



In Memoriam

St. Pauli has lost yet another good friend and neighbor.

James Roger Johnson was born on June 12, 1938 in Hallock, MN to Ernest and Anne (Antonson) Johnson. In 1944 the Johnsons moved back to Thief River Falls where Ernest opened Johnson's Grocery on Main Avenue.



On V-E day, six-year-old Jimmy decorated his bicycle with newspaper streamers and rode it through the streets, ringing the bicycle bell. Active in the Boy Scouts, Jim remembered details of the troop's multi-day bicycle ride up to Kenora, Ontario. Because Jim had installed a homemade basket and two metal containers on the back wheel, he

had the unenviable task of hauling the camping pots and pans. Jim was also "active" in pulling pranks during his youth in Thief River

Falls. With a homemade pea-shooter and a bag of dried peas from his dad's store, Jim had a great vantage point on the roof of the Penney's building. He had also discovered how to turn off the traffic signal at Third and Main Avenue to create his own personal traffic jam. With other neighborhood boys in the winter, he'd duck behind cars at intersections and hang on to the rear bumpers to hitch an icy ride through the snowy streets.

In the summer – and perhaps to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Thief River Falls – Jim's parents sent him to stay with his older brother, (WWII veteran) Bill, and his wife, Joyce, on their farm in Warren. With twelve years difference in age, young Jimmy idolized his older brother. Working at Bill's side, he learned to love farming, grew to be an excellent mechanic, and developed his lifelong appreciation of classical jazz and big-band swing. While at Lincoln High School, Jim enjoyed fast cars, weekend dances in country halls, and the pleasure of hearing Duke Ellington (twice!) at the Maple Lake Pavilion.



Jim graduated from Lincoln High School in 1956 and then moved to Chicago where he lived on the south side, worked at Midway Airport, and – yes – enjoyed going to jazz and blues clubs every weekend. In November 1957, Jim enlisted in the United States Army and finished basic training during a very cold winter at Fort Carson, Colorado. From there, Jim went for training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, finishing second in his class at refrigeration school. Then things took a turn for the worse and he spent the summer of 1958 in the hot desert at Fort Ord, California, building an airstrip. He put in for a transfer – he always said he would have done anything to get out of that heat – but the troop ship to Bremerhaven in November 1958 was no picnic either. They sailed down the Hudson River

from the Brooklyn Navy Yards and straight into a storm that lasted eleven long days and nights. He spent the next two years at the Quartermaster Supply Depot in Ingrandes, France in the Loire Valley. He and a buddy fixed up an old Nash and drove the countryside; Jim would also take the train into Paris and other European cities on a regular basis. When he was completely out of cash, he'd sign up for the weekend USO tours of French chateaux. His Army stories were famous within the family; Jim would recount them again and again, regularly collapsing into breathless laughter when recalling his exploits with lifelong friends.



In late 1960, Jim was honorably discharged and returned to Thief River Falls where he took a position with Bridgeman, which would last until his retirement. Although he told stories of dangerous wintry nights driving the big diesel semi-trailer, he admitted he also enjoyed the work because he was alone and nobody was there telling him what to do! In 1962, he married Faye Auchenpaugh *nee* Torkelson and together they had three children: Marisa, Damita, and Kamin. In addition to his full-time job, he raised cattle and farmed eighty acres southeast of town.



In 1981, Jim married Evelyn “Evie” Wollin *nee* Hanson and became the proud stepfather of Evie’s son, Kerry. Jim and Evie spent thirty-one happy and fulfilling years in the home he built for them. Of course, before he even began the house he had to finish his mechanical shop: a 2,000-square-foot container for Jim’s “treasures.” He had never been able to afford new farm equipment but could fix just about anything he could buy at a nearby auction sale. Feeding a lifelong addiction, Jim continued to fix classic cars and antique tractors; as “JJ Parts” on eBay, he sold a number of restored vehicles and parts to locations throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Evie “fondly” remembers a great deal he said he got on an International M tractor: when they arrived at the old farmer’s place, the tractor – if you could call it that – was in boxes, some of which had to be pulled out from underneath the trailer house. Pretty soon, that Tractor in a Box was fully rebuilt and repainted!

