

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
March 8th, 2015

View from the Hill
Brian Stroh

Singing
Cindy Cummins, Tarina Stroh, and Jesse VanderWeide



You Are Not That Important
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 3-5, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On pages 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

Baptism

Our next baptism service will be on March 29th. Baptism is available for any person that has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you are interested in baptism, contact Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian.

Men's Event

Hillcrest guys are invited to the Men's March Madness Event Thursday, March 26th from 6-9 PM. Activities include basketball in the gym, a bean bag tournament throughout the facility, March Madness tournament games displayed throughout the facility, awesome food, and door prizes. Cost is \$5/\$10 for dads who bring their son(s). Sign up at the Welcome Center, mark the back of your Connection Card, or contact Brian Stroh if you are interested in attending.

Also, guys who are interested in being part of Hillcrest's March Madness 'office' pool should let Brian know by Sunday, March 15th.

Parents Night Out

The 180 Chicago mission team is offering a babysitting night on March 20th from 6pm-8:30pm. We will have a movie and snacks in one room, and games and activities in another. Cost is \$5 per kid, additional donations are welcome. Proceeds will go towards the cost of the 180 Chicago Mission Trip. Please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark the back of your connection card, or contact Meriah if you are interested.

Adoption Celebration

Join us On Sunday March 15th from 2pm-4pm for an informal open-house event, celebrating Zach and Kay Perry's adoption of Lee and Phil and Erica Bell's adoption of Maelynn! Gifts are not necessary. If you would like to bring a gift, the Perrys and Bells have indicated that gift cards to Target would be very helpful. Cake and punch will be served.

Family Bowling Night

Children's Ministries invites all Hillcresters to Bowling! We'll be at Eastway Bowl on Sunday, March 22nd from 6pm-8pm. Cost is \$8 per person and includes 2 games and shoes. Sign up in the back foyer or mark the back of your Connection Card if you plan to attend.

Serve

March Mission Focus – Children’s Home Society

CHS cares for more than 2,000 children each year, providing a continuum of services primarily related to child abuse and domestic violence. Programs include emergency shelter, residential treatment, education, adoption and foster care, forensic interview & examination centers, and prevention services. The common thread of CHS programs is “a second chance”--to help children work through the trauma that has adversely affected their lives; facilitate the healing of mind, body and spirit; and work toward their successful transition into a healthy family setting.

On March 18th, Hillcrest will be providing a pizza party for the kids at Children’s Home Society. We need 5 adult volunteers to arrive at CHS at 4:30pm to help serve food. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested in this opportunity.

Throughout the month of March, we will be taking donations for the Children’s Home Society. Starting next week, you can find a copy of their Wish List on the Outreach Bulletin Board next to the Welcome Center. Please drop off items by March 29th.

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

Children's Ministry Volunteer Appreciation & VBS Training

TODAY, after 2nd service, we will have our Annual Teacher Thank You Lunch for everyone who helps in Children's Ministry and anyone who plans to help with VBS this year. We will feed you, train you and thank you for being a part of this Ministry. We will also preview this June's VBS theme and have a sign-up ready for those who can help.

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

- ❖ On March 14th from 2-3pm we will meet at Sky Zone for some trampoline jumping fun! Cost is \$13 for jumping and \$2 for the Sky Zone socks, if you don't already have them. Parents will need to fill out a waiver on-line before the event or fill it out when dropping off.
- ❖ On March 28th from 2pm-4:30pm, 180 students will meet in the Youth Room for a 2 hour session of painting much like our Women's Chocolate & Canvas experience. Cost is \$15, supplies are provided.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark your connection card, or contact Meriah, if you are interested in attending either of these events.

Spring calendars are now available to pick up at the Welcome Center or at the Student Ministries bulletin board in the back foyer.

Message Notes:

Title: You Are Not That Important

Scripture: Luke 9:25

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Matthew 6:24 (NLT) "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Monday

Subject: Self Denial?

Scripture: Luke 9:23-27

Commentary:

In this passage, Luke is describing a Christ-like self-denial. He uses words such as "deny himself", "take up his cross", and "follow ME". It appears Christ is spinning a common thread in His teaching to the disciples. That thread is one of self-denial. He calls us to a willingness to obey His commandments, serve one another, and perhaps even suffer for His sake. How often do we observe this in speech, but we find it very difficult to observe in action? It is not about us, but about Him

Questions for further thought:

1. What is one way in which I will "deny" myself in obedience to Christ's command?
2. How can this attitude impact the way I live my life outside of church?

Challenge:

Commit to find one thing Christ is calling you to and then act in faith that He will empower you to do it.

