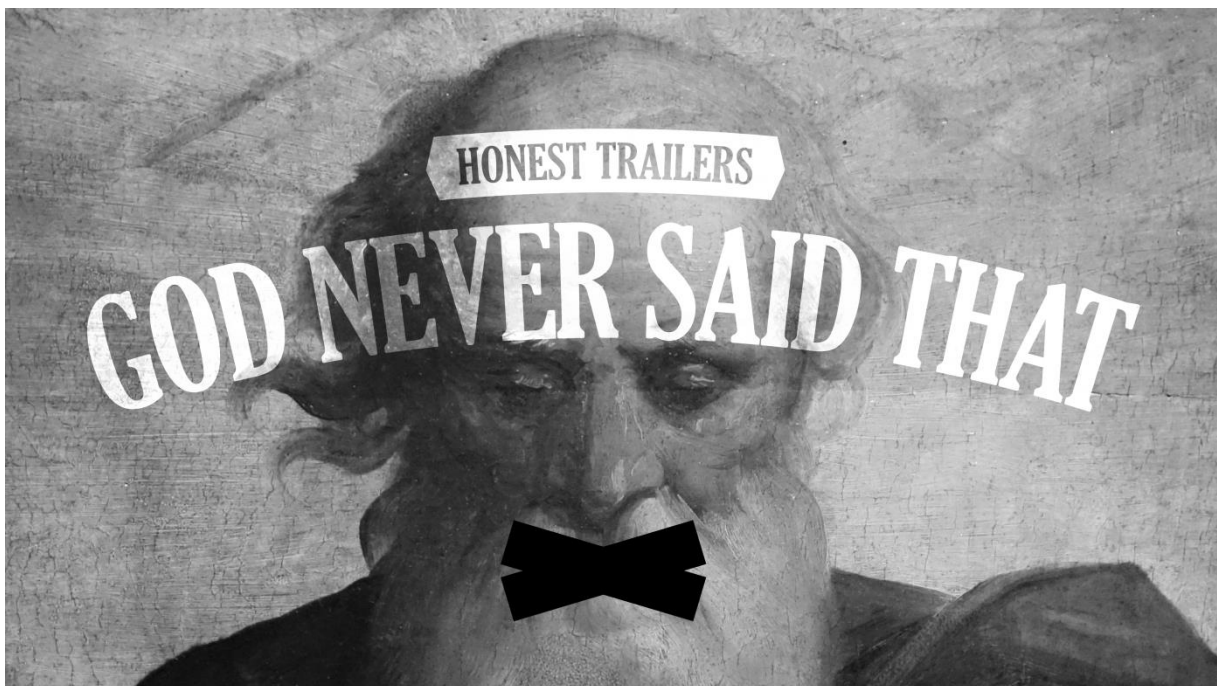


Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering
April 3, 2016

View from the Hill
Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing
Jacob Van Engen



God Helps Those that Help Themselves
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, 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

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Today 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.

Baptism

Our next baptism service will be on May 29th. 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.

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 or in person.

Hillcrest Business Meeting

Hillcrest's semi-annual business meeting is set for Sunday, April 24th. A meal is also served and costs \$2/student, \$3/adult, and a \$12 family max. Reports and agendas will be available on Sunday, April 17th at the Welcome Center. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you plan to attend.

Serve

April Mission Focus – Royal Family Kids

Our mission focus for the month of April is Royal Family Kids Camp, a summer camp designed for students in the foster care system. We will be collecting items throughout April for the camp as well as hearing from the camp's director on Sunday, April 10. Please check the Mission Focus board for ways to support this unique camping experience for foster children here in Sioux Falls.

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

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 6th 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: 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

Notes:

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Proverbs 14:23 (NLT) Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!

Monday

Subject: God's Power to Save

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Commentary:

When did God intervene? *While we were dead.* He came to us at a time when we could not help ourselves. We could make no contribution to what He chose to do. Resurrections are the work of an omnipotent God. When Jesus was at the tomb of Lazarus, He did not say, "Now, Lazarus, I will help you if you will just help yourself a little bit. I will not require much; I will do more than My share, but you must at least wiggle your toes. If you do that much, I will take over from there." What if I told you I was going to the cemetery to preach to the dead? You might think, how foolish? But that is how foolish we are every time we preach the good news of the gospel; we are commanding the dead to rise, the deaf to hear, and the blind to see! And yet we are not foolish, for God just might raise the dead and open the ears of the deaf and cause the eyes of the blind to see. When God saves us, He activates His resurrection power. He creates something within us that was not there before. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Questions for further thought:

1. Is there any sin that I see as too great for God to forgive?
2. Do I realize that every time I share the Gospel, I am trying to raise the dead? How does this knowing show God's grace to me and others?

Challenge:

Ask God to grow a heart of faith in you, because you can't do it on your own. Ask for boldness from Christ to share your faith in Him without reservation to others who need to hear. Be watchful for those opportunities He will provide.

