



## Today's Gathering

March 27, 2016

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Jacob Van Engen



## Why Do You Doubt?

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.sioxfordchurch.com](http://www.sioxfordchurch.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

### Mitch McVicker Concert

On Thursday, March 31st, Christian artist and award winning singer-songwriter, Mitch McVicker, will be performing at Hillcrest Church, starting at 7pm. Cost is \$5 at the door, and kids age 12 and under are free. If you would like more information about Mitch McVicker and his music, you can visit his web site at [mitchmcvicker.com](http://mitchmcvicker.com).

### Adult Only 50's Diner Party!

Please join us in the Family Life Center on Saturday, April 16th from 5:30-8:00 pm. 50's music, photo booth, games, burgers, fries and milkshakes! Sign-up in the front foyer - LAST day to sign-up will be Sunday, April 10th. Tickets are \$8.00 per person at the time of sign-up. Child care CAN be provided ONLY if you pre-register your need. Child care will be \$5.00 per child, in addition to your ticket price. You are encouraged to wear 50's attire! Questions can be directed to Deanna Moser at 359-7203, [moser@sio.midco.net](mailto:moser@sio.midco.net) or in person.

### Friday Morning Men's Group

All men are invited to meet at the 26th Street Bagel Boy each Friday at 6am. On April 1st, they will begin a new study called "To live is Christ. To die is gain" based on the book of Philippians by Matt Chandler. The study is available on RightNow media and there's a complimentary workbook for participants. Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested.

## Serve

### March Mission Focus

Hillcrest's March Mission of the Month is Children's Home Society and Children's Inn. We'll be serving pizza for the students and staff at Children's Home Society on Wednesday, March 2. We need 6 volunteers to help serve the pizza. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested in helping out.

We're also collecting items all month for both Children's Home Society and Children's Inn. The lists can be found at the Outreach Bulletin Board.

## EASTER FLOWERS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF...

Esther Bartel

by Gary & Helen Bartel

Lance Buseman

Wyatt Ammon

by Jasmine Buseman

Parents

by Neil & Linda Conover

Grandpa & Grandma Zwyghuizen

Grandma Tubergen

by Norma Dalen

Henry DeNeui

by Lois DeNeui

Rev. Fred Fuchs

by Ruth Fuchs

Al Leither (Chris's dad)

Dan Hughes (Jen's uncle)

by Chris & Jennifer Leither

Lance Buseman (brother)

Boyd & Loreen Knudson (grandparents)

by Jason, Jodi, Emma & Ellie  
Lounsbery

Don O'Kon (DJ's father)

Lisa O'Kon (DJ's sister)

by DJ & Dean Luethje

Bill McNamara (Todd's dad)

by Todd & Jackie McNamara

David & Nellie Roddel

by Loreene Perkinson

Thank you for your contribution for the flowers.

You may take your flower(s) home after the second service.

## 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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Volunteer Appreciation & VBS Training

Children's Ministries invites all volunteers and families to their annual volunteer appreciation event and VBS training Sunday, April 10, following the 10:30 service. Food and childcare provided. Please sign up in the back foyer or contact Tarina.

## 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!

### 180 Events

Bigger Better Hunt: On Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 8pm, in place of our normal 180 programming, students will be broken into teams for a competition. Each team will be sent out with the same small item. Their task is to exchange the item for a bigger and better item. They will have 1 hour to walk through the church neighborhood to do their exchanging. They will return to the church to see who has the best item. Bring walking shoes & a coat.

# Message Notes:

Title: Why Do You Doubt?

Scripture: Lk 24:36-39; Jn 20:24-29; Lk 24:1-4; Matt  
28:5-6; 1 Sam 16:7; 1 Jn 2:16

Notes:

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

John 20:29 (NLT) Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

# Monday

Subject: Confidence in God

Scripture: Romans 4:20–25

## Commentary:

Are you a doubting person? Doubt is a lack of confidence or assurance that God will keep His promises. I mean the promise is only as good as the one who makes it, right? Does God make good on His promises?

Let examine that and see. God has promised to provide for us.

Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Maybe He hasn't provided all your *wants* but can you truly say He has not provided for your needs? God has promised to protect us. Isaiah 54:17 says, "No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed . . . This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord." Has He protected you even in the midst of struggle? How many things might He have prevented that I don't even realize? God has also promised to prosper us—though, as some are quick to add, that doesn't necessarily mean financially. But, Psalm 84:11 says, "No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly." These are just a few of the hundreds of promises that God signed Himself in His Word. Dig in and see for yourself!!

## Questions for further thought:

1. Am I a doubting person?
2. What am I struggling with most right now in regards to doubt?

## Challenge:

Ask God to grow a heart of faith in you, because you can't do it on your own. Remember that faith is a gift (Ephesians 2:8). Go to Him humbly as the disciples did, and say, Lord, increase my faith!