Jim had a great and sardonic sense of humor. He could tell a good story and was not afraid to laugh at himself. He had a number of one-liners that he would use (and re-use and re-use). Having heard the entire story more than once, these one-liner punch lines – delivered on their own - could send (and re-send) his children into paroxysms of laughter every time.

Jim retired from Bridgeman after being diagnosed with diabetes. In 2002 after having been on kidney dialysis for some time, Jim received a life-saving kidney donation from Evie. For the last ten years, Jim was not always in the best of health, but he still enjoyed life, if not all the poking and prodding from doctors. Jim was a member of St. Pauli Lutheran Church of rural Thief River Falls. A patriotic man, he truly enjoyed being a member of the American Legion’s honor guard and carrying the colors at numerous funerals and special events.



Of all the pleasures and obsessions of his too-short life, being Grandpa Jim gave him the greatest reward. His joy was visible in his gentle encouragement and in the smile of satisfaction on his face whenever he got to be near his grandchildren.

Jim Johnson will be dearly missed by all. Survivors include his loving wife, Evie of Thief River Falls; children, Marisa (Wade) Benson of Atlanta, GA; Damita (Michael) Underwood of Moorhead, MN; Kerry (Sharon) Wollin of Eagan, MN; and Kamin (Michelle) Johnson of Kennett Square, PA; grandchildren, Travis and Madison Underwood; Justin, Jordan, and Danielle Wollin; and Madilyn and Alexandra Johnson; sisters, Doris Kavanaugh of Colorado Springs, CO; Marilyn Jensen of Anoka, MN; and Irene Kinna of Footville, WI; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Bill.

James Johnson, 73, died on Friday, April 6, 2012 at his home in rural Thief River Falls.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls with Rev. Carl Hansen officiating.

Prelude: a selection from Jim’s collection jazz and blues instrumentals (Miles Davis and John Coltrane)

Special Music: Wade Benson accompanied by Marisa Benson

Selections, “The Lord’s Prayer” & “Going Home”

Congregational Hymns: “How Great Thou Art” & “Borning Cry”

Accompanist, Faye Auchenpaugh

Casketbearers: Cris Johnson, Mark Jensen, Jim MacKay, Tim Raiter, Chris Scholler, Bruce Mathson

Honorary Casketbearers: Lyle Bjorge, Wallace Torkelson, Jack Davidson, John Kinna, Reynold Hanson

Military Honors: American Legion Ecklund-Holmstrom Post #117, Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post #2793 & Minnesota Army National Guard Honor Guard

Burial took place at Greenwood Cemetery in Thief River Falls.

Minutes of the Church Council

APRIL 24, 2012

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at St. Pauli Church.

Members present: Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Carl Hansen. Also present was Skip Swanson. The meeting was called to order by Council President Rude at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report

Torkelson distributed the Minutes of the March 15th meeting. After they were reviewed, Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes. Rude seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for March 2012 was distributed and reviewed.

Expenditures: \$2,535.78
Income: \$4,202.00
Checking account balance: \$17,479.57
Savings account balance: \$20,369.08
Edward Jones balance: \$31,899.57
Memorial Fund balance: \$22,469.28

(The Memorial Fund received memorials in honor of Patricia Swanson and Marie Iverson. Additional gifts were given and designated for the purchase of new hymnals)

Total assets: \$92,217.50

Rude made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Torkelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Lent and Easter Services – Pastor Hansen stated that, from his perspective, the Lent and Easter services with the rotation of pastors went well. The council also felt the services went well and with some clarification from the Ministerial Association on the readings the pastors would like read before their sermons, agreed St. Pauli should participate in the round robin format again next year.

