



Today's Gathering

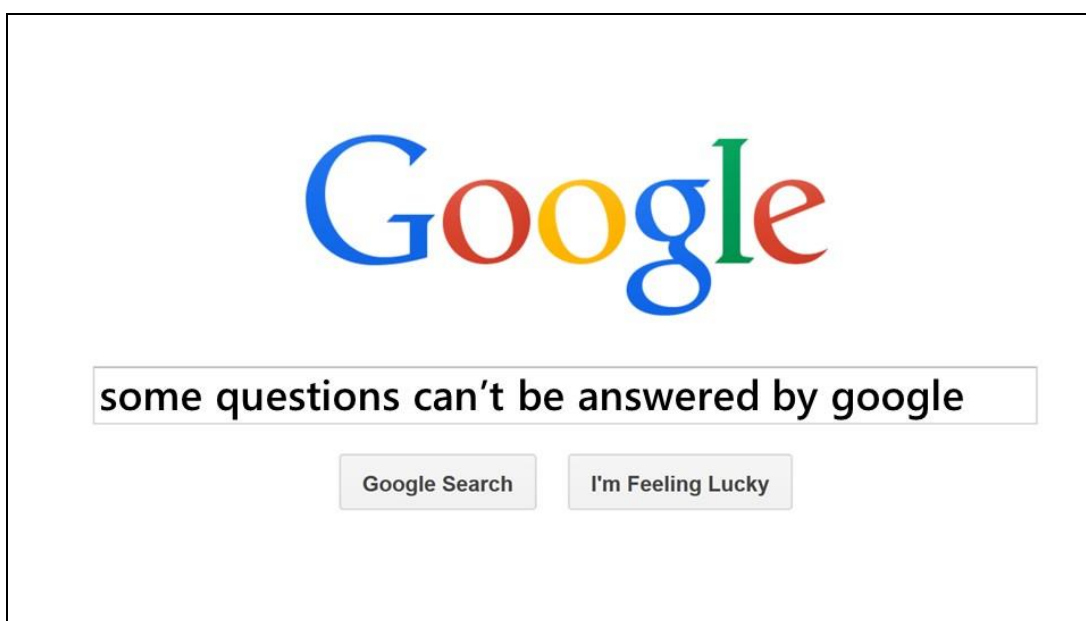
September 6th, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Gary Rakebrandt and Jesse VanderWeide



Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Pastor Doug Bartel

For the Kids

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Parents can go to the Children's Check-In to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Check-In is located on the north 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 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

Small Groups

If you are interested in joining a small group, please stop by the Welcome Center or mark the back of your Connection Card for more information.

- ❖ The Friday Morning Men's Group began a new book on August 21 titled *How God Makes Men*. Meet at 26th Street Bagel Boy every Friday at 6am. Contact Pastor Brian or mark your connection card if you are interested in joining.
- ❖ The Saturday Morning Women's Study will resume their regular schedule on Saturday, September 12th. They meet every Saturday from 9am to 11am in the Fireside Room. All women are welcome to join at any time.
- ❖ The Monday Night Women's Study will resume their regular schedule on Monday, September 14th. They meet every Monday 6pm - 7:30pm in the Fireside Room. Studies are usually 8 - 12 weeks each session. The topic is selected by the participants. Next topic to be announced. All women are welcome to join at any time.
- ❖ Serving & Connecting Group meets every Wednesday from 6pm-7:30pm. They serve the community two Wednesdays a month, do something fun one Wednesday a month, and learn/discuss something one Wednesday a month. Children are welcome. They will kick-off with supper on September 16th.
- ❖ Thursday Night Bible Study This connection group meets each Thursday from 6:30-8:30. The group will include dinner and then discuss our current study. We are presently working through the book of Philippians. 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.
- ❖ Sunday Adult Study Group The 10:30 class launches on Sunday, September 13th in the upstairs classroom. We'll be studying "Authentic: Developing the Disciplines of a Sincere Faith" Cost for workbook is \$10.
- ❖ Sunday Bible Study meets in the Fireside Room during the 10:30 service. Anyone is welcome to join at any time.

Parent Meetings with Baptism & Communion Class

Hillcrest Student and Children's Ministries will be teaming up to host Parent Meetings and Baptism & Communion Classes on Sunday, September 13th, following the second service. A free lunch will be served for the whole family, as a brief overview of both Children's Ministries and Student Ministries is given. Then parents and children can break out into different sessions, including information on baptism, communion, and a 180 Q&A time. Childcare will be provided for younger children. Books for the Baptism and Communion Class will also be available for \$5 on the day of the class. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend.

Move Up Sunday

Sunday, September 6th is when all of the children will move into their new classrooms (if applicable), to reflect their updated ages/grades. Teachers will be available to help the children find their new classrooms.

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

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.

Directory

Wednesday, September 16th through Saturday, September 19th, we will be taking photos for our new directory! Everyone who has their photo taken will receive a free 8x10 and a free copy of the new directory. Life Touch will also be selling photo packages, but you are not required to purchase anything. You do not have to be a member to be in the church directory. As long as you consider Hillcrest your church home, we want you in it! We usually only do a new directory about once every 3 years, so it is really important to make it as complete as possible. You can sign up on-line by clicking on the button-link on the home page of Hillcrest's web site. On Sundays, August 30th, September 6th, and September 13th, you will also have the opportunity to sign up for your photo appointment between services. If you have a busy schedule, it's important to sign up early, as spots will fill up quickly!