Tuesday

Subject: Truth and Time: Have No Fear

Scripture: Matthew 10:26-33

Commentary:

Jesus has just taught the sober truth that no servant is above his master. As Christ suffered, so too will His true followers. But, we should not fear the coming bodily persecution of the human masses. Rather, we should fear rebelling against the divine providence and sovereign will of the One who can not only destroy the body, but also the soul in hell. So, I ask you to choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:15)

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways have I been guilty of "denying" Jesus?
2. How can I know that His grace is sufficient for those times when I fall short? How can I know that I am truly His child?

Challenge:

Seek the Lord's guidance in hard times of struggle. Search the scriptures and take hold of His promises. He will be faithful.

Wednesday

Subject: True Freedom

Scripture: John 8:12-38

Commentary:

John is describing Jesus' description of Himself as "the light of the world" No one who gives themselves completely to following Him will walk in darkness, but their life will exhibit light. But where, or better, who does this light originate from? Again, we appear to have no claim to the ability to create the light or even the ability to follow through with the light that has already been given to us without the divine power of the Holy Spirit within us. Jesus is calling us to follow Him completely. John points to the understanding of genuine salvation and true discipleship by stressing truth and freedom. Saving faith expresses itself in a maturity in a full commitment to the truth found in Jesus Christ resulting in genuine freedom. True faith requires us to abide or continue in Jesus' word. The one who continues in His teaching has both the Father and the Son. (2 John 9). So, I must ask, am I abiding in Jesus' word? (See John 8:31-32)

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways have my circumstances and desires prevented me from experiencing true freedom in Christ?
2. How does our world today glorify "free" thinking and the perceived freedom it brings?

Challenge:

Resolve to tell at least one person about the freedom of forgiveness that is found in Jesus Christ.

Thursday

Subject: Who am I, Really?

Scripture: Romans 7

Commentary:

This is one of the greatest texts in the Bible describing the tension in living the Christian life. Paul describes the law that it can no longer condemn a believer as it convicts both unbelievers (and believers) of sin and how the law can in no way deliver a believer from sin. It ends up in a crescendo in the first few verses of Romans 8 describing how believers in Christ Jesus who walk in the power of the Holy Spirit can fulfill the law. So who is this about, really? Is it about me? I suspect it has very little to do with you and me, and it is mostly about who is dwelling in me. An awareness of the true nature of sin and its deadly character should bring the sinner to see his need of salvation—the very purpose God intended the law to serve. So in my own humanness, my flesh causes to do the very things I don't want to do. But in the newly Spirit filled redemption, (a gift of God's grace), I am able to live victoriously and freely to serve Christ as that sin has been completely paid for in Christ Jesus. Now that is good news!

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways have I struggled to live the Christian life? How does the enemy use this as an instrument of discouragement?
2. How is God calling me to live in freedom through my identity in Jesus Christ?

Challenge:

Read Romans 8 and meditate on the wonderful promises found in a life lived in Jesus Christ.

Friday

Subject: He is Worthier

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4

Commentary:

Paul is writing in unabashed humility about himself and his role in God's purposes being fulfilled through him. He unashamedly points not to "ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (v.5). He then goes on to talk about himself as a jar of clay. In Paul's day, jars of clay were clay pots that most often were used to hold garbage and human waste. Paul viewed himself as lowly, common, expendable, and replaceable. He makes it abundantly clear that by using frail and expendable people, God is solely the author of salvation and the power that results because of it. It is not the result of any power, physical strength, or wisdom we might possess. Although the outer man is wasting away, the inner man is being renewed every day. Paul then calls us not to pursue the things that are seen (i.e. the things of this world), but to pursue the things that are unseen (i.e. spiritual things). "For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18 ESV)

Questions for further thought:

1. How has God shown Himself faithful when I have submitted to Him in humble service?
2. How can I serve Him more faithfully by serving His people?

Challenge:

God doesn't need us to accomplish His purposes, but He chooses to use us to show His mercy, grace, and loving kindness. Thank Him for that today and seek His guidance in where He wants to use you.

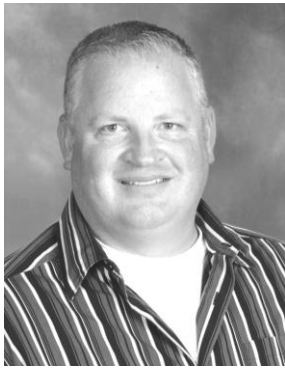
Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Life's Great Truths
Message Title: Your Life is Not About You
Scripture: Acts 8:9-24
Speaker: Doug Bartel

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**

My next step today is to:

- Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- Attend 180 Sky Zone activity on March 14th.
- Participate in 180 Babysitting Night Chicago Trip Fundraiser on March 20th.
- Attend Children's Ministry Family Bowling Night on March 22nd.
- Attend Men's March Madness Event on March 26th.
- Attend 180 Students Chocolate & Canvas event on March 28th.

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