Schedule - Pastor Hansen provided the council with his schedule of availability for May and June. Rude will find pulpit supply for the June 3rd and 10th worship services when Pastor Hansen is not available.

Northwest Minnesota Synod Assembly – Pastors Mary and Carl Hansen will attend the Assembly May 11-12 at Concordia College in Moorhead. Rude also stated that he plans to attend.

New Hymnals – Pastor Hansen informed the Council that he has a CD of the liturgy settings which St. Pauli can listen to as the congregation determines which setting they would like to use for worship. We will use the fourth liturgy setting in the new hymnals to begin with as

that is the same as the setting we are currently using in the Lutheran Book of Worship.

Reports

Members in Sickness or Distress - there were no reports of sickness or distress among the congregation.

WELCA – painting the paneling in the church basement was discussed. Rude suggested gypsum sheet rock instead because of the additional fire protection it would provide. This item will be brought forward for discussion at a special congregational meeting in May. If the congregation decides to go forward, this will need to be completed before new carpet is laid.

Board of Education – representatives of the Board of Education will be invited to the next Council meeting to discuss the future of Sunday School at St. Pauli.

Men's Group – started a new program format this month where participants volunteer to lead discussion for the subsequent month. This month Jim Strandlie led a comparative religion study of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths.

Maintenance – Rude worked on cleaning up around the church and brought the old fuel tank, stand for propane tanks and sinks to town to be sold for scrap iron. The \$30 was put in the collection plate last Sunday.

Old Business

New Hymnals – will be ordered shortly and the dedication of the hymnals will be held in June. Following discussion, it was decided to order the leadership CD for \$395 plus \$49 per year license fee for congregations of 1-50 in weekly attendance. This will allow the pastor and others to download the pages to put in a ceremonial folder rather than try to photocopy pages or carry around an 800-page book. The costs will be covered by the hymnal fund.

Vacant Council Position – Oliver (Skip) Swanson agreed to serve out the remaining year of Patricia Swanson's term. Pursuant to St. Pauli's constitution, this will be brought to the congregation for a vote at the May special congregational meeting.

New Business

Outdoor Storage Shed – a new, wood floor/frame storage shed is being donated to the church. This will provide much needed storage space for ladders, boxes, extra tables, etc. that currently clutter the downstairs.

Constitution/Bylaws Review Committee – Rude proposed that a constitution/bylaws review committee be formed. The committee would consist of representatives from the council, WELCA, Board of Education and the Pastor. The ELCA has a model constitution that could be

used for guidance. This item will be placed on the agenda of a special congregational meeting in May.

Paneling in Downstairs – Rude got quotes on putting up gypsum board. Material costs would be \$1,100. He is willing to do the mudding if he can find help from others in the congregation to put up the board. This item will be placed on the agenda of the May special congregational meeting.

Rain Gutters – the quote for seamless rain gutters is \$950, installed. Rude will attempt to get a second quote prior to this being discussed at the May special congregational meeting.

Office Equipment – Rude purchased a copier/printer for the church but it does not work well for copying thick books such as the church register. He will look for a different copier. The council thanked him for his time and effort in church improvements, including the office.

Special Congregational Meeting – will be held on Sunday, May 20th following the 10:30am worship service to discuss the nomination of Skip Swanson, building maintenance/ improvement items, proposed partnership with Zion Church and a review of the constitution/bylaws. Torkelson will send out the meeting notice to all members and post in the back of the church on the bulletin board. The meeting will also be announced for two Sundays prior.

Correspondence – Rude reminded the council to get copies of any correspondence on behalf of the church to the council secretary to be included in the permanent files.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday – May 20, 2012
(following the 10:30 a.m. church service)**

Items for discussion include:

- 1. nomination of Skip Swanson to fill an unexpired term on the Church Council**
- 2. church maintenance/improvements (sheet rock basement and add rain gutters)**
- 3. constitution and bylaws review/update**
- 4. partnership with Zion Lutheran Church**

Historic Minutes of the St. Pauli Congregation

21 January 1899

The annual meeting of St. Pauli Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation was held in the Braaten schoolhouse on January 21, 1899.¹

The meeting was opened by Pastor Aastad as chairman with reading from the Scriptures and prayer whereupon the chairman gave a summary over the state of the congregation and of his activities within the same, followed by the report of the secretary being read and unanimously accepted. Thereafter an assistant secretary was elected, because the secretary of the congregation was prevented from illness to be present.

