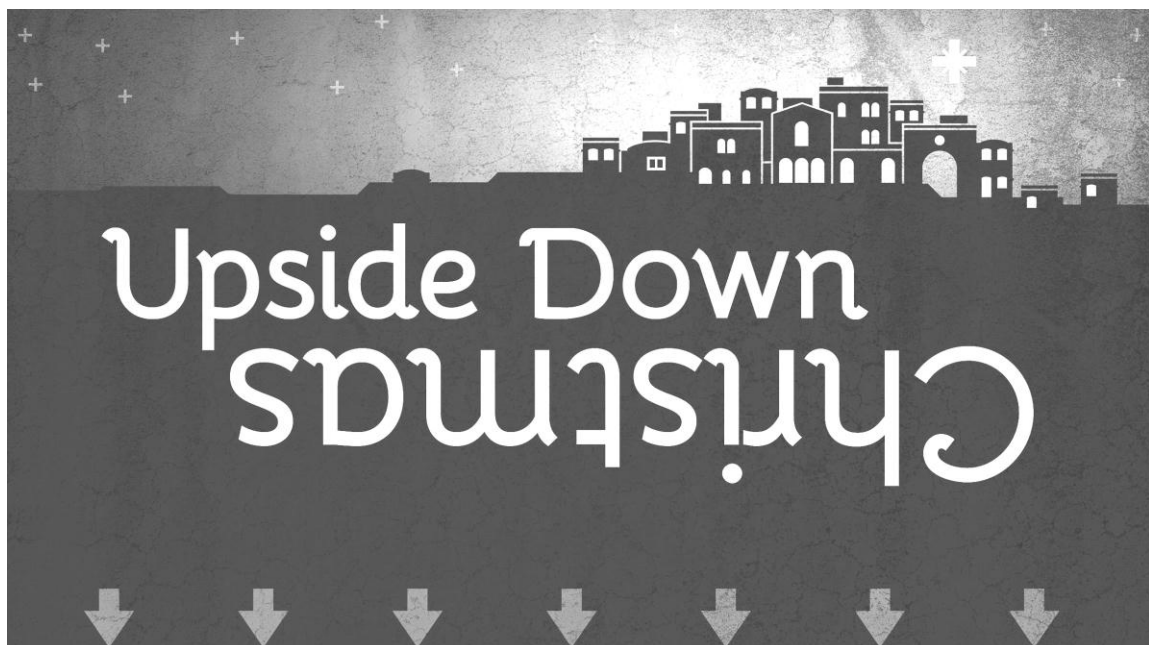


# Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering  
December 28th, 2014

View from the Hill  
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing  
Aimee VanderWeide and Jesse VanderWeide



Light vs. Dark  
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 3-5, 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

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 41<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Men's Event

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

## Serve

### January Mission Focus – The Banquet

The mission focus for January will be serving at the Banquet. We need approximately 35 people to serve on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:15 pm to approximately 8pm. We will also need 6 to 8 volunteers to prepare the meal on Friday afternoon from 2-4pm. All children are welcome with adult supervision, but there are limited jobs for them if they are under 13 years old. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in volunteering.

### 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 Ministry 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. Registration is 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: 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

Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

*John 8:12 (NLT) Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

# Monday

Subject: Earning God's Favor

Scripture: Galatians 5:1-2

## Commentary:

Most of us have heard the phrase "freedom in Christ," yet few of us truly experience it for very long after our salvation. We put ourselves right back into slavery, by believing we need to do more to stay in God's favor and keep Him loving us. The people of Galatia were also being taught by false teachings that they must do more also.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What is meant by "slavery to the law" or "yoke of slavery?"
2. Do you ever feel like God loves some of His children more than He loves you? Who? Why?

## Challenge:

Spend some quiet time with God this week and ask Him to show you where you might be trying to earn His favor or His love.

# Tuesday

Subject: God's Agape Love

Scripture: Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9

## Commentary:

God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins because He knew we could not stop sinning – that's how much He loves us! He knew that in order to have a relationship with us and for us to understand how much He loves us; our sins had to be atoned for once and for always.

## Questions for further thought:

1. How do you think God feels when you mess up? Does He love you less?
2. In light of Christ's sacrifice, how do you think it makes God feel when you do things to please Him because you are afraid He won't love you?

## Challenge:

Imagine what God is thinking, as a loving parent, when you "mess up."  
Imagine a loving response to Him watching you make mistakes.

# Wednesday

Subject: Fallen From Grace

Scripture: Galatians 5:3-4; James 2:10-11

## Commentary:

The Galatians had been told a lie: they had to be circumcised to truly please God. This wasn't even in keeping with Old Testament law because to truly please God you had to keep ALL of the laws. It was not enough to keep just one. In believing the lie, they had fallen from grace.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What does it mean to "fall from grace?"
2. Does it make sense to accept God's gift of grace through Christ's sacrifice and still try to earn favor by obeying the rules/laws? Why or why not?

## Challenge:

Set aside several times today to tell yourself, "God loves me just the way I am. I can do nothing to change that or make Him love me any more or any less."

# Thursday

Subject: Stay the Course to Freedom

Scripture: Galatians 5:7-11

## Commentary:

Paul refers several times to the Christian life as running a race. He is disappointed to see the Galatians influenced and detoured by others to go off the path. They believed something other than the truth preached to them before, which was the freedom they had by faith in Christ alone.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What lies have you been told that lead you to believe you have to do something other than have faith in Christ's salvation through the cross to stay in God's favor?
2. How has that impacted your relationship with God?

## Challenge:

Write down at least one wrong message you are listening to (or have listened to) and make a commitment to let it go or change your way of thinking about it.

# Friday

Subject: Obedience and Motivation

Scripture: Galatians 5:6 & 14, John 14:15 & 21

## Commentary:

God gives us a commandment – to love others. This is not to gain His favor though. We can do nothing to earn His love or His favor; nor can we do anything to have it taken away.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What is the motivation God wants us to have in keeping His commandments?
2. How is obedience out of love different from obedience out of fear?

## Challenge:

Why do you do the things we are told in scripture to do? (i.e. Go to church, be kind to others, baptism, honor your parents, tithe, or \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank))? Ask God to help you understand His agape love for you so you are obeying His commands out of love and gratitude towards His rich mercy.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Surviving  
Message Title: Surviving Your Finances  
Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-7; Exodus 20:17  
Speaker: Brian 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**

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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.

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 Hilcrest? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 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 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**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____