



## Today's Gathering

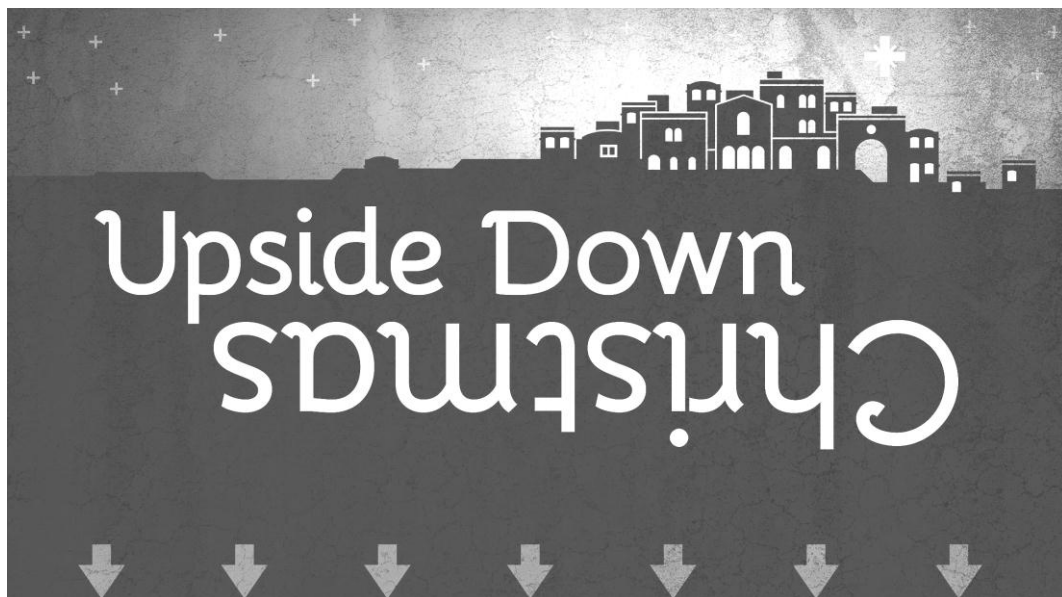
December 21st, 2014

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Tarina Stroh & Jesse VanderWeide



## Do vs. Don't

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](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 3-4, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On pages 5-6, 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

### Christmas Eve

The whole family is invited to join us for Hillcrest's candlelight service on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. This celebration includes a children's story, candy canes for kids, and homemade hot chocolate after the service. Please note there will be no child care provided, so that all of our volunteers can spend this time with their families, as well.

### Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

On Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> during the 9:00 and 10:30 services, Hillcresters are invited to wear their ugliest Christmas sweater! One winner per service!

### Men's Event

The men of Hillcrest are invited to meet at Cherry Creek at 7pm on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> to watch the College Football Championship Game. RSVP to Brian Stroh.

## Serve

### December Mission Focus – Angel Tree

The mission focus for December is Angel Tree, a ministry that provides Christmas gifts to local children whose parents are in prison. Hillcresters purchased gifts for 30 children this year and delivered them on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Season of Giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Hillcrest Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit <http://www.siouxfallschurch.com/> or contact the church office for more information.

## 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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Family Movie Night

Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be showing "Muppets Most Wanted" on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Snacks will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the back foyer if you plan to attend.

## 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.

### 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!

### 180 Events

- The Winter Camp has been scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Pick up a brochure and registration form at the Welcome Center or from Meriah for more information. Registrations are due January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- On Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at 8pm, students can ring in the New Year together here in the Hillcrest gym. We will have snacks, play board games, and there will be prizes! Bring your friends! Cost is \$5.

# Message Notes:

Title: Do vs. Don't

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

*John 15:15 (NIV) I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

# Monday

Subject: Mary's perspective

Scripture: Luke 1:38, 46-56

## Commentary:

Would I have accepted God's will? I would like to think I would but if past experience is any sign, I have my doubts. What about you? An angel doesn't have to visit us in order for God to ask us to do something or love on someone. What is He asking of you today? Will you accept?

## Questions for further thought:

1. What thoughts run through your mind as think on what He is asking you to do?
2. What can you do to move past those thoughts and accept His will?

## Challenge:

If you don't know what His will is for you or your thoughts are getting in the way, pray for guidance and courage.

# Tuesday

Subject: Joseph's perspective

Scripture: Matthew 1:18–24

## Commentary:

Do you believe and follow the angel's direction or do you hold a grudge against the one who has wronged you? Joseph believed what the angel told him and made a home with Mary. People will let us down—they are human. You however have the choice to rise above that human nature, to forgive, and to love people who have wronged you.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Who do you need to forgive?
2. What is stopping you from forgiving them?

## Challenge:

Determine how to overcome the challenge you listed above in order to truly forgive the individual.



# Wednesday

Subject: The Shepherds perspective

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

## Commentary:

We didn't have the luxury of seeing the King in person or having a bunch of angels announcing His coming. We know all of this occurred but do we share what we know with those around us? Do we have the courage or excitement to introduce others to the King? As we celebrate His coming this year, introduce someone to the King.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Who in your immediate circle needs to be introduced to Jesus?
2. What are some ways to do this?

## Challenge:

Invite this individual to come to church with you tonight for the Christmas Eve service.

# Thursday

Subject: The Magi perspective

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

## Commentary:

These wise men took time out of their normal routines to bring gifts to honor the babe born to Mary and Joseph. And like the wise men, we are asked to honor our Lord and Savior not only with our time but with our gifts. As you give and receive gifts from family and friends this season, remember to celebrate and offer your gift to the King.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What can you give your Lord and Savior on His birthday?
2. How will you celebrate His birth today?

## Challenge:

Find one way to celebrate Jesus's birth with your family today.

# Friday

Subject: Herod's perspective

Scripture: Matthew 2:3-4, 13-18

## Commentary:

Have you ever reacted in fear? Fear of failure? Fear of losing stature or position? It appears that this is exactly what is driving the actions of Herod and the chief priests and scribes. See, Jesus had been born in Bethlehem and some wise men had come to Jerusalem to search for Him saying "Where is he who has been born the King of the Jews?" Now Herod was a ruthless and cunning leader. He would not have taken this threat lightly. (See v.3) In reaction to his perceived threat to his position, he reacted swiftly and decisively to end, in his eyes, all possibility of this ever coming to pass. He perpetrated the heinous act of killing of all male children under the age of two in this region, with the full knowledge that the Lord's Anointed One was the target of his murderous plot.

## Questions for further thought:

1. How do I sometimes react out of fear rather than looking at the entire picture?
2. How has this affected me and those around me?

## Challenge:

Let the hope of this Christmas season and the promise of Jesus Christ and His saving power break the power of fear in our lives. Resolve to live in complete trust of His finished work.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Upside Down Christmas

Message Title: Light Vs. Dark

Scripture: Gen 18:18-19, 45:4-7; Ex 14:21-22; Jud 21:25b; Eccl 2:4-11, 7:29; Is 55:6-7; Jer 24:6-7; Hos 12:6; Jn 1:14; Matt 1:21b; Lk 2:10-11; Jn 3:19-20; Rom 1:20-21

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.

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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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Student Ministries Coordinator

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Children's Ministries Coordinator

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**Jennifer Simons**

Administrative Assistant

[jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com](mailto:jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.com)

# 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.
- ☐ Attend the Christmas Eve Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

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 Hilcrest? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____