Then the report of the treasurer was read and unanimously accepted. In the same report it was stated that during the past year between thirty-eight and forty dollars were received. At the same time the chairman announced that he had a balance in his favor of forty-four dollars from the congregation, that finally had been paid, and said that he would like to know what the congregation intended to do with the same. Whereupon Mr. Odegaard, as the chairman of the cemetery committee, informed that the grave places of the congregation in the cemetery now was recorded.

It was then discussed to build a church within the congregation and it was decided to begin to work for the same. In this connection Hans Amundson offered to donate one and one-half acres of land to the congregation with higher, dry land in the south-eastern corner of the south-eastern quarter in Section. 25 – Township 158, Range 42, as a building site for the church. The same offer was [*illegible*].

After this a subscription was raised to which around a hundred dollars was collected. These together with what the Ladies Aid in the western part of the congregation had, if they were willing to give it, and what else could be collected from subscriptions, were supposed largely to cover what was missing in the congregation's subscriptions. A committee was elected: Ole Pedersen, Johan Sjerva, Peter Nilson.

After that, a building committee of five men was elected, whose members are the following: Pete Nilson, Hans Fredrikson, Jacob Amundson, Ole Pedersen, Andrew Odegaard.

(continued on next page)

¹ Editor's note: The Braaten school became Washington Dist. 221. The building now rests on the farm owned by Ken Geske, formerly owned by Norman and Gladys Nelson. See "A Schoolhouse is Built" on following page.

It was now imposed on the building committee to work out a plan that would be the best to see to it that stones and foundation timbers were provided to the building site. And each and everybody present promised to help with all sorts of things. Thereafter a subscription was collected for the pastor's salary which gave about thirty-eight dollars.

Then officials were elected. The following were elected:

Halvor Torstvet re-elected as treasurer for 1 year

T. Jacob Amundson elected as secretary for 1 year

After this it was decided to hold a special congregational meeting on March 7 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon in order to further discuss the various things. As proposed the meeting was ended by the chairman with the Lord's prayer.

Officials of the congregation, trustees:

Tollef Erickson = 1902

Andrew Odegaard = 1901

Peter Nilson = 1900

Halvor Torstvet, treasurer 1 year

Jacob Amundson, secretary 1 year

Jacob Amundson, secretary of the congregation

* * * *

One of our now-departed members who attended the Braaten school was:

Emil Ingman THUNE

Birth: 10 SEP 1891 in Smiley Township, Minnesota

Death: 8 SEP 1985 in Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Burial: 11 SEP 1985 St. Pauli Cemetery

Confirmed: 1906 or 1907 Hamar Lutheran Church, Red Lake (now Pennington) County, Minnesota

Note:

From the Pennington County History book published in the 1970s: In 1891, Emil Thune was born. There was a doctor in St. Hilaire, but it was impossible to get there and when Emil was born, he had crippled legs. They used their home remedies and took boards, tied the legs so they couldn't jump back the way they were. He would have walked on his knees if they had not been corrected. Today [1970s], Emil is still running around on his son's farm, gardening, planting trees, shoveling, etc. He attended school for three years at the Braaten School house. At about sixteen years of age, he went out to work on the section for four summers. He was paid eleven cents an hour, ten hours a day. Winter months, he worked for his father cutting cordwood. About twenty years of age, he went to Argyle and worked on a farm for four years at thirty-five dollars a [illegible]. At 24, he married Gertrude Kvall. He rented a farm one year and then bought the farm near Thief River falls that his sons, Norrie and Ernie, now own. Emil grubbed the whole farm, 202 acres.

