

Skit “The Big Race”

featuring the Lil ‘Buddies from the Back Pew

Setting the Stage:

Think about the personalities and whimsical wisdom of the age-old “little rascals” as you find children, youth or adults to portray the characters in “The Big Race.” The Lil’ Buddies from the Back Pew are getting ready to participate in their last box car (“soap box”) race of the season. An extended conversation about the importance of winning and losing highlights some keys to the Lutheran faith. Arrange a pew or stools and chairs of various heights in the center of the stage or in front of your projection of the Lutheran Seal. You may want to make some simple box cars to stand or park alongside the Lil’ Buddies.

Paint or pin a copy of the Lutheran Seal design on blue T-shirts.

Gather a variety of hats or sweat bands, to enhance the characters’ personalities.

Cast:

Richie (Focused on Gloria, the object of his affections)

Gloria (A woman with attitude)

Buddy (Looks up to TJ)

TJ (The leader of the Back Pew Buddies)

Jeepers (A mama’s boy)

Script:

Richie: OK, team, it’s our last event of the season and we have to win. If’n we don’t win, we will be lost forever, or worsn’ that we will be in a land between winners and losers and someone else will have to try to get us out. We don’t want that, do we team? Come on, let’s do our secret team sign!

TJ: Hey, uh, Richie, wait just a second, woudja? Is it really so important that we win? Why is it that we need to win so bad?

Buddy: Don’t you know, TJ, that if we don’t win this race, we’ll never earn our way in, and we will be lost forever.

Jeepers: Uh-oh, I don’t wants to be lost forever!

Richie: And if we don’t win, our sponsor may not pay our way anymore, then we will never get any more of these fine designer-line shirts!

Gloria: But our sponsor is First Church of the Christian Protestant Lutherans! They don’t think like that!

Richie: Oh yeah? What do they think like? If we don’t earn our way, or someone else doesn’t save us from loosing again, we’ll never “get in.”

Jeepers: What’r we so worried about gettin’ into or kicked outta anyway?
(*They all stop short with a look of indignance combined with bewilderment*)

Buddy: You tell ‘em TJ!

TJ: (*Takes his hat off, places it over his heart, and pauses for a moment of reverent reflection*) The hall of everlasting life and fame.

- Gloria:** (*Hands on her hips*) Well, boys, I can tell you've been runnin' on the wrong track!
- Richie:** Whatever are you talking about (*looking with endearing eyes at her*), my dear?
- Gloria:** You don't even have to take one foot off the starting block to do that! I know for a fact that it's more about WHO you know than what YOU do!"
- Richie:** Really now (*He walks around with his hands behind him — as he continues to look endearingly at her*), and WHO exactly would you be referring to?
- TJ:** The First Church of the Christian Protestant Lutherans is my church. It's where my family and me goes, and the pastor 'splained it to me like this:
- Jeepers:** Oh, boy... you already got my head racin' in circles!
- TJ:** See the cross in the middle of our "game shirts." That cross is to remind us of Jesus 'n what he did fer us and everybody else fer all time!
- Buddy:** What'd he do, TJ?
- TJ:** Jesus who died for our sins. He went ahead and he took 'em all away fer free!
- Jeepers:** Wow! Even mine? Ya mean, I don't have to go around feelin' like I'm grounded fer the rest of my life?
- Buddy:** How come the cross is so black?
- Gloria:** 'Cuz I know for a fact that sin is harder to get out than the oil stains you get when you're revvin' up your engines.
- Buddy:** Ew! My mama hates those oil stains!
- Gloria:** Well, First Church of the Christian Protestant Lutherans is the church I go to, too. And I know that the red heart is for LOVE (*Gloria makes eyes at Richie*), but not the kind of love that girls get with the cards, candy and flowers from special boys on Valentines Day. It's a special kind of love that God has for us!
- Richie:** Wowee! That's some kind of love! I wish I went to the First Church of the Protestant Lutherans like you do, Gloria!
- Jeepers:** What church do you go to, Richie?
- Richie:** It's just called "church" and my mama said that we is Christians, but she never said nuffin' about being Lutherans.
- Gloria:** Well, Richie, a Lutheran is a Christian, too. 'Cuz a Christian means we are connected to Christ. And, I know for a fact that Jesus is the Christ they're referring to.
- Richie:** Hey, we know about him at our church, too.
- Buddy:** So what's a Lutheran, Gloria?
- Gloria:** A Lutheran is a Christian that agrees with the very fine thoughts of Martin Luther. And he didn't even make it all up. It came di—rectly out of the New Testament of the Holy Bible.

The Big Race *continued*

Jeepers: Oh, yeah, I remember about him. He had a dream.

Gloria: No, Jeepers, that was Martin Luther KING JR! He was into civil rights in the 1960s. Martin Luther was a pastor in Germany about 500 years ago. So, boys, as you can see they practically lived in different lifetimes.

Buddy: A pastor? Like the one up front at our church?

TJ: Martin Luther didn't just stand up in front of a church. *(He stands proud as he makes his announcement)* He reformationed it!

Jeepers: Whoa! If I did that at my house, I'd be in really BIG trouble!

Gloria: Boys, boys, boys, it takes a true woman to tell you what this man did! Martin Luther used to go to a church that said you had to pay for all your sins.

Richie: Gosh *(pulls his empty pockets out)*, I'd be plum out of luck!

Gloria: But, then, one day he read a certain passage in the book of the Romans, and he realized that Jesus had already paid the price for all of them when he died on the cross for everyone for all time! And so people weren't supposed to be paying anyone for their own personal sins.

Jeepers: Whoa! So what did he do?

Gloria: So, he went and told the church about it and he DID get into lots of trouble, but he didn't care cuz he knew the Bible was telling the truth!!

Jeepers: Did he get creamed?

TJ: *(Picks up Jeepers' hat and slaps it on his head)* No dizzmo! He just kept on talkin' and doin' stuff that got so many people wanting to hang around him that they had to start building churches all over the place to fit 'em all in!

Gloria: He even wrote the Bible in a language regular people could read and he talked about things in a way that they could understand in a little Cataclysm. That's why he made the design that's so fashionably placed on your shirts.

TJ: Well now, if we aren't just about back to where we started from!!

Jeepers: OK. So I think I get the cross part, but if you aren't talkin' about gushy valentines, why have a heart?

TJ: Gloria was right about the red heart, it's about love all right! It's about God's love for us that sent Jesus right to the cross.

Gloria: *(Points to the seal)* I'll do the flower part, since I enjoy getting such sweet smelling ones from you-know-who! *(Gazes at Richie who turns away blushing.)* The white flower stands for the trust we have in Jesus.

Buddy: Just like we trust our guys behind the wheel.

Richie: Uh, guys, sometimes I don't think I'm the kind of guy you should be trustin'.

TJ: That's OK, Richie, 'cuz you're not Jesus. We can always trust in Jesus!

Buddy: This is all very interestin' 'n everything, but when are we gonna start rollin' down the track?

- TJ:** All we got left is the gold and the blue-n-green part!
- Gloria:** The green reminds us 'bout growth like the leaves around a pretty white flower that a boy gives a pretty girl. *(Gazes at Richie again.)*
- TJ:** *(Looks at her with indignation.)* Movin' right along! The blue field is to remind us of heaven.
- Jeepers:** Sometimes I dreams of heaven when we're playin' ball 'n I'm out in left field.
- Buddy:** Until the ball comes right down and knocks you on your noggin' and tells you were not playin' ball today.
- TJ:** The gold ring makes us think about eternal life with God and Jesus. Like a marathon — goin' around and around and around. With no beginnin' and no end!
- Richie:** That's all real nice and stuff, TJ, but what does it all have to do with winnin' today?
- Gloria:** Don't you get it, Richie?
- TJ:** We don't HAVE to win 'cuz, Jesus— he already won the all-time victory for us.
- Jeepers:** Then why are we still racin'?
- TJ:** 'Cuz God gave us the ability and creativity to make these fine box cars, and so we do the best we can as a way of thankin' God for taking the edge off our losin' streak!
- Buddy:** Do you mean that whether we win or loose, we is still on God's team?
- Gloria:** You are if you believe in Jesus!
- TJ:** Come on! It's time to do our secrit sign. *(They all spit on their pointer finger and make the sign of the cross on their own forehead.)* Now 'member *(everyone gets in a circle with their hands joined in the center)*, I say, "It's not about a win or a race, it's knowin' that yer. . .
- Everyone:** "Saved By GRACE" *(hands go up to cheer).*
- Buddy:** Hey, TJ...who's this Grace anyway?
- TJ:** She's one of the greatest legends in the history of Our Team. She's one of the Solie Sisters; you know, there's a Faith, Grace and a Scripture Solie.
- Gloria:** Get real, TJ!
- TJ:** Hey, their dad was a Lutheran Pastor 'n when those girls played, the team was always "Saved By Grace."
- Gloria:** Yeah, right! *(They all laugh and start walking off stage.)*
- Jeepers:** I thought we weren't into girls!
- TJ:** That's another story for another day! Come on, I'll race you to the starting block!
- Buddy:** Bout time! *(They all run off stage.)*