

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

January 25th, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Kelsey Moser and Jesse VanderWeide



Surviving Loss

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

Family Movie Night

TONIGHT! 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.

Moments for Moms

All Moms (no matter how old your "kids" are) are invited to meet at the 26th Street McDonalds on Wednesday, January 28th from 12:15pm-1:15pm. You can buy lunch for you and your kids, if you like. Kids play, while moms chat and pray together. Led by Tarina Stroh.

New Connection Group

Melissa Simpson and Nic Torbert are beginning a new connection group that will meet on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30, beginning February 19th. The group will include dinner and then using the Soul Provider and the previous Sunday's sermon as discussion material. The group will meet weekly and everyone is invited! Email Melissa at melissasimpson@siouxfallschurch.com or 605-359-1993, or contact Nic at nicholas.s.torbert@gmail.com or 605-209-0850 for more information. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Melissa or Nic, if you are interested in joining.

Chocolate & Canvas

On Thursday, February 26th from 6:30-8:30pm, Meriah VanderWeide will walk us through making the attached painting much like you would in a Wine & Canvas experience. Come for 2 hours of painting, chocolate, and fun, and go home with a beautiful 16"x20" painting! The cost is \$15 per person, which helps provide all supplies. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in participating.

Notes from the Finance Department

Year-end contribution statements were sent out last week. If you have not yet received yours, please call the church office at 605-371-0546, so we can verify your address and resend your document.

If you have not signed up for on-line giving and prefer to use envelopes, you can pick up a box for this year at the Welcome Center.

Membership

Interested in joining Hillcrest as a member? Membership at Hillcrest is simply a commitment to one another as we seek to love God and love others. For more information, please check the box on the connection card on the back of the program or talk with Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian.

Serve

February Mission Focus – Restoration Generation

The mission focus for February will be Restoration Generation. Restoration Generation is about one thing: Relationships. Students today are living in a world where the majority of them have known nothing but broken relationships – with family, friends and themselves. Restoration Generation exists to partner with schools, organizations and communities to help Restore a Generation of Relationships.

On Wednesday, February 4th at 6pm in the Fireside Room, we will be signing copies of Heart Not Hype, written by Restoration Generation's founder, Tom Henderson. These books will be given away at concerts and festivals to students who make the decision to follow Christ.

Donate from your smart phone!

Hillcrest Church offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!



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 Loss

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 12:8-9

Notes

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Romans 12:15 (NLT) Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

Monday

Subject: The Source of Suffering

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-8, 17-19

Commentary:

It wasn't supposed to be like this. God created a beautiful garden where mankind would have everything they needed and God Himself would be present. But the apple proved irresistible, and with that one choice, sin, and suffering, entered the world. Ultimately, that decision would impact God as He watched His Son suffer and die to purchase our freedom from a self-imposed curse.

Questions for further thought:

1. What questions do the presence of suffering in the world raise for you?
2. As you think about or experience suffering, what difference does it make that this is not how God wanted the world to be?

Challenge:

This week as you begin your devotions, my first challenge for you is to look up the definition of suffering. Note the different types of suffering—physical, mental, emotional, and psychological. Is there a difference to you? Is one more worthy of our compassion than another? Think about your past experiences with these types of suffering, and ponder your response to each.

Tuesday

Subject: Sin and Suffering

Scripture: John 9:1-7

Commentary:

Throughout the ages, misfortune has been associated with the displeasure of God (or the gods, in pagan cultures). If we're honest, we can all recall occasions where our mistakes and poor choices did result in serious consequences—for us or for others. But sin is not at the root of all suffering. The disciples assume that someone sinned in the case of the man born blind, but Jesus tells them that is not the case. Instead, this is an opportunity for God to be glorified.

Questions for further thought:

1. Have you encountered people (or been a person) who believe that all suffering is a result of sin?
2. Can suffering bring glory to God today, or was that something that was only true when Jesus was on the earth?