Tuesday

Subject: Difficulty with Grace

Scripture: Acts 3:18-21

Commentary:

God's grace is difficult for two different kinds of people; first, those who are awash with guilt: drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes, and the like. They think God is so mad at me that there is no way that He would accept me. When we explain God's grace to them, they feel too unworthy to accept it. A second class of people who find it difficult to accept grace are the self-righteous people who do volunteer work, who have never been in trouble with the law, who pay their bills and keep their noses in their own business. The hardworking folks who are basically honest, who can look around and see a dozen people who are worse off than they are, find God's grace offensive. The very notion that they cannot contribute to their own redemption is an insult to their sense of accomplishment and wellbeing. Jesus has nothing to give those who have no need. God always takes the first step. He comes to us when we finally have given up our own attempts to help ourselves. Our contribution is to do what Lazarus did: respond when God calls us.

Questions for further thought:

1. Do I find it difficult to accept God's grace? Why?
2. Are there any people in my life that I have a hard time seeing as being forgiven?

Challenge:

Pray this simple prayer and believe in Christ and His finished work.

Dear Lord, thank You for taking the first step in saving me. I know that there is no way that I could have helped myself be forgiven. That is Your work and it is extraordinary grace. I love that You help those that cannot help themselves. Amen.

Wednesday

Subject: Our Sin Solution

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

Commentary:

Here, Paul summarized the heart of the Gospel explaining how sinners (you and me) can be reconciled to a Holy God through Jesus Christ. God the Father treated Christ as if He were a sinner, though He was certainly not, and had Him die as a substitute to pay the penalty for the sins of those who would believe in Him. (1 Peter 2:22–24, John 1:12). He was treated as if He were guilty of all the sins ever committed by those who have believed, though He committed none. The wrath of God was exhausted on Jesus and the just requirement of God's law met for those for whom He died. But not only that... Through belief and trust in Jesus Christ, believers actually receive Christ's righteousness in exchange. It's like this... God the Father treated Jesus as if He committed believers' sins and treats believers as if they did the righteous deeds of the sinless Son of God. Now that sounds like a deal that should command our response in repentance and faith. What do you think? Where do I sign up??

Questions for further thought:

1. How will I respond to this wonderful truth of Christ's righteousness given to me through faith in Jesus Christ?
2. How will I respond in order to take care of my own sin? How can I know that my sin is completely forgiven?

Challenge:

Take some time to consider the sacrifice Jesus made on my behalf. How should I respond in relationship to the exchange of my sin for His righteousness?

Thursday

Subject: Rejection is Costly

Scripture: Luke 20:9-18

Commentary:

There is a rejection that is irreversible. In Luke 20:9-16 Jesus tells the story of the vine grower. A man owns this vineyard and he sends out two of his servants to get some produce from his field. These workers beat up and reject these two servants. So, he sends out the third. The third is the heir, his son; he sends to receive some produce. When I read this, I'm reminded of what John said concerning Jesus. He said, "He came to His own and His own received Him not." There may be people that Jesus offers salvation to who continue to reject Him, who don't want to have anything to do with Him. It's very important that you don't reject God's heir, Jesus Christ, when He comes and offers to us the gift of eternal life. In short, to reject the Savior is to assign yourself to eternal judgment. The Lord Jesus loves you and is pursuing you. He's coming to the vineyard so to speak. He's offering you eternal life. He wants you to embrace Him, love Him, and respond to Him. Don't push Him away. Don't reject God's wonderful gift to you. Open up your arms. Welcome Him. Respond to Him. He'll change your life. Do you want that? What is stopping you from responding right now??

Questions for further thought:

1. Are there areas in my life where I tend to push Christ away in order to handle things myself?
2. How often have I pushed Christ away in my life when He pursues me?

Challenge:

Be careful how you treat people, it could cost you more than you realize.

Friday

Subject: Best Life Now??

Scripture: Revelation 3:14-22

Commentary:

As I was driving the other day, I saw a cow sunning itself in a pasture. I thought, what a great deal that cow has. No cares, no worries. Who wouldn't want to be sunning themselves on a tropical beach somewhere without a care in the world? Then it occurred to me. That cow has a pretty good life now, but we all know where it will end up eventually... steak city. Not a good plan. Just like a lost and dying world spending their best energies and passions pursuing material wealth, fame and notoriety while ignoring the work that God has placed them for in building His kingdom; maintaining an Eternal perspective. I submit to you that we should pursue God's will now in order to gain our "Best life later".

Questions for further thought:

1. How would having an eternal focus change the way I go about my everyday business?
2. Do I believe this is possible in this day and age? Why or why not?

Challenge:

Challenge yourself this week to engage in one thing to help build God's kingdom. Bible study, prayer, service, relationship building, ect.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Honest Trailers: God Never Said That
Message Title: God Won't Give You More than You
Can Handle
Scripture: 1 Cor 10:6-14; 2 Cor 1:8-10; Rom 5:3-
4, 15:5; Ja 1:2-4; 2 Cor 1:3-4; 12:9-10
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.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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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Lead Pastor
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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.

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

☐ Attend the Business Meeting on April 24th.

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 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**