Life on the Fraction: The Past Hundred Years

by Melvin Torkelson (1899-1982)

Chapter 10: A Schoolhouse is Built



The south border of the Fraction was soon settled. Hans Fredrickson, Tollof Erickson Skredergaaden, Kari Braaten, Gilbert Anfinson, Ellen T. Anfinson, Peter Thune, and Ole T. Anfinson. Then it was to organize and build a schoolhouse.

They bought a one acre plot in Section 31 from Kari Braaten, which

centered the Fraction best. The south border of the Fraction was mostly 80 acre and 40 acre lots, where settled Andrew Hestekind, Martin Lokken, Martha Nelson, Gilbert Sherva, P. Thune, Ole and Jorgen Larson, Christ Christenson.

At this time, settlers were coming into this last frontier by the dozens. Such men as John A. Dahl, his homestead being in Section 21 where Everett Jasmer now lives. John Dahl, having the largest family in these parts (later totaling 14 children), started organizing a school district with the help of the other settlers. As it went over in a big way, he purchased a lot from Ole and Kari Braaten on which to build the school.

The school consisted of one room. Anfin and Ole Torkelson got the job of doing the building (nowadays, we call it "constructing"). Logs, of course. The other members cut and hauled the logs and these two great craftsmen from Norway hewed the logs, built the house windows, floors, doors, and "what you know". It even had a board floor and a brick chimney, which was very uncommon in those days.

Right adjoining John Dahl was his brother, Ludwig Anderson (two brothers with a different name again). Then a few winters later, his yoke of oxen came home from St. Hilaire late in the night with him dragging underneath the sleigh bunk by the rope lines; dead, of course. No inquest was held. It could have been murder, but those days a dead man — Well, he was just a DEAD MAN.

St. Pauli News in Detail



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"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her." -- George Washington (1732-1799)



"I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." -- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." --Author Unknown

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May Milestones

Birthdays

May 8 Eunice Grove
May 13 Jodie Torkelson
May 18 Sharon Bergerson

Anniversaries

May 7 Craig & Sally Torkelson (1966)

(If we don't list your birthday or anniversary, it's because we don't have it. Please jot a note to or email Faye at auchenpaugh@gmail.com)



Greeting and Ushering

May 6 Myles Alberg
May 13 Virginia Anderson
May 20 Faye Auchenpaugh
May 27 Sharon Bergerson

Sunday Service:

- Light altar candles before service and put out flames after church.
- Act as Greeters and hand out bulletins.
- Usher for offering and communion.
- Tidy up pews after church to make it ready for the next Sunday's services.

Altar Preparation: Deone Cerny

God's Pharmacy

It's been written that God first separated the salt water from the fresh, made dry land, planted a garden, made animals and fish... All before making a human. He made and provided what we'd need before we were born. These are best and more powerful when eaten raw. We are such slow learners...

God left us great clues as to what foods help what part of our body! Think of these when you plant your gardens or buy fresh produce from the local farmer's market.



A sliced Carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye...And YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.

A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food.



Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.

A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.



Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.

Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries.



Celery, Bok Choy, Rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.

Avocados, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine (9) months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).



Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the numbers of sperm as well to overcome male sterility.



Sweet Potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics.

Oranges, Grapefruits, and other Citrus fruits look just like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.



Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, Garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.

THE GREAT FLOOD

(Genesis 7:11-14)



Noah looked up.

The sky was turning gray, and Noah thought to himself, "It looks like rain."

And so, with one, big last push, he got that reluctant elephant up into the ark.

Whew! 100 years is a long time to work on one job!

Noah sat down by the door of the ark and wiped the sweat from his forehead. At last he was finished with all that God had asked him to do. Noah was 600 years old when he did all that God asked him to.

Seven days went by, one for each day it took to make the world God was about to wash clean.

And then the flood came.