Serve

September Outreach Focus – Cleveland Elementary

During the month of September, we will be collecting items that the school has identified as needs for the children. Please check the Outreach Bulletin Board, starting September 6th, for more information on these items.

Hillcrest is also once again committing to provide mentors and reading buddies at Cleveland Elementary for the 2015-2016 school year. Please contact Pastor Brian if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

Directory Help Needed

Wednesday, September 16th thru Saturday, September 19th Hillcrest will be taking photos for our new directory. We need about 20 volunteers to help with checking people in and verifying their contact info to print in the directory. Various shifts are available. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Jennifer Simons if you are able to help.

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

Baby Owl House: 0-4 year olds
(pre-schoolers will break off into a small learning group)

10:30 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: Infants & 1 yr olds
Bird House: 2 year olds
Tree House: 3 year olds
Dog House: 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

Family Game Night

Hillcrest Children's Ministries invites children and families to a good ol' fashioned game night! Join us Sunday, September 27th, from 6-7:30 for games, fun, and snacks!

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

Today is when 6th grade and 9th grade students will move into their new groups. Meet upstairs in the Youth Room at 10:30am for

180 Wednesday Nights

Middle School students meet at Hillcrest from 6-7:30pm and High School students meet from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, and games!

180 Events

180 Volunteer Meeting - 180 Volunteers will meet at Meriah's house for pizza and discussing the plan for the school year on September 12th 5pm-6:30pm.

180 Campfire - September 12th from 7:30-9:30. Come Hang out at Meriah & Jesse's for a camp fire. We'll make s'mores and have a great hang out time. Bring a chair & a friend.

Boys' Video Game Night - September 25th starting at 8pm. This year will be a sleep over. We will have video games in the sanctuary, snacks, prizes, and a root beer keg! Cost \$10. Invite friends. Pick up a registration form at the Welcome Center.

Fall calendars are now available at the Welcome Center.

Message Notes:

Title: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Scripture: Job 1:21, 13:15; Psalm 73; Matthew 5:45

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Romans 8:17 (NLT) And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Monday

Subject: Build Your House upon the Rock

Scripture: Job 1:21-22, 13:16, Psalm 73:28

Commentary:

As the old Sunday school song goes, "the rains came down and the floods came up". Trees snap, rooftops fail, cars tumble, houses collapse. Only solid foundations survive the fury of a hurricane. Those solid foundations can be used for rebuilding after the storm. For any building, the foundation is critical. The same is true for our lives which must be built upon the foundation of the love of Christ Jesus.

Questions for further thought:

1. Is your spiritual foundation built on "sand" or "the rock"?
2. In the face of inundated adversity, will you call upon God or curse His name?

Challenge:

Find the silver lining in the "storms" that you endure in a day and then thank God for them.

Tuesday

Subject: "If He leads you to it, He will bring you through it"

Scripture: Psalm 73

Commentary:

"You are holding my right hand". "You will keep on guiding me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny". God never wants to be apart from us. It is us who turn our backs on Him. He never intended for us to suffer alone. Nobody is exempt from pain and suffering and loss. It's our relationship with Christ that we are able to hear Him guide us through it.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you have a personal and intimate relationship with God?
2. Do you feel yourself pulling away from God or toward God during times of pain and suffering?

Challenge:

Reflect back on a time of great pain or suffering and recall how God brought you (or somebody else) through it.

Wednesday

Subject: Suffering produces Endurance

Scripture: Romans 5:3-5

Commentary:

"That which does not kill us will only make us stronger". James tells us that when, not if, but when trouble comes your way to let it be an opportunity for joy. We can rejoice in suffering, not because we like pain, but because we know God is using life's difficulties to build our character. Problems develop perseverance which in turn strengthens our character and deepens our trust in God.

Questions for further thought:

1. Can you profit from your troubles; if so, how?
2. Have you been tested to the breaking point and found joy in it?

Challenge:

Read and meditate on James 1:2-4

Thursday

Subject: Discipline

Scripture: Hebrews 12:5-12

Commentary:

If you are enduring suffering, look to the Father who loves you. Consider the potential for growth that will come from your suffering and allow God to navigate you through the storms of life. Remember He is in control and this life is but a breath compared to eternity.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you believe God allows suffering because He loves you?
2. If we did not suffer how could we identify with Christ?

Challenge:

If you know someone is suffering right now call them and encourage them.

Friday

Subject: Suffering

Scripture: Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4

Commentary:

We are being formed in the hands of God each day. He is humbling and strengthening us for a life with Him. The suffering we endure may not make sense but God has a plan and He is in control. Stay faithful and call on his name and He will provide all the strength and endurance you need.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do you think God is in control in this fallen world?
2. Why does God allow suffering?

Challenge:

Try each day to find your strength in Jesus Christ. Give God the glory for every achievement and ask Him for strength for every challenge. Rely on Him for everything!

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Some Questions Can't be Answered by Google

Message Title: Why Would a Loving God Send People to Hell?

Scripture: 1 Jn 4:16; 2 Pet 3:9; Ps 7:9; Jn 1:12

Speaker: Pastor 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 Parents' Meeting with Baptism & Communion Class on Sept. 13th.
- Help out with the directory Sept. 16-19.
- Find out more information about Reading Buddies or Mentoring.
- Join a small group (write interests below)

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

(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
