

THE MEANS OF GRACE

THE NATURE OF BAPTISM

DEVOTION

NATURE OF BAPTISM

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

FOR SHARING

1. Ben Franklin wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." When have you most appreciated water?
2. Tell about a memorