite it. However, how many of us rely on the promises found in these verses when trouble comes in our lives?

Because God knows that our lives will be difficult, He promises to provide for our needs and always walk with us. Our job or role is not to languish in the pain and suffering of this Earth and look toward Him and the path He has for our lives.

He didn't say it would be easy but for those that persevere He will keep His promises in these verses.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What pain or suffering might you be experiencing now?
2. What can you do differently so that pain and suffering do not become all consuming?

## Challenge:

Next time you feel down or depressed about something, recite Psalm 23 and commit the words to your heart. Trust in God's promises.

# Friday

Subject: What you can look forward to

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-4

## Commentary:

God will fulfill all His promises and one of those is an end to the pain and suffering of this Earth. We don't know His plan or His exact timing but an end is coming.

Have faith in the all-mighty God and don't let yourself be weighed down with worries and pain. Let your light shine so that all might see Him and what He has done through you. How much greater will your light be if you show joy and love in the midst of adversity? Your light will point and lead others to believe and trust in Him.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What is preventing you from being a light for God?
2. What can you do to remove the obstacle so you can be a light?

## Challenge:

Have courage to remove the obstacle and shine for God today.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: The Christian Atheist  
Message Title: I Believe in God, but I Don't Know Him  
Scripture: Titus 1:16; 1 John 2:3-4; Matthew 7:21-23; Galatians 4:8-9; Psalm 63:1-4; Psalm 9:10; Ephesians 1:17-19  
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.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

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**  
Ministry Pastor  
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**Jacob Van Engen**  
Worship Coordinator  
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**Tarina Stroh**  
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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 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.siouxfallschurch.com](http://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:

- ☐ 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**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____