# Tuesday

Subject: Failure is not Final

Scripture: Luke 22:31-32

## Commentary:

Have you ever failed in a major and colossal way and wondered if God could truly ever use you in any meaningful way again? I know I have, and I have wondered if God could ever put me back together. Maybe, you have repented, turned from your sin and yet you have these feelings of self-doubt. You wonder if you'll do it again. God's grace and God's forgiveness is complete. It's a benchmark and He's able to use you, bless you, and restore you to wholeness as long as there's a repentant, dependent heart. Jesus said that to Peter. Jesus foretold Peter's betrayal in Luke 22:31-34. It's a wonderful thing. Jesus basically said, "Peter you're going to fail Me and let Me down." That's exactly what Peter did. He blew it. He denied the Lord who had spent three years with him. It tore his heart out, but Jesus put him back together. From a human perspective, Peter became the founder of this thing we call the church. Failure is not final. If you will confess and repent of your sin, God will cleanse you, restore you, put you back together and use you

## Questions for further thought:

1. How often do I feel like God can't use me when I fail terribly?
2. Is there something I'm not confessing before the Lord because I think He won't be able to use me afterward?

## Challenge:

Pray this simple prayer and believe He will be faithful in it.

Heavenly Father, forgive me for my failures. I thank You that You will still use me to do Your will even after I have faltered and let You down. Thank You for Your unconditional love for me.



# Wednesday

Subject: Choose to be a Water Walker

Scripture: Matthew 14:27-31

## Commentary:

Fear can be an overwhelming and distracting feeling. It affects the way we live, the choices we make, and it can prevent us from living life to the fullest. Peter was always the gutsy one among the twelve disciples, and as we learn from this passage, he wasn't about to hug the side of the boat, afraid of the storm, and fearful of the Son of Man walking on water. He was driven to move closer to Jesus, believing He was Who He said. In a bold move, Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the water. Imagine that? Like the rest of us though, Peter wasn't able to ride the miracle wave very long before he had second thoughts. Why? He was distracted. And so often, that's how fear grabs hold of our hearts – the daily distractions that take our focus off Jesus and give circumstances the ability to rob us of true faith. It creates a spiritual amnesia that can trick us into forgetting the miraculous things that Jesus has done moments ago. Remember, there were eleven boat huggers and one water-walker. Which one are you? Make the choice to get out of the boat and fix your gaze on the only One Who can keep you afloat.

## Questions for further thought:

1. How have I, or someone I know, stepped out in the past? How is God calling me to step out today?
2. Have I grown distracted and allowed fear to creep into my life? What miracles has Jesus done in my life that I need to remember? How will I trust Him today?

## Challenge:

Take some time and take an inventory of how God has been faithful to you either in the present or in the past. Try journaling to capture some of these amazing truths.

# Thursday

Subject: What to do with Doubt

Scripture: James 1:5–8

## Commentary:

You are not at the mercy of every doubt that comes to your mind. Like the waves of the sea, doubts will come. However, you do not have to let them undermine your faith. Doubts can actually drive you back to God's promises, rather than cause you to back away from Him. The key is taking your questions directly to the Lord. James, familiar with sailing on ships at the mercy of stormy waters, described doubt in those terms: "The one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind." Winds make the sea unstable. Waves move back and forth in a constant state of disruption. What wind does to water is what doubt can do to faith. Doubt will keep your life in stormy turmoil. So ask God for the wisdom to identify doubt and turn away from it. Ask with the humble faith of the man who said to Jesus, "I believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24), and step forward with confidence and the promised presence of God.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What doubts in your life need to be obliterated by the majestic God you trust?
2. Where do you recognize the need for greater wisdom? Have you asked for it?

## Challenge:

Take time today to read James 1 and ponder how the Lord might be asking you to step out in faith.

# Friday

Subject: Uniquely Gifted

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

## Commentary:

Have you ever felt your role is not significant? Perhaps you can't see your part or you doubt it matters. Do not let your feelings dictate your reality. Even if you feel like you don't have a part, you do. Even if you can't see your place, it's there. You matter to God and to His church. You have a place and what you do is greatly needed. Try again—the church needs you. If we were all eyes, our body couldn't hear. If we were all hands, our body couldn't walk. After you talk to the Lord about it, embrace your gift, whatever it is, with your whole heart. Because "God arranged the members in the body . . . as he chose," we know there's no mistake or shipping error. You are perfectly suited for the tasks God wants you to do, and using your gift is your responsibility. You must *intentionally* pursue your place in the body of Christ. Eventually, you will find how He has gifted you and what you're good at. Every part matters! And when you find your place and begin serving His church, you will discover great joy.

## Questions for further thought:

1. What is your spiritual gift? If you don't know, how will you find out?
2. If you claim to believe in Christ, how are you currently using that gift to invest in His Kingdom?

## Challenge:

Pursue a readiness to discover your spiritual gift and share it with the body of Christ.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Honest Trailers: God Never Said That

Message Title: God Helps Those That Help  
Themselves

Scripture: Is 25:4; Rom 5:6; Rom 3:23; 5:8; 6:23;  
Is 64:6; 2 Cor 5:21

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.

[illegible]

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



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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.

☐ Attend the Children’s Ministry Volunteer Appreciation and VBS Training lunch on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

☐ Join the Friday Morning Men’s Group: new study starts April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

[www.siouxfallschurch.com](http://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:

- ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Visit --- How did you hear about Hillcrest? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____