**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, April 26, 2015**

**Sermon Title: See to Believe**

**Scripture: Luke 24:33-49 *(New International Version)***

33They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. 36While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” 40When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate it in their presence. 44He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” 45Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things. 49I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 23**

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

**People: Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I am not afraid because yoou are with me.**

Leader: Your rod and your staff, they protect me.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!**

**Basic Theme: *For some, hearing the Good News is enough for us to believe. For others, we must first experience the power of God before we believe.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): The disciples could not believe that their leader was alive because the truth of the cross was burned into their minds. It wasn’t until Jesus stood among them that they believed. For Thomas, he needed to see and touch for himself so that he would believe.**

**So What? What proof do you need to grasp the reality of the resurrection? Like the disciples, are you waiting to be moved by the spirit? Hear the Good News, our savior lives! The Holy Spirit has come! And you are to be witnesses of this truth and power of God!**