



St. John Lutheran Church Newsletter

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

6960 Parkwood Blvd

Suite 200

Frisco, Texas 75034

<http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/>

972-802-0444 (pastor) 9:30 a.m. Sunday Divine Service & 10:45 Bible Study

April 2023 A.D.

“Are You Washed in the Blood?”

[Rev 7:14 ESV] 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

I received an email recently from a member who asked a good question that I share with you all:

Question:

Hi Pastor!

I heard someone say the phrase “washed in His blood” and thought it was different. But now that I’ve been thinking and focusing on it, I keep hearing it said! (Not in church, but in my [Baptist]community.) I’ve never really noticed it before, but wonder if this is an accurate way to talk about salvation? I’m not sure what it is means specifically and the only exact reference I can find in scripture is Revelation... Is it meant to say the washing in baptism covers us in Christ?

Answer:

Hi XXXXX,

Yes, I heard that phrase a ton growing up in the Baptist/reformed community. What it says in Revelation and what they mean by it are quite different. Their use, I believe, stems from the very popular 1800's hymn, "Are You Washed in in the Blood?" If you read the lyrics below, they aren't talking about God washing you in Christ's blood through the means of baptism (water + WORD), received by faith alone. They are talking about *your work* of faith, and then asking if you are living a clean/washed life. Since they deny the means of grace, they look for comfort that they are truly washed, or have faith, in how well they think they are living the Christian life. It is truly sad because there is a better way--trusting in God's work of baptism. So, when they ask you this in the community, they are asking you if *you have made* a decision to believe in Jesus to be washed, and then are you proving that by living a clean life.

This is very similar to how they use the phrase, "born again." "Are you born again?" and "Are you washed in the blood?" are really the same question for them. They believe being born again is the moment of decision--inviting Jesus into your heart and you then are born again. How do you know you really are born again? Well, are you living the Christian life? This moment of conversion or "the hour I first believed" (Amazing Grace

lyric)--where God knocks on the door of your heart and you must meet him halfway and open it, they will also term, "baptized by/in the Holy Spirit". So, they will connect the word baptism to "born again" and "washed in the blood", but they wrongly teach two baptisms—a Spirit only baptism and water only baptism--and for them, water baptism doesn't do anything and is only symbolic of your commitment. If you have a synodical catechism, the two baptisms explanation is in there. Of course, Biblically, water baptism (that phrase is redundant since the word baptize means to apply water) is Spirit baptism, and it is God choosing me and not me choosing Him. There is only one baptism and not two, Eph. 4:5. And like Rev. 7 where they get the phrase, "washed in the blood", they also get the phrase "born again" (born from above in Greek) from Scripture in John 3. But John 3 is about the one real baptism --water and the Spirit--and not what they wrongly teach in their altar call theology that is nowhere in Scripture and void of baptism.

Read the lyrics of the hymn and you will see what they mean:

https://hymnary.org/text/have_you_been_to_jesus_for_the_cleansing

1 Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Chorus:

Are you washed in the blood,

In the soul cleansing blood of the Lamb?

Are your garments spotless?

Are they white as snow?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

2 Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Do you rest each moment in the Crucified?

Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?[Chorus]

Hope this helps. A good response to their question might be, "Yes, I am washed in the blood--I am born again by water and the Spirit. I am baptized into Christ." Below are some helpful verses, but you could also ask, "I have a friend with a newborn baby—a sinner. How can I make sure he/she is washed in the blood/born again?" Their answer will expose what they really mean by these phrases.

[Rev 7:14 ESV] 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[Gal 3:25-27 ESV] 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

[Tit 3:4-6 ESV] 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

[Jhn 3:3-8 ESV] 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second

time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

[1Pe 3:21 ESV] 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

See also. Col. 2:12; Rm. 6:3; I Cor. 12:13; Mk 16:16, Acts 2:37-, etc.

Baptized into Christ, born again, and washed in His blood,

Pastor

Don't forget to check the Church Calendar page on the website for up-to-date activities and times: <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/category/events/>

Note: St. John/Pastor is using the email addresses pastor@sjlcfisco.com and pastorstark@gmail.com to send information and requests for information to the members. Please check your Spam or Junk mail folders for emails from these addresses.

