**BAPTISM**

(Section 7.6 in *Living Faith*)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 7.6.1 | Baptism is a sign and seal of our union with Christ  and with his church.  Through it we share  in the death and resurrection of Christ  and are commissioned to his service. |
|  |  |
| 7.6.2 | In Baptism, water is administered  in 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 Spirit  God acts through Baptism.  It is the sacrament not of what we do  but of what God has done for us in Christ.  God's grace and our response to it  are not tied to the moment of Baptism,  but continue and deepen throughout life.  It is a sacrament meant  for those who profess their faith  and for their children.  Together we are the family of God. |
|  |  |
| 7.6.4 | Baptism is also an act of discipleship  that requires commitment  and looks towards growth in Christ.  Those baptized in infancy  are called in later years  to make personal profession of Christ.  What is born may die.  What is grafted may wither.  Congregations and those baptized  must strive to nurture life in Christ. |
|  |  |
| 7.6.5 | Baptism assures us that we belong to God.  In life and in death  our greatest comfort is that we belong  to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. |