

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
May 1, 2016

View from the Hill
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing
Jacob Van Engen



I Believe in God, but I Don't Know Him
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, 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

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Today is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 10th Street Pizza Ranch 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.

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. Please send in information by **May 1st (TODAY)**. We will also be recognizing 5th graders, who will be "graduating" from Children's Ministry Club House into 180 Student Ministry in the fall.

Watoto Children's Choir

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 at watoto.com.

We are looking for 8 families to each host the 2-3 children and 1 adult in their home on Saturday night. Host families would be responsible for providing supper on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. We are also looking for 2-3 volunteers for each service to assist the choir with merchandise sales. You would need to be here 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the service you sign up for. Volunteers and host families will be invited to attend lunch in the Family Life Center with the choir, after the concerts. If you are interested in volunteering or hosting, you can contact Pastor Brian for more details, or you can sign up at the Welcome Center.

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.

Scripture Choir

Have you ever wanted to memorize Scripture but had a hard time getting started or staying motivated? Come join the Hillcrest Scripture Choir! A group of people will come together and memorize and then recite 1 Thessalonians 1 at our May 29th worship services. We will study together, practice together and recite it together. Don't worry, choir does not mean singing! Please sign up at the Welcome Center, or contact Aaron Levisay or Pastor Doug for more information.

Serve

May Mission Focus – Vacation Bible School

Hillcrest will be hosting "Journey Off the Map" Vacation Bible School Sunday, June 5th through Wednesday, June 8th from 6pm to 8pm each evening.

We are still in need of volunteers for work days, listed below, and "Guides," who will hang out with a small group of kids during VBS and get them where they need to go. You can volunteer as a Guide for two days or the whole week. There is a sign up board near the Children's Check-In if you are interested in helping out with VBS.

Lastly, the Outreach Bulletin Board is full of other ways you can help. Donations will be used for various expenses, including crafts supplies and snacks.

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 14th, 9am-12pm

Saturday, May 21st, 9am-12pm

Saturday, May 28th, 9am-12pm

On Saturday, June 4th, 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!

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-5th Grade

"Journey Off the Map" VBS

Hillcrest's Vacation Bible School, "Journey Off the Map" will be held Sunday, June 5th through Wednesday, June 8th from 6pm-8pm at Hillcrest. Registration is FREE! Pick up your registration form at the display in the front foyer. You can also register for VBS on our web site. Don't forget to pick up your cd and iron-on after you register!

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 18th 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. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Meriah if you plan to attend.

Message Notes:

Title: I Believe in God, but I Don't Know Him

Scripture: Titus 1:16; 1 John 2:3-4; Matthew 7:21-23;
Galations 4:8-9; Psalm 63:1-4; Psalm 9:10;
Ephesians 1:17-19

Notes:

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Psalm 9:10 (NLT) Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you.

Monday

Subject: Which One Are You?

Scripture: Titus 1:10-16

Commentary:

In this passage, Paul warns Titus to be on the lookout for people who teach wrong doctrines and lead others into error. Some of these teachers were simply confused, while others had evil intentions. They pretended to be "Christians" only to feed their need for wealth, power, or notoriety. The false teacher tends to unmask himself in a variety of ways. (1) Focus of more attention on themselves than on Christ, (2) ask you to do something that will compromise or dilute your faith, (3) de-emphasize the deity of Christ or the divine inspiration of Scripture, or (4) urge believers to make decisions based solely on human judgment rather than on prayer and Biblical guidelines. Many people claim to know God. How can we know if they really do? A glance at their lifestyles may give a clue to whether they are ordering their lives around kingdom priorities. Our conduct speaks volumes about what we "say" we believe.

Questions for further thought:

1. What do people know about Jesus Christ and about my faith by what I say and observing my conduct?
2. Do I believe that my conduct is the only barometer by which my faith should be measured or do my words also matter? Why or why not?

Challenge:

Ask God to grow a pure heart in you, because you can't do it on your own. Ask for boldness from Christ to share your faith in Him without reservation to others who need to hear. Be watchful for those opportunities He will provide.

Tuesday

Subject: Obedience produces Endurance

Scripture: 1 John 2:1-6; 18-19

Commentary:

This passage shows two ways in which a person can know that they belong to Christ. First, if you do what Christ says and live as Christ wants. What does Christ tell us to do? John tells us in 1 John 3:23, "to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another". True Christian faith results in loving behavior and produces an ability to "abide" or continue in faithful obedience, thus resulting in endurance. However, some did not endure. These individuals arise from within the Church and subsequently depart from true fellowship and lead others out with them. They prove that they never belonged to it. Some people may call themselves "Christians" for less than the best reasons. Perhaps going to church is a family tradition. Maybe the thought of the social and business contacts they could amass is too much to resist. Perhaps they just never got around to asking themselves why they do it. What is your main reason for being a Christian? Has your obedience to Christ resulted in a greater capacity for endurance or do you feel like you are just going through the motions?

