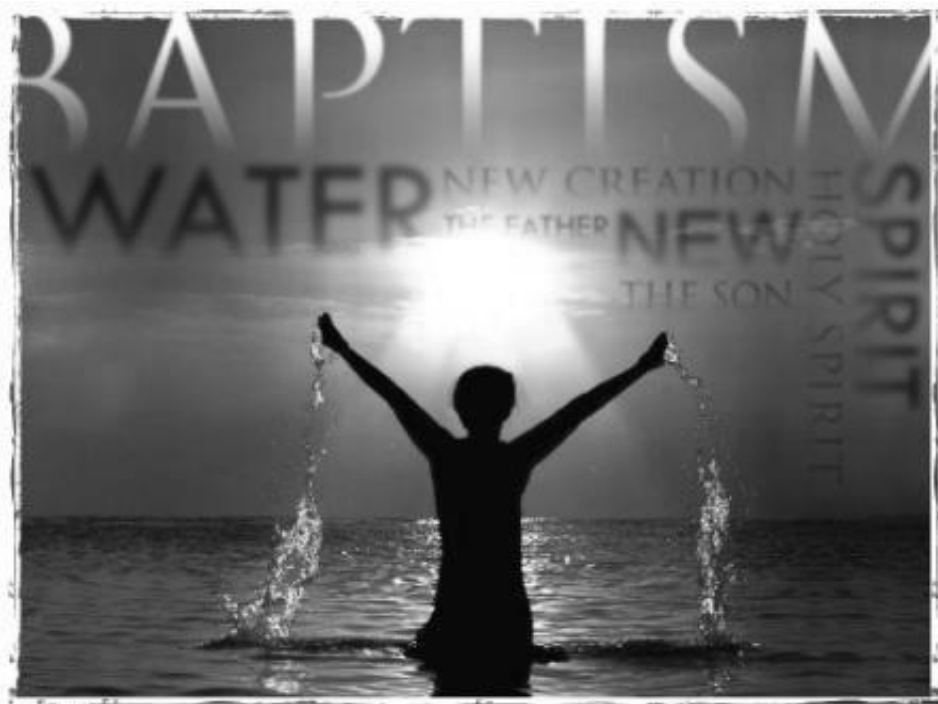


Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
November 29th, 2015

View from the Hill
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing
Kelsey Moser and Jesse VanderWeide



Jesus, Me, & the Christmas Tree
Tarina Stroh

For the Kids

*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

Baptism

Please join us in celebrating Zorlah VanDeVendel, Zakery Evenson, Pierce Ouimet, and Gavin Ouimet on their decision to publicly accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through baptism today. Our next baptism service will be on January 31st. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian.

Right Now Media

Last week, Hillcrest launched Right Now Media, which is a digital library that includes over 10,000 videos that you can instantly stream for your Sunday school class, small group, Bible study, or individual study. Resources are available from over 150 leading Christian publishers and ministries. Videos are available for men, women, youth, and children. Anyone who is signed up to receive the weekly info email should have automatically received an invitation to join on Friday, November 20th. If you did not receive an invitation, but would like to have access to this content, please contact Pastor Brian or Jennifer Simons.

Deck the Halls

Ladies! Please join us for our annual Festival of Tables event, "Deck the Halls" which will take place on Saturday, December 5th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Tickets are on sale for 2 weeks, beginning Sunday, November 22nd and ending Sunday, November 29th. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased at the table in the front foyer. This has become an annual tradition for kicking off the Christmas season, and this year is a celebration you won't want to miss. Come to visit with your friends and enjoy a full meal (including dessert!), coffee/hot cocoa bar, special music, a devotion and a Christmas decorating demonstration by our own, Helen Bartel. And of course, it is always a treat to see the beautiful table settings decorated by our table hostesses. Bring a friend, your mom or daughter - this is an event meant to be shared! Any questions can be directed to Deanna Moser at moser@sio.midco.net or 359-7203 or any of our Womens Ministry team (Vicki Tigner, Rhonda Gramstad, Karen Reade, Nancy Matson, Jessi Copeland or Deena Perry)

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Starting December 6th, this group will start *True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian* by Chip Ingram. They meet in the upstairs classroom every Sunday 10:30am–11:30am. Taught by Mark & Sonya Lietha and Vicki Tigner. Cost for study guide is \$7. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Friday Morning Men's Group

Starting Friday, December 4th, we will be studying "Developing the Leader within you" on Right Now Media. We meet every Friday at 6am at the East 26th Street Bagel Boy. If you would like to join, please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Brian.

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 10th 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.

Serve

SCRIP Program

Don't forget to order your SCRIP cards by December 13th to be sure they are delivered before Christmas!

Season of Giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Hillcrest Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit <http://www.siouxfallschurch.com/> or contact the church office for more information.

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

There will be no Clubhouse for elementary school children today, so that they may celebrate baptisms and participate in communion with their families. Child care is still available for infants through pre-schoolers.

Aloha Christmas

On Sunday, December 13th, during both services, Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be performing their Christmas Program, "Aloha Christmas." All children in pre-school through 5th grade will participate. Children should be bringing home a note that has more information and a rehearsal schedule.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

There will be no Sunday School classes today, so that students may celebrate baptisms and participate in communion with their families.