"Now it's time for you and your family to get into the ark!" The Lord said to Noah.

So Noah and his wife, and his three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth and their wives all got into the ark. Then the Lord himself reached down from heaven and shut the door.

Water poured from the sky and rushed up from the

It rained.

And rained.

And rained.

The Great Flood had come.

Lightning flashed. Thunder crashed. The winds blew huge waves across the water.

The water lifted the giant wooden boat from the ground. It lifted it above Noah's house. It lifted it above the trees in his backyard.

The ark tossed in the storm above Noah's neighbor's house, above the whole town, and everyone who lived there.

It rained for forty days and forty nights.

It rained so hard that Noah's ark floated above even the highest mountains. There was no dry ground left at all.

And everything that breathed on the earth died.

What terrible things happen when people sin.

NEXT TIME:

"Anybody got any Dramamine?"

I LOVE MY ATTORNEY

After living what I felt was a “decent” life, my time on earth came to the end.

The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a courthouse.

The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table. As I looked around, I saw the “prosecutor.”

He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen.

I sat down and looked to my left and there sat My Attorney, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed so familiar to me, I felt I knew Him.

The corner door opened and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room. I couldn’t take my eyes off of Him. As He took His seat behind the bench, He said, “Let us begin.”

The prosecutor rose and said, “My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell.”

He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life, and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank.

I was so embarrassed that I couldn’t look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about.

As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently, not offering any form of defense at all. I knew I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life – couldn’t that at least equal out part of the harm I’d done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, “This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.

When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if he might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward.

As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendor and majesty. I realized why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, “HI, DAD,” and then He turned to address the court.

“Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned. I won’t deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wages of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished.”

Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, “However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted Me as his Savior, so he is Mine.”

My Lord continued with, “His name is written in the Book of Life, and no one can snatch him from Me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy.”

As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and said, “There is nothing else that needs to be done. I’ve done it all.”

The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips: “This man is free. The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed.”

I asked Jesus as He gave me my instructions where to go next, “Have you ever lost a case?”

Christ lovingly smiled and said, “Everyone that has come to Me and asked Me to represent them has received the same verdict as you:

“Paid in Full.”



The Back Page

Children in Church

A little boy was in a relative's wedding.
As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two
steps, stop, and turn to the crowd.
While facing the crowd,
he would put his hands up like claws and roar.
So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR,
all the way down the aisle.
As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from
laughing so hard by the time he reached the pulpit.
When asked what he was doing,
the child sniffed and said,
"I was being the Ring Bear."

One Sunday, a young child was "acting up"
during the morning worship hour.
The parents did their best to maintain some sense of
order in the pew
but were losing the battle.
Finally, the father picked the little fellow up
and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out.
Just before reaching the safety of the foyer,
the little one called loudly to the congregation,
"Pray for me! Pray for me!"

One particular four-year old prayed,
"And forgive us our trash baskets
as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A little boy was overheard praying:
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy,
don't worry about it.
I'm having a real good time like I am."

Six-year old Angie, and her four-year old brother, Joel ,
were sitting together in church.
Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud.
Finally, his big sister had had enough.
"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."
"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.
Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,
"See those two men standing by the door?
They're hushers."

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with
fascination,
looking at the old pages as he turned them.
Then something fell out of the Bible.
He picked it up and looked at it closely.
It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in
between the pages.
"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out..
"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.
With astonishment in the young boy's voice he
answered,
"It's Adam 's suit."

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and
as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform,
jerking the mike cord as he went.
Then he moved to one side,
getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before
jerking it again.
After several circles and jerks,
a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and
whispered,
"If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked,
"Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?"
I mentally polished my halo, while I asked,
"No, how are we alike?"
"You're both old," he replied.

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother,
was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible.
Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking,
"Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary
or the King James Virgin?"

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten
Commandments.
They were ready to discuss the last one.
The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was.
Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted,
"Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

Sometimes ya just gotta love 'em.