

BSLC News

April 2018

FREEDOM!!!

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

Within the last two months we said goodbye to Roy Petersen, Jack Dyer and Elsie Berndt. The three of them were born within the same year, were all lifelong members of the Lutheran Church, and all, in their prime, were vibrant, active, hard-working individuals who served their God and served their families with a tenacious love.

But sadly, most of you didn't know them, because in their latter years their bodies had changed so significantly that they were no longer able to enjoy many of the things they once did – including the ability to get out to church. Roy had been a craftsman and an engineer. Jack was “Mr. Automotive” at the Milwaukee Journal. Elsie was a gifted teacher and musician. But their best days were in the past; and their recent days were hard.

You've seen it in others too. Heart attacks, strokes, arthritis, a gradual loss of memory, and a weakening of the mind's abilities so often have a way of taking vibrant people and making them seem like they are caught in a prison of their own bodies. I remember it well with my mom, Hertha. Alzheimer's had so captured her that, for a pretty long time, she didn't know her children, couldn't walk, couldn't eat ordinary food, and couldn't talk. In her last week, she stared blankly at the wall laboring for every breath.

In some ways, we're all like them even now—no matter how healthy our bodies are. Because God created us to be in perfect union with Him and to enjoy the beauty of His creation unhindered by the chains of sin, of sickness, of pain and suffering. And all of us know, far too well, the shackles of sin that so often entangle us.

The Easter message echoes in the words above from Isaiah. Jesus came not just to be a wise teacher and an example of selfless love. He came to release PRISONERS—to set His people FREE from the BONDAGE that ties us up.



Imagine a world where there are no temptations, where there are no injuries, where sickness is unknown, conflict is gone, and pain unfamiliar. Imagine a world where God can be seen and known—where His glory and His love so abound that His people all reflect it to one another in every moment of every day. Music abounds, joy is a constant, and all relationships are restored to the way God intended them to be.

That's why Jesus came. So that He could know our pain, so that He could redeem us from our evil, and so that He could make that dream a reality for sinners like us.

FREEDOM!

Welcome to our true home, Roy, Jack, Elsie and Hertha! Our day is coming too— because of Jesus!!

He IS RISEN. And so will we.

In Resurrection Joy,
Pastor Hillenbrand