

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

January 18th, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Gary Rakebrandt and Jesse VanderWeide



Surviving Your Marriage

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.siouxfallschurch.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

Sunday Adult Class

On Sunday, January 18th, we will start a new 6 week class called, "Follow Me" about what Jesus really meant when he said those words. The class will meet each Sunday at 10:30am in the adult classroom upstairs, and will be led by Kevin Skogstad and Doug Reade. The cost for the book is \$10. If you are interested in joining, please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Ladies Night Out

On Tuesday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m., all Hillcrest Ladies are invited to join us at Red Lobster for a night away from cooking and the dishes. Please RSVP to Deanna Moser at 359-7203 if you are able to join us.

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.

Stampede Game

Hillcresters are invited to attend the Sioux Falls Stampede Hockey Game against the Fargo Force on Saturday, February 7th at 7:05pm. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased ahead of time. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in attending.

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

Partnering with Parents: Love Languages

On Sunday, February 8th, after 2nd service, families of children of all ages are invited to attend this free Love Languages class. Learn how to love everyone in your life, according to their unique style. Lunch and child care will be provided. Please sign up in the back foyer if you are interested in attending.

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

- Bedtime Bags - On Saturday, January 31st we will meet in the Youth Room at 10am to prepare bags to be donated to a domestic abuse shelter that include a blanket, stuffed animal, tooth brush, tooth paste, and hair brush.
- Super Bowl Party - February 1st we will meet at the Davis' house at 5pm for food and watching the Game. Wings and fries will be provided for food. Bring a 2 liter soda & a snack to share or \$5. There will be a group playing board games and watching the commercials in a different room if you simply want to come to hang out.

Message Notes:

Title: Surviving Your Marriage

Scripture: Matthew 20:28; Romans 14:4, 10-13;

Matthew 7:3-5

Notes

Seek to _____, not to be _____.

_____ trying to _____ him/her.

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Ephesians 5:33 (NLT) So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Monday

Subject: Who is the boss?

Scripture: Matthew 20:28

Commentary:

In many relationships there can be a power struggle for who is in charge. Who is the strongest, who is the loudest, most determined, has to have the first word or the last word. Often the one who can endure the longest or be the biggest bully is in charge.

Jesus gives us a totally different perspective. The Lord of lords, and the King of kings left the right hand of God to come to earth not to be served but to serve and give his life for all of us. He is the ultimate example for any relationship: marriage, friendship, work or family.

Questions for further thought:

1. When do you need to be in charge?
2. How good are you at giving in?

Challenge:

The next time you face making a decision; what to eat, what game to play, what TV show to watch—choose your spouse's, your friend's or your child's favorite, instead of your own. How did the other person react? How did it feel?

Tuesday

Subject: Clean up your own back yard

Scripture: Matthew 7:3-5

Commentary:

Isn't it amazing how easy it is to see the flaws and faults of other people? To notice a spelling error made by your teacher, to pick up on a mistake in someone's speech, to see or point out a poor choice made by a friend or family member.

In this scripture Jesus points out the things we notice about other people are mere specks compared to the major issues (log) we have. He instructs us to focus on cleaning up our own lives—focus on what we need to fix or improve. If we spend our time confessing our sins, asking for forgiveness and guidance we will have little time to notice other people's issues.

Questions for further thought:

1. What do you find that you are the most critical about?
2. How do you respond to criticism?

Challenge:

The next time you are tempted to criticize, examine yourself. What do you need to confess, repent and change? Start today.

Wednesday

Subject: What is love?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-6; 1 John 4:16

Commentary:

1 Corinthians 13 is probably one of the most frequently quoted scriptures at weddings. It was read at my wedding. On the surface these verses can seem warm and fuzzy- but in reality they are very challenging. Love is patient, love is kind, love doesn't brag, love is not proud, love is not rude, love is not self-seeking, love is not easily angered, love doesn't keep track of wrongs, and love rejoices with the truth.

Now consider what 1 John 4:16 says- God is love. Replace "God" for the word "love" and re-read this scripture. God is patient, God is kind, God doesn't brag, God is not rude, God is not self-seeking and so on.

Questions for further thought:

1. Have you considered this to be the definition of how God acts towards you?
2. How does this affect your image of God?

Challenge:

Re-read this scripture and put your name in the place of love. Which of these are you the most comfortable with, and which one do you struggle with most? Ask God to show you what you need to change.

Thursday

Subject: Always and Never

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:7-8, 13

Commentary:

Were you taught not to use the words "always" and "never", particularly when discussing something with your spouse, sibling or close friend? The idea is that none of us ever does something all the time. As we continue to put God in the place of love in these verses, what do we learn? God always protects, God always trusts, God always hopes, God always perseveres, and God never fails.

God is the exception to the always / never rule. He is the definition of love and the example of how we should strive to love others. As humans we will not be able to attain "always" – but we can work towards that with God's help and strength.

Questions for further thought:

1. How often do you find yourself saying, "I always... I never... You always... You never?"
2. Is there someone you need to confess or apologize to?

Challenge:

Ask God to reveal to you the next step you need to take to address question 1 or 2.

Friday

Subject: What does love look like?

Scripture: Colossians 3:12- 14, 17

Commentary:

Do you ever need "Jesus with skin on," that you can touch, see or feel? As followers of Christ – we are Jesus with skin, the touchable, tangible person for others. These verses tell us, as followers of Christ, how we are to treat others – to treat our spouse if we are married, to treat our siblings, parents, coworkers, enemies, or neighbors. We are to treat all people with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We must forgive whatever wrongs are done against us, just as the Lord forgives us. Put on love-like "skin" which holds us together.

We can be "Jesus" to someone in need of love. That person may live in our home or our neighborhood. It may be someone you work with or go to school with, it could be the stranger you are next to in line at the grocery store or movie.

Questions for further thought:

1. Who do you know that needs to feel love?
2. What action could you take to show love to someone?

Challenge:

Take a step of action today to show love to the person you identified above. Could you send a note of encouragement, get a cup of coffee, share a lunch break, take with you on an errand, shovel their sidewalk, or care for their child?

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Surviving
Message Title: Surviving Loss
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4;
2 Corinthians 12:8-9
Speaker: Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?

Prayer Page:

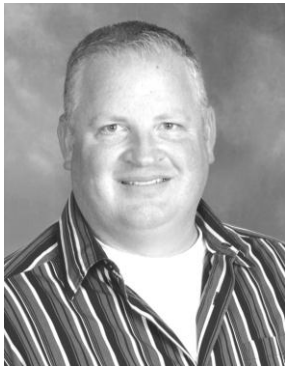
Write down the prayer concerns and praises you want to remember throughout the week. Pray every day!

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.

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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Brian Stroh
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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. 26th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

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:

- 1st Visit --- How did you hear about Hilcrest?
- 2nd Visit
- 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.

(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

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
