

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
December 27th, 2015

View from the Hill
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing
Aimee VanderWeide and Jesse VanderWeide



The Ritual of Story Telling
Pastor Doug Bartel

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.siouxfallchurch.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

Our next baptism service will be on January 31st. Christ asked all of his followers to be baptized, in fact the Apostle Paul said, "Why wait? Get up and be baptized." 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 to reserve a spot.

Hillcrest at Tut Hill

On January 13th Hillcrest will be meeting at Tuthill Park for some winter fun. There is a sledding hill and a skating rink with a warming house. Cost of skate rentals is \$1 for youth (2-15) and \$3 for adults (16-54). No need to sign up; just meet at Tuthill Park at 6pm. Bring your own sled and warm gear.

180 New Year's Eve Bash

December 31st from 8pm to 12:30am in the Family Life Center. There will be board games, food, prizes, and bubbling grape juice to ring in the New Year! 180 Students and their families are welcome to join in the fun! Let Meriah know if you plan to attend.

Family Movie Night

On January 17th at 6pm, Children's Ministries invites all families to join us as we watch the movie "Inside Out"! We'll provide popcorn, cocoa, and other snacks, as well as the photo booth! It's a great movie and a good opportunity to connect with your family and other families! Sign up at the Children's Ministry table in the back foyer or mark your connection card if you plan to attend.

Serve

Packing Backpacks for Feeding South Dakota

Hillcrest will be packing backpacks at Feeding South Dakota on Tuesday, January 12th, beginning at 6pm. Volunteers need to be 13 years and older. Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your Connection Card if you are interested in volunteering.

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

Family Movie Night

On January 17th at 6pm, Children's Ministries invites all families to join us as we watch the movie "Inside Out"! We'll provide popcorn, cocoa, and other snacks, as well as the photo booth! It's a great movie and a good opportunity to connect with your family and other families! Sign up at the Children's Ministry table in the back foyer or mark your connection card if you plan to attend.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

Students meet upstairs in the Youth Room at 10:30am for snacks and games, then break up into small groups for lessons and discussion time.

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!

✓ *Reminder that there will be no 180 on December 30th.*

180 Events

New Year's Eve Bash – December 31st from 8pm to 12:30am in the Family Life Center. There will be board games, food, prizes, and bubbling grape juice to ring in the New Year! 180 Students and their families are welcome to join in the fun! Let Meriah know if you plan to attend.

Winter Camp – Feb 11th-14th We will head to Minneapolis and stay at Riverview Baptist Church while we ski, shop, and grow together. For more information, pick up a brochure and registration form at the Welcome Center. Deadline for early registration is January 10th.

Message Notes:

Title: The Ritual of Story Telling

Scripture: Deut 26:5-9; Neh 8:1-3; Acts 2:36

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Luke 2:9-11 (KJV) ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Monday

Subject: Teamwork

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-13

Commentary:

God has given His church an enormous responsibility- to make disciples in every nation. This involves many facets of ministry including preaching, teaching, healing, nurturing, giving, administering, building, and many other tasks. If we were to try and accomplish all these on our own, it would be impossible. That is why God calls us to use our unique gifts to work together for the glory of His kingdom. As the body of Christ, we can accomplish more together than we would ever dream possible working by ourselves. Remember, we are to seek His Kingdom *first*.

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways has God gifted you and how are you utilizing those gifts to further His kingdom?
2. These verses describe the building up of one another to have unity in the body of Christ. In what ways can we build others up so that we may increase in the fullness of Christ?

Challenge:

Ask God to help clarify your spiritual gifts and seek how you can use them to further the Body of Christ. Ask Him to show you an opportunity to build up another believer and be on the lookout for your calling.

Tuesday

Subject: God's sovereignty

Scripture: Romans 9:22-23

Commentary:

Have you ever pondered God's complete sovereignty? God is completely in control even though it appears sometimes that this isn't the case. God has graciously allowed us free will in order to make our own decisions. God has great patience wanting all to repent and turn to him in faith. (See 2 Peter 3:9). But those that did not turn to God for salvation took responsibility for their destruction. However, God's design is that he prepared us in advance for His gift of salvation and He will reveal His glory when we repent and enter into His kingdom's work today. What a merciful and loving God we serve.

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways do you see God's mercy played out in your everyday life?
2. In the above verses to whom is Paul referring to as the "objects of His wrath"? The "objects of His mercy?" How are they contrasted?

Challenge:

I once heard it said that life is an opportunity to repent. Ask God for a humbleness of spirit and make a commitment to turn from your sin and embrace Christ for your forgiveness. If you've already taken this step, consider coming along side another person and encouraging them to do the same.

Wednesday

Subject: Confidence before God

Scripture: 1 John 3:21-23

Commentary:

John wrote this book to give the believer assurance that if they are “abiding” or “remaining” in God’s word they will receive whatever they request because they are obeying Him and doing those things that please the Father. In this, John states that the believer can have “confidence” before God and boldly bring their requests unto Him. We must, however, be careful not to confuse this quiet confidence with glibness or a prideful attitude. It is imperative that we maintain a reverent tone as we bring our requests toward our loving and merciful Lord.

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways could you demonstrate God’s command to love one another?
2. I’ve heard it said that Biblical love is a verb. What are some ways that this love action could benefit those around you that don’t know Christ?

Challenge:

Read 1 John 3 and consider ways in which God is calling you to a love action. Plan to pursue those actions as the Holy Spirit leads you to do so.

Thursday

Subject: A New Creation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:15-21

Commentary:

Paul writes that in the light of Christ's death, he is insistent that Christians have no right to live selfishly. This biblical idea directly attacks the fabric of today's culture. As you look at magazine titles with names such as People, Us, and Self, how can we not get caught up in this ego-centric school of thought? This is where the scripture comes in complete opposition of this concept as God proclaims a whole new creation in Christ. Selflessness is prized through a new covenant, a new perspective, a new body, and a new church. All of creation is being renewed

Questions for further thought:

1. In what ways could you encourage fellow Christians to counter society's values? Do you think you would encounter any opposition?
2. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul writes that if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation: everything old has passed away, everything has become new. In what ways does your life reflect this new truth?

Challenge:

In your prayer time, ask God to reveal things in your life that are pursuing the world's values rather than His. Ask for His strength and conviction to put God's desires first and foremost in your life.

Friday

Subject: True Brokenness

Scripture: Isaiah 66:2-3

Commentary:

Brokenness is not a feeling or an emotion. It is a conscience choice, an act of the will. True brokenness is a lifestyle, a way of agreeing with God about the true condition of my heart and life. Brokenness strips a person of their self-reliance and independence from God. Thus, the broken person has no confidence in his/her own righteousness or his/her own works, but cast total dependence upon the grace of God working in and through them. Moreover, brokenness can be summed up as an utter shattering of my self-will and absolute surrender of my will to the will and direction of God

Questions for further thought:

1. In what areas of your life are you not submitted fully to God?
2. Why do you think that you have not surrendered your will on that area?

Challenge:

Take time in prayer asking for God to give a humble spirit in which He can mold and shape you for His great purpose. Pray that He will help you seek and submit to His will.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Pastor's Choice
Message Title: One Word New Year's Resolution
Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14
Speaker: Brian Stroh

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
Lead Pastor
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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.
- Send me an invitation to Right Now Media.
- Help pack back packs at Feeding South Dakota on January 12th.
- Attend Family Movie Night on January 17th.

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