Challenge:

"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23. True statement. Sin results from our opposition to God, but it does not mean that God is opposed to us. Sometimes, though, God can use suffering as a tool to bring us and others around us to Him. He wants us to experience His glory. Glorify Him today in whatever suffering comes your way. Start in the car during rush hour.

Wednesday

Subject: Suffering and God's Love

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

Commentary:

It has been said that suffering can either press us closer into God or drive a wedge between us. When suffering comes, we have a choice to make, and that choice will likely be determined by the depth of our relationship with God before the trials arrive. Paul endured more physical and emotional hardship than most of us can even imagine during his life as a missionary, yet his relationship with God caused Him to trust even more in His love and to rely on Him for strength.

Questions for further thought:

1. When suffering comes your way, how do you tend to react?
2. How do you think the quality of your personal relationship with God will affect your ability to deal with suffering?

Challenge:

Bargaining with God is common in suffering. "If You do this (remove the suffering) then I will do this (_____)." That is not how it works. It may be that by agreeing to the deal, God would deprive us of the far more valuable lesson we will learn by working through the hardship. We have to trust that God already knows the outcome, and that he loves us. When suffering comes, watch for God's love and be God's love to others.

Thursday

Subject: The Gift of Presence

Scripture: Job 2:11-13

Commentary:

When the topic turns to biblical suffering, thoughts naturally turn to Job, and entire book devoted to the topic. Most of the book consists of dialog between Job and the friends who come to console and counsel him. Ultimately, God was not impressed with their input, but they did do one thing right. When they heard about Job's misfortune, they came to be with him and share his pain in silence. They should have remained that way. We don't need to know what to say to comfort those enduring loss. We just need to show up.

Questions for further thought:

1. When you hear that someone you know has experienced a loss, what is the first thing you do?
2. Has there been a time in your life when you needed the support of your friends? What did you appreciate most about their response?

Challenge:

In today's world of social media we are so much more aware of suffering around us. Requests for prayer and monetary support find their way to my device every day. It is easy to post, "So sorry, praying," or something similar. But do you pray? When a friend asks over the phone to pray for them, when you hang up, do you? What if we prayed with that person on the phone right then or posted our prayer and who we are praying to on the page? Hearts would be lifted and changed.

Friday

Subject: He Knows Our Pain

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

Commentary:

Sometimes when we're visiting with someone in the midst of suffering, we're tempted to say, "I know how you feel." In truth, we don't, even though we may identify with some aspect of their situation. Jesus, however, truly does know how we feel. He knows our thoughts, our hearts, and our pain. He knows firsthand what it feels like to suffer, and He has compassion for those who are hurting.

Questions for further thought:

1. When you're experiencing suffering or loss, what difference does it make to you that Jesus understands what you're going through?
2. As you're spending time with someone who is suffering, how can you convey the idea that Jesus has been there and understands?

Challenge:

My mother used to say, "You never know what you would do until you've walked in that person's shoes." Their perception of reality is reality to them. You will never be able to fully understand another's suffering because you did not walk their path, exactly. Don't judge. You may think you understand another person's suffering but you have not lived their life, exactly. We can come along side, we can love, we can be tender, we can be present, we can listen, we can act as the Holy Spirit leads, and yes, we may speak. But wait. Wait on the Lord and His guidance. Use His word, the scriptures. Be kind. "You never know..."

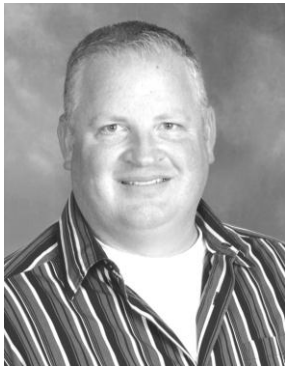
Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Pastor's Choice
Message Title: A Tale of Two Healings
Scripture: Matthew 8:1-17
Speaker: Burke Perry

What do these passages say to you?

Staff Contact Information



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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.
- Sign books for Restoration Generation on February 4th.
- Attend the Love Languages class for parents on February 8th.
- Join the new connection group, starting on February 19th.
- Attend the Chocolate & Canvas women's event on February 23rd.

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

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
