**BAPTISM**

(Section 7.6 in *Living Faith*)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 7.6.1 | Baptism is a sign and seal of our union with Christand with his church.Through it we sharein the death and resurrection of Christand are commissioned to his service. |
|  |  |
| 7.6.2 | In Baptism, water is administeredin the name of the Father,and of the Son,and of the Holy Spirit.The water signifies the washing away of sin,the start of new life in Christ,and the gift of the Holy Spirit. |
|  |  |
| 7.6.3 | By the power of the Holy SpiritGod acts through Baptism.It is the sacrament not of what we dobut of what God has done for us in Christ.God's grace and our response to itare not tied to the moment of Baptism,but continue and deepen throughout life.It is a sacrament meantfor those who profess their faithand for their children.Together we are the family of God. |
|  |  |
| 7.6.4 | Baptism is also an act of discipleshipthat requires commitmentand looks towards growth in Christ.Those baptized in infancyare called in later yearsto make personal profession of Christ.What is born may die.What is grafted may wither.Congregations and those baptizedmust strive to nurture life in Christ. |
|  |  |
| 7.6.5 | Baptism assures us that we belong to God.In life and in deathour greatest comfort is that we belongto our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. |