Christian Education, Human Care & Evangelism

Audio of the [sermon is available on our website](#). **Homebound Communion:** If you are unable to attend the Divine Service, you may always arrange communion with pastor.

Audio of Bible Class: No need to sign-up anymore. I will attach the previous week's recording(s) to the eblast each week. If an eblast doesn't have them attached, assume the recorder failed or I failed in some way 😊

Sunday Bible Class: Adult Catechesis for several weeks before beginning our study of Proverbs—probably fall 2023.

Ladies' Group meets this **month on 4/20 at 6:30p at the church.**

Men's Study Wednesday at **10:00 a.m.** *The Book of Concord 1580*. (resumes 4/19)

Midweek Bible Study: Mondays, **1:00 p.m.** Short break for Easter, but resuming 4/24. We will be starting Genesis and will do 5 weeks of Introduction/Creation prior to breaking for the summer. We will resume in the fall and try to make our way through the Pentateuch (first 5 books).

Sunday School is in full swing.

Youth Catechesis: Youth Confirmation on Palm Sunday. 4/2 Class will resume in the fall.

Adult Catechesis: If you know someone who would like to learn more about what we as Lutherans believe, please have them contact Pastor.

Private Confession and Absolution offered all week upon request.

For Information on Closed Communion, check out the brochure at church or see our website. You may always talk to me too. <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/holy-communion/> & <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/why-closed-communion/>

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen at your convenience at <https://www.issuesetc.org> and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app. You can **listen to Lutheran music** at <https://www.lutheranpublicradio.org>

BIBLE STUDY: The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen at your convenience at <https://www.thewordendures.org>, on your favorite podcast provider, or the LPR mobile app.

Children's Bulletins Available: *Lessons for Lambs* is not meant to serve as a way to keep kids busy and quiet during the service, but rather to involve them in what's going on in the service so they can begin thinking about it. The bulletins are geared toward kids in 2nd through 6th grades with varying degrees of independence. They could certainly be used with younger kids, in part, with help from their parents.

Got questions? What About Series: <https://steadfastlutherans.org/whatabout/>

Home Devotions Resources: Reminder that there are resources on the table in the Narthex. The "Lesson for Lambs" and "Lambs at Pasture" are great resources to use in the home during the week. There is even an answer guide. Also, additional resources are on our website. **Home Devotional Resources:** <https://www.mlchouston.org/about-us/memorial-moments> & <http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/2017/02/lambs-at-pasture-daily-devotions-for-the-family/>

Evangelism: [Sharing our website with others is a great way to let others to learn about us.](#) **Church Business Cards** still available for you to take. Let's get our name out there and invite others to hear the sweet Gospel! **Evangelism Tracts using the Small Catechism AVAILABLE!** Also, **tracts on the Explanation of the Church Service** available now too!



Frisco Family Services is now known as Frisco Family Services Market. This rebranding reflects a heartfelt consideration for the health, safety, and respect for our neighbors during an unexpected crisis. Now, Frisco Family Services Market better portrays the experience families and individuals are used to when shopping in a grocery store.

In addition to in person client-choice shopping, they have added **Market Express**, an online shopping alternative for those who are ill, do not feel comfortable with in person shopping, or have limited time to shop due to their work schedule. Similar to retail curbside pickup, their clients access an online shopping list, make their selections and schedule a convenient pickup time. Clients arrive at their scheduled

time and volunteers load their chosen items into their vehicle.

For seniors and those who are unable to drive or do not have transportation, their **Mobile Market** provides home delivery. Having these options will ensure the health, safety, and confidentiality of those needing to use Frisco Family Services Market while navigating their crisis.

Additionally, they have added a Fresh produce section for the shoppers, funded by a recent Leadership Frisco class.

As a church, St. John continues its support of Frisco Family Services Market with stable food item donations to their food pantry. A collection basket has been placed at church for your donations. Please consider donating any regular sized canned or boxed goods that are within the expiration date. They also need laundry and cleaning supplies. We will not be able to provide fresh produce through this collection basket. Thank you for helping!