180 Wednesday Nights

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

180 Events

The new winter calendar is available at the Welcome Center.

Message Notes:

Title: Jesus, Me, & the Christmas Tree

Scripture: Psalm 119:36-37

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

*Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT) Those who love money will never have enough.
How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!*

Monday

Subject: The Body & The Blood

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

Commentary:

Christ humbled himself and gave up everything to become a man. He then lived a perfect life so as to become a perfect sacrifice to purchase our lives with His perfect atoning death. Each one of us has been individually purchased at a very high price. I would submit to you that this action deserves and demands our response. When we take time to remember that sacrifice it should move us deeply. There is really no way for us to properly thank Jesus for what He did. The best we can do is try to live as He lived, and rely on His grace every day.

Questions for further thought:

1. What does the shedding of Christ's blood bring to mind for me?
2. What does Christ's broken body cause me to think about as it relates to my walk with Him?

Challenge:

Jesus Christ was so humble. He was willing to give up His personal rights in order to be obedient to God and actually serve us. What an incredible picture of what we are to strive for. Allow each opportunity to celebrate communion to bring these sorts of thoughts to mind.

Tuesday

Subject: The Substitute

Scripture: Isaiah 53:11-12

Commentary:

This powerful passage portrays the profound pain that our sin inflicted on Jesus Christ. It is for you and I that Jesus Christ bore our sins, our iniquities, and poured out his life until death. It was God the Father's way of fixing the problem of our sin that we could not fix for ourselves. The hope in this passage is the 'why'; why did the righteous servant do this? Because through it, he justified many and made intercession for many. It is our sin, and it is our death sentence. And yet Christ took our place, took our punishment, and extended life to us. Have you received the forgiveness of sin that God offers freely through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? If not, why???

Questions for further thought:

1. Look at the passage again- why do I think the author says that Jesus was "satisfied" with his sacrifice?
2. Knowing the depth of Christ's sacrifice for you, what should my response be? Is it bothersome to me that Christ paid it all and I can do nothing? Why or why not?

Challenge:

Spend some time thanking God for Christ's sacrifice for you and reflecting on how satisfied you are with your sacrifice for Christ. Is there an area in my life where I could sacrifice for Christ and die to self? What is it?

Wednesday

Subject: The Supper

Scripture: Mark 14:12-31

Commentary:

When we take communion, it is a time to reflect on just how far we were from God without the intercession of Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that we are enemies of God without the finished work of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:6-11; Eph. 2:1-10) The disciples were so near to Jesus on the night of that last supper together. It was an intimate time just before He was to go far away. The body of Christ was broken for you, to bring you near to God. Today is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Questions for further thought:

1. Pause and reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. How can this truth transform who I am?
2. What comes to your mind?

Challenge:

Write down your thoughts, scriptures and prayers today. Written prayers and praises are acceptable and pleasing to God too.

Thursday

Subject: Communion

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Commentary:

Communion is a time to reflect on what Christ did for us by giving up His life so we could live. The bread represents his body that was broken for us. The grape juice represents His blood that was poured out and cleanses us from sin. Prior to taking communion (eating the bread and drinking the juice) we have a time of quiet reflection. A time to confess sin and a time to focus on the great sacrifice Christ made for us. We should not take this lightly or with a glib attitude. (See verses 27-29). Communion is for those that have been reconciled to God through Christ.

Questions for further thought:

1. Am I a true follower of Jesus Christ?
2. If I was accused of being a Christ follower, would there be enough evidence to convict me?

Challenge:

Write your sins on a paper and after you ask for forgiveness and destroy the paper as a symbol of the total forgiveness God gives freely to those who have received forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

Friday

Subject: Deliverance

Scripture: Exodus 24

Commentary:

The early church remembered that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the night of the Passover meal. Just as Passover celebrated deliverance from slavery in Egypt, so the Lord's Supper celebrates deliverance from sin by Christ's substitutionary death. We have been delivered as we trust in the life, sacrifice, death and resurrection of the Savior of the world.

Deliverance is an important part of Communion. "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more" (John 8:11 ESV)

Questions for further thought:

1. What have I been delivered from?
2. Why is it significant to remember that deliverance during the Lord's Supper?

Challenge:

If you've repented of your sin and received forgiveness of your sins through Jesus Christ, you have been delivered. No longer are you condemned by your sin. You have been set free, washed white as snow. You have been justified by your faith in Jesus Christ. Walk in that blessed assurance of your complete justification through Christ's work on the cross. Thank God for his deliverance from His wrath and your sin and for your current life in Him.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Take Comfort in Ritual

Message Title: The Value of Ritual

Scripture: Matthew 15:8-9

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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Melissa Simpson
Power House Director
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Jennifer Simons
Administrative Assistant
jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.co



Bill Lewis
Custodian

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.
- Join the Sunday morning study.
- Join the Friday morning men's study.

Additional Comments:



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

605-371-0546

www.sioxfordschurch.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 Hillcrest? _____
- 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 Hillcrest Informational E-mail.
- joining a small group becoming a member of Hillcrest
- volunteering praying for my Hillcrest 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
