

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

November 23rd, 2014

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Aimee VanderWeide and Jesse VanderWeide



Ask Like Doug

Pastor Doug Bartel

For the Kids

From 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Parents can go to the Children's Welcome Center to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Welcome Center is located on the east 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

Baptism & Membership

Our next baptism service will be on November 30th. 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.

Interested in joining Hillcrest as a member? Please check the box on the connection card on the back of the program or talk with Pastor Doug or Brian.

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, November 30th – Angel Tree sign up starts

Saturday, December 6th – Women's Ministry Festival of Tables

Saturday, December 13th – Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program at 10am

Sunday, December 14th – "Christmas in Black & White" Children's Christmas Program. Meet in gym (pre-schoolers in the Dog House) at 8:40am.

Wednesday, December 17th – Delivery of Angel Tree gifts, starting at 6pm

Wednesday, December 17th – Additional serving opportunities; Contact Pastor Brian if you are interested

Wednesday, December 24th – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:30pm

Wednesday, December 31st – 180 Student Ministries New Year's Eve Party

Festival of Tables

Ladies, please join us for our 4th annual Festival of Tables on Saturday, December 6th from 11:30-1:00.

This is our official kick-off to the Christmas season. Join other ladies as we celebrate with lunch, special music and stories from some of our table hostesses as they share "the story" behind their table settings.

Tickets are on sale Sunday, November 23 through Sunday, November 30th for \$5 each at the table located in the front foyer. This beautiful event is well-loved by our ladies as we get to see each table decorated uniquely and personally by our table hostesses. Invite your friends, moms, sisters, daughters to enjoy the celebration with you. If you are interested in hostessing a table, please talk to Deanna Moser and she will give you the information you need and a guide sheet.

Serve

November Mission Focus – Safe Families

Safe Families is a bridge between under-resourced families and the foster care system. A Safe Family would take in children to allow a mom or dad time to locate work, locate housing, complete treatment, etc. without the child having to move into the foster care system.

During the month of November, Hillcrest will be collecting diapers, wipes, and WalMart gift cards for Safe Families. (Reminder that you can order WalMart cards from SCRIP! We will have some available to pick up at the Welcome Center, too!)

There are many other ways to get involved with Safe Families for Children. If you would like more information about how you can volunteer, please visit their web site at <http://www.safe-families.org/default.aspx> or contact Pastor Brian.

SCRIP Program

Now is the time when many of us start thinking about Christmas shopping! If you like to give gift cards, check out Hillcrest's SCRIP program on our web site under "Events"! Each gift card you buy gives a percent of the purchase back to Hillcrest's Student Ministries. It may not seem like a lot, but it adds up fast! You can designate the money to go to a specific student or to the general fund. Right now, students are saving for their Winter Retreat in February. To get your cards before Christmas, you will need to order them no later than December 14th. If you have questions or need help getting signed up, contact Jennifer Simons or Brian Stroh for assistance.

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

Building Blocks: Infants and 1 year olds
Bird House: 2-4 year olds

10:30 AM Children's Program

Building Blocks: Infants & 1 year olds
Bird House: 2 year olds
Tree House: 3 year olds
Dog House: 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

- Next week is the 5th Sunday of the month. We will not have Club House, so that children can celebrate baptisms and participate in communion with their families. Child care will still be available for infants through pre-schoolers.

"Christmas in Black & White"

On Sunday, December 14th, during both services, Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be performing their Christmas Program, "Christmas in Black & White." All children in pre-school through 5th grade will participate. The children will be practicing their songs during our normal worship time at 10:30am, each Sunday in November. We will also have a special dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 13th at 10am.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

Middle School and High School students are invited to meet in the Youth Room during the 10:30am service. Students will then break into small groups.

- Next week is the 5th Sunday of the month. We will not have Sunday School, so that students can celebrate baptisms and participate in communion with their families.

180 Wednesday Nights

Middle School students meet from 6-7:30pm and High School students meet from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, and games!

- There will be no 180 on Wednesday, November 25th.

180 Events

- The Winter Camp has been scheduled for February 12th-15th. Pick up a brochure and registration form at the Welcome Center or from Meriah for more information.
- Winter Calendars are now available to pick up at the Welcome Center.

Message Notes:

Title: Ask Like Doug

Scripture: Proverbs 16:9

Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Monday

Subject: God's Will Vs. Our Will

Scripture: Proverbs 15:33 and 16:9

Commentary:

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps". We all have dreams or goals, plans, and objectives in what we want to accomplish in life. Some never get beyond their dreams; others are swept along by the culture and people around them. But even if we have the determination and persistence, we are still somewhat dependant on opportunity, circumstances, other people, or what some call "luck". We have free will to act and react in life, but not the power to always make things go our way. We must make the effort, but along the way many things may influence how we arrive at our destination.

