

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

January 4th, 2015

View from the Hill

Tarina Stroh

Singing

Gary Rakebrandt and Jesse VanderWeide



Surviving Your Finances

Pastor Brian Stroh

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.siouxfallchurch.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 41st 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.

Women's Study

The Saturday morning Women's Study will resume on January 17th, and will be going through Lisa TerKeurst's The Best Yes. They meet from 9am-11am in the Fireside Room each Saturday.

Craft Night

If you like to scrapbook, make cards, craft, crochet, knit, whateverjoin us for a craft night on Friday, January 16th at 7pm. Bring your project and supplies, a drink and a snack to share. Call Marti to RSVP or for questions -- 261-7753.

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 23rd 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.

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

Family Movie Night

Hillcrest Children's Ministry will be showing "Muppets Most Wanted" on Sunday, January 25th 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 12th-15th. Pick up a brochure and registration form at the Welcome Center or from Meriah for more information. Registration is due January 7th!

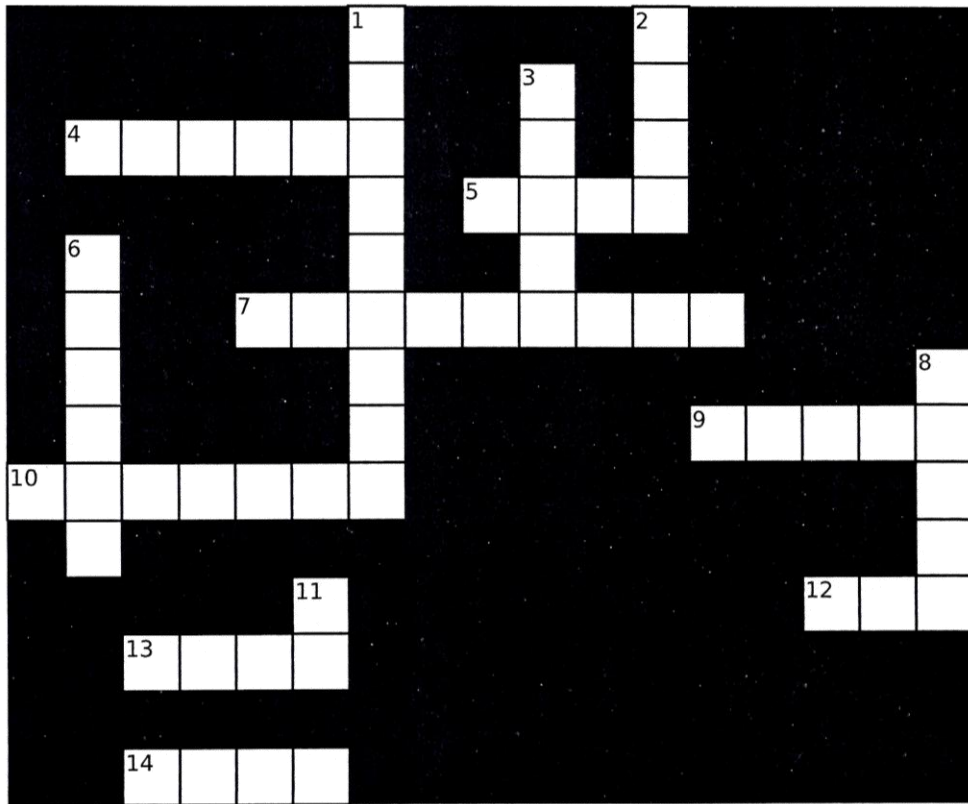
Message Notes:

Title: Surviving Your Finances

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-7; Exodus 20:17

Notes

Surviving Finances



- | Across | Down |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 what money is | 1 what to put in your |
| 5 according to Paul, | 5 sandwich if you |
| 7 type of savings | 5 want to catch a |
| we should all | 5 lunch thief |
| 9 10%; strategic | 2 what the wise do |
| giving | 3 Jones' family |
| 10 people group who | 6 financial condition |
| are slaves | 6 financial tool we all |
| 12 what money is | 8 book title Brian |
| not | 8 referenced while |
| 13 what the faithful | 11 talking about giving |
| do | 11 person that is rich |
| 14 people group God | |
| is not against | |

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: Woe to the Rich

Scripture: Luke 6:20-25

Commentary:

In delivering the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus turned the worldview of finances upside down. Imagine—the poor and destitute will one day be elevated, the rich and affluent will be humbled. What Jesus did not explain is that these events would not come to pass due to a military revolution or by force, but by believer's selfless acts of giving and sharing. The early church served as an example of this type of giving, but the modern world seems to have forgotten this important lesson.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are you following Jesus' teaching of selfless giving?
2. Do you have more of a "world view" regarding helping others?