Questions for further thought:

1. How can I be sure that I belong to Christ?
2. What is my rationale for my answer to #1?

Challenge:

Obedience to live in accord with God's commands is the external, visible proof of regeneration. Get alone with Him and do some business. Make a commitment today to pursue obedience in whatever the Lord is asking you to do.

Wednesday

Subject: REAL Relationship

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Commentary:

Paul prayed for the believers to know God better. How do you get to know someone? By reading biographical information of historical data about him? This might help you know a lot *about* that person, but it won't enable you to actually *know* him. If you want to get to know someone, you have to spend time with them. There is no shortcut. The same holds true with God. The difference is in spending time with Him in His Word and in personal prayer. Let that power that Paul describes raised Jesus from the dead propel you into a personal knowledge and relationship with Christ that will truly change your life. What do you think? Where do I sign up??

Questions for further thought:

1. Do I really *know* the Lord, or do I just know *about* Him?
2. What can I do today that would cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ? Bible study, prayer?
3. When will I do the action I specified in question #2?

Challenge:

Take some time to consider the enormity of the opportunity to know the Lord more personally. Pursue the Lord with the same fervor that He has pursued you!

Thursday

Subject: Fruit Bearing

Scripture: Matthew 7:15-23

Commentary:

How can we recognize those who only claim to know Christ and those who truly do? Jesus gives us the answer in verse 16 (By their fruit you will recognize them) and again in verse 21 (The one who does the will of my Father). Just as trees are consistent in the kind of fruit they produce, good teachers consistently exhibit high moral character as they seek to live out the truths of Scripture. We should not have witch hunts to throw out everyone that is less than perfect. Every one of us is subject to sin, and we must show mercy to those who also struggle. However, we must be vigilant and keep watch for those that would seek to cause the body harm by cunning means. We must be aware that just as in the case of the self-professed athlete that "talks" a good game does not necessarily equate to athletic prowess, not everyone who talks about Heaven belongs to God's Kingdom. Jesus exposed those who sounded religious but had no relationship with Him. Many of these people assume their supposed "goodness" and religious piety will garner some leverage with God. However, it is only those that respond to Christ in repentance and faith who will truly be rewarded in the end. So, what is stopping you from responding right now?!

Questions for further thought:

1. What type of fruit am I evidencing in my life?
2. Have I ever been tempted to trust in myself (my church attendance, my acts of service ect..) for my salvation? How do I combat this when it happens?

Challenge:

Take some time today to ponder the fruit of your own life. Is your life more God focused or ME focused. If it is the latter, turn to the Lord in humility and trust that He can and will change you! (See Matthew 23:12)

Friday

Subject: Who am I, Really?

Scripture: Romans 7

Commentary:

This is one of the greatest texts in the Bible describing the tension in living the Christian life. Paul describes the law that it can no longer condemn a believer as it convicts both unbelievers (and believers) of sin and how the law can in no way deliver a believer from sin. It ends up in a crescendo in the first few verses of Romans 8 describing how believers in Christ Jesus who walk in the power of the Holy Spirit can fulfill the law. So who is this about, really? Is it about me? I suspect it has very little to do with you and me, and it is mostly about who is dwelling in me. An awareness of the true nature of sin and its deadly character should bring the sinner to see his need of salvation– the very purpose God intended the law to serve. So in my own humanness, my flesh causes to do the very things I don't want to do. But in the newly Spirit filled redemption, (a gift of God's grace), I am able to live victoriously and freely to serve Christ as that sin has been completely paid for in Christ Jesus. Now that is Good News!

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways have I struggled to live the Christian life? How does the enemy use this as an instrument of discouragement?
2. How is God calling me to live in freedom through my identity in Jesus Christ?

Challenge:

Read Romans 8 and meditate on the wonderful promises found in a life lived in Jesus Christ.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: The Christian Atheist
Message Title: I Believe in God, but I Don't Fear Him
Scripture: 2 Tim 3:1-5; Ps 36:1-2; Gen 22:12; Is
6:5, 8; Prov 8:13
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 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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Jennifer Simons
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.

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

☐ Attend the 180 Thrift Store Formal on May 18th.

☐ Volunteer to help with Watoto Children’s Choir on May 22nd.

☐ Join the Scripture Choir to perform on May 29th.

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

(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**