Questions for further thought:

1. How do we respond when our good intentions are thwarted?
2. Do we blame others or God when things don't go our way?

Challenge:

It takes humility- the realization we are not all powerful or wise to accept what comes our way.

Tuesday

Subject: God's Will

Scripture: Proverbs 16:2 and 25

Commentary:

We often read in literature and in the historical accounts of 19th century life in America how the settlers and pioneers stoically faced tragedy and death by saying "It was God's will". I can easily see how someone growing up in that atmosphere (or today's unpredictable world) could see God as punishing, cruel, and condemning. But we can see in the Bible that the sources of suffering and death can also come from evil influences and the work of the devil- and man's own mistaken decisions and actions. All that happens is not God's perfect plan. We are obviously living in his "plan B" if not C, D, etc.

Questions for further thought:

1. Can our good motives be as innocent as we think, or does God see them as selfish?
2. Who can you think of whose pursuit of success, wealth, pleasure, or power, lead to their demise?

Challenge:

Meditate on Romans 11:33-36

Wednesday

Subject: Adversity

Scripture: Proverbs 16:3, Ecclesiastes 9:11

Commentary:

Life on this earth is not fair. We see in the Bible people who were rewarded in this life for being faithful to God, and also those who were martyred for following him. Many who started a work for Christ never lived to see the results of their efforts. Even Christ left this earth before the disciples began to tell others about him, and his enemies considered him a failure. Even today we see that God's Kingdom of love, righteousness, and peace has never been fully established on earth in spite of the efforts of many in the past 2000 years since the New Testament was written. Without a belief in Jesus' return and life after physical death we would have hope in nothing beyond a few brief years of life.

Questions for further thought:

1. What are examples of good that has been accomplished on earth due to Jesus life and teachings?
2. In what ways has trusting God made your life better?

Challenge:

Commit to furthering Christ's kingdom in your current situation by including him in your plans.

Thursday

Subject: Real Faith

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1&6; James 2:14-19

Commentary:

Many people have religious faith based on intellectual understanding—they believe they have the correct version of truth and therefore are acceptable to God, and those who do not believe as they do or have been taught another version are wrong, and therefore not acceptable to God. But God does not judge us on our limited understandings of truth and theology. Nor does belief in the actual existence of God make us righteous; many believe he exists but have no interest in knowing him or desire to love or please him. Jesus said we must have the faith of a child—the innocent desire to love others, an awe of God and his creation, and the awareness of our own weakness and dependence.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you want to believe there is a loving and good God who cares for you and knows all about you?
2. Do you feel you have a correct understanding of the scriptures?

Challenge:

If you honestly seek to understand the Bible, you must ask approach it with an open mind and ask God to help you understand what it actually says and then act on that. It may also help to study it with others if you are new to this discipline.

Friday

Subject: Taking a Stand

Scripture: Romans 16:25-27;
1 Timothy 2:1-6

Commentary:

Mankind existed for thousands of years before the flood, before there was a nation of Israel, before the Bible was written; and even today there are still millions who have no knowledge of what true Christians believe. But always there have been those who believed in and tried to please God. To believe what the Bible teaches puts us at odds with most of the world we live in. It is not always enough to do what is right and good; we need to also be able to defend our convictions. We have to fight for and support the good anywhere we find it, and also resist evil in many forms. Life is a constant struggle, but we have the encouragement of the Holy Spirit of God.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you pray for and encourage our leaders rather than condemn them?
2. Do you go along with what others do to "not make waves"?

Challenge:

Pray alone and with others for the courage to do what is right, overlook what is not essential or beyond your ability, and speak up graciously when you have the opportunity.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Baptism & Communion
Message Title: Angels Among Us
Scripture: James 2:24
Speaker: Doug Bartel & Tarina Stroh

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 run 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



Doug Bartel

Lead Pastor

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Brian Stroh

Ministry Pastor

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Jesse VanderWeide

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Tarina Stroh

Children's Ministries Coordinator

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Jennifer Simons

Administrative Assistant

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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**

☐ **I would like to sign up for Hillcrest's upcoming event. (Please specify.)**

My next step today is to:

- ☐ Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- ☐ Find out more information about baptism and/or membership.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

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:

☐ 1st Visit --- How did you hear about Hilcrest? _____

☐ 2nd Visit _____
(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

☐ Returning Guest

☐ Regular Attender

☐ Members

I am interested in:

☐ beginning a relationship with Jesus ☐ being baptized

☐ receiving the Hilcrest Informational E-mail.

☐ joining a small group ☐ becoming a member of Hilcrest

☐ volunteering ☐ praying for my Hilcrest 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**