Challenge:

It is easy to look the other way, especially if we believe that someone is going without because of choices they have made. That is not the attitude Jesus desires of us. We don't necessarily need to enable laziness or dishonesty or foolishness, but we are expected to step up and alleviate suffering where we can.

Tuesday

Subject: The Problem and the Solution

Scripture: Acts 2:44-45

Commentary:

The problem with wealth in Jesus' day is that it was for the most part controlled by Herod and the Romans. Ordinary people who had worked hard and acquired some land or possessions were often forced to hand it over to the Roman Empire, finding themselves penniless. Jobs other than those controlled by the Roman government were almost non-existent. The early church took action in an attempt to deal with the problem of poverty and economic insecurity. The believers gave to and shared with one another sacrificially to combat the horrible injustice and poverty caused by the Roman occupation. The church community was a place of safety and encouragement and help. Unfortunately in the present age, we have become too isolated and self-sufficient. We are not relying on God or each other as they did in Jesus' day.

Questions for further thought:

1. Can you identify a community or group that you are a part of?
2. If not, why?

Challenge:

Hillcrest desires to be your community of hope, encouragement and help. Get involved in a small group and let people show you the love of Christ.

Wednesday

Subject: The Rich Young Ruler

Scripture: Luke 18: 22-23

Commentary:

About the only way one became rich during the Roman occupation was to be in collusion with Herod and the Roman regime. This young man was very likely being less than truthful when he told Jesus that he had been obeying the commandments since he was a boy. He was probably in possession of "unrighteous wealth"-that gained by the dishonest treatment of others. Jesus asked him to give up this wealth and give up the manner in which he gained it in order to gain a far greater reward. We know from scripture how the young man responded.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are you honest in your treatment of others or are you in possession of "unrighteous wealth"?
2. How will you change your methods in light of today's story?

Challenge:

Have you ever celebrated when someone gave you too much change for a purchase you made and said nothing? Have you taken liberties on your tax return and gotten away with it? These are examples of "unrighteous wealth". Be on guard and be honest in your dealings with others.

Thursday

Subject: Watch Out!

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21, 32-34

Commentary:

Jesus understands the human heart. We always focus on what is most important to us. If our main focus is our pride, our ego, our bank account or our investments, then our focus will be on how to keep these things and make more. As we spend more and more time and effort to gain more and more material "things" we have less and less time and energy to pursue the "things" that please God--helping one another, meeting together, encouraging one another and loving and caring for our community.

Questions for further thought:

1. Are you feeling burned out chasing "The American Dream"?
2. Are you finding time to meet with your community and to care for others?

Challenge:

Working towards and saving for a "rainy day" or retirement is wise, but if you are doing so at the expense of serving and blessing others, then your reward will very likely be left here on earth when you enter eternity.

Friday

Subject: Seek the Kingdom

Scripture: Mathew 6: 25, 31-34

Commentary:

To the majority of Jesus' listeners, this teaching was totally upside down to what they were experiencing. What? Not worry about food or clothes or where you were sleeping? Really? These were everyday concerns. Many days starvation was only hours away. How could you NOT worry when you didn't necessarily know where your next meal would come from and your kids were hungry? Jesus knows that worry and desperation often prevents us from coming to God in prayer, asking for His provision, trusting that He knows what we need and has the ability to care for us and that He knows what is best for us. Jesus tells us that we should be going to God FIRST, not after we have exhausted all other avenues to sustain ourselves, which is foolishness.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you worry about the future?
2. Do you take those concerns to God in prayer?

Challenge:

Planning and preparing for the future is a good idea, but worrying about the future is a waste of time. Take your concerns to God and He will provide answers.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Surviving
Message Title: Surviving Job Stress
Scripture: Matthew 6:25-33; 11:28-30
Speaker: Brian Stroh

What do these passages say to you?

Prayer Page:

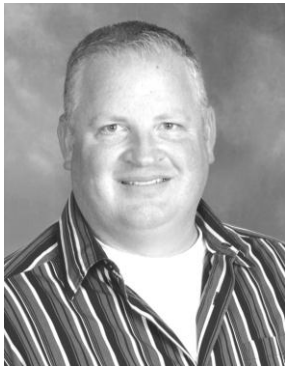
Write down the prayer concerns and praises you want to remember throughout the week. Pray every day!

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.

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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Student Ministries Coordinator
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Tarina Stroh
Children's Ministries Coordinator
tarinastroh@siouxfallschurch.com

Jennifer Simons
Administrative Assistant
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.

Additional Comments:



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

605-371-0546

www.sioxfordfallschurch.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 _____
- 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.

<p>Your Age Group:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 36-45 <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 56-65 <input type="checkbox"/> over 65</p>	<p>Names & Birthdays of members of your household</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Divorced</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Widowed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	