Christian Stewardship -Time, Talent, and Treasure

Choir: Please lend your voice and come sing with us. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at 7p.m. Text or call Becky Greer, 504-812-7951, to be added to the Tuesday choir reminder/info text list. **Handchime Choir:** Rehearsals are held from 8:45 till 9:10a.m. only on the Sunday mornings we plan to ring during the Worship Service. Please come ring with us. If you are interested in ringing please let Becky Greer know so that you will begin to receive the Saturday handchime choir texts and know when our next rehearsal/ringing will be.

Weekly Stewardship bulletin sentences from synod are in our bulletin most weeks—check them out.

The new 2023 Volunteer Church Cleaning Calendar is available in back of the church. We are in need of volunteers for next year. If you have any questions, please speak with Denise Eggert after church. **Thank you** to all volunteers who have served.

A flower chart is posted on the wall by the coffee station. We have updated our **Altar flower sign up** procedure. Flowers will be available for order to be displayed on the Sunday of your choice. The cost is \$30 per vase. We encourage multiple families to sign up together (one for each vase) on the Sunday they would like to commemorate or give thanks in this way. As is needed, the elder board will purchase the second vase and distribute those flowers to our homebound members. Please sign up at least one week in advance, either on the sheet near the bulletin board or by sending your altar flower request to our volunteer church secretary at admin@sjlcfisco.com or text message to 214-425-9777.

Amazon Smile: Don't forget you can support our church by designating St. John through *Amazon Smile*.

“Merchant Rewards Programs: In addition to Amazon Smile, St. John is now set up with Kroger.

1. Apply for a Kroger rewards card, if you don't already have one.
2. Sign in, or create an account with Kroger at <https://www.kroger.com>
3. Go to the Savings & Rewards menu.
4. Select Community Rewards and enter "Saint John Lutheran Church" in the search window, and then search.
5. We should be the first entry in the search results. Our Organization Number is: YV240
6. Select "ENROLL" and hit enter. You're set up.

Prayer: Please continue to pray for our congregation. Also, please take home your bulletin and pray during the

week for those who have requested our prayers.

Interested in serving as a Church Greeter? Please speak to an elder.

Human Care Group: Want to be available to make a meal, give a ride, and such, to a fellow member in a time of need? Speak with an elder to sign-up to be on our human care group list.

Building Fund: If you would like to contribute to the fund, please write, "Building Fund" on your check. The **Capital Campaign** handout is in the narthex if you missed it.

Welcoming Committee: If you have an interest in welcoming and contacting first-time visitors with a call, card, or home visit to simply say, "We are glad you came. Hope you come again.", please contact an elder.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

<https://www.lcms.org/stewardship>

(Check out the monthly article)

What should I be doing as a steward of the gifts the Lord has given me? Our *Small Catechism*, from Scripture, shows us our duties in our God-given vocations. Each month, I plan to cycle through parts of the *Table of Duties*:

Table of Duties Monthly Review: **Of Civil Government**

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. **Rom. 13:1–4**

Table of Duties Monthly Review: **Of Citizens**

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. **Matt. 22:21** It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. **Rom. 13:5–7** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior. **1 Tim. 2:1–3** Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good. **Titus 3:1** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **1 Peter 2:13–14**

Other News

For current events, please visit our website and see the church calendar. You can sync our calendar to your computer or smartphone. <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/st-john-church-calendar/> Church events are

shown at <http://www.stjohnfrisco.org/category/events/>

Also, please see the two bulletin boards by the coffee cart for announcements that aren't always in the bulletin and newsletter. **Financial Reporting is on the whiteboard above the coffee cart.**

A list of who is serving is posted on the bulletin boards in the narthex. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Connecting the Dots: Before the service, try reading through the Gospel lesson and see if you can link it to the other lessons, Introit, Gradual, and Collect. (Hint: Start with the Collect as it usually summarizes the theme of the day)

Newsletter Deadline is the 20th of each month. Send submissions to pastorstark@gmail.com

Other Articles/Resources

<https://www.lutherclassical.org/podcast/>

<https://www.lcms.org/news/publications>

<https://steadfastlutherans.org/>

<https://www.lcms.org/steffenson>

To God be the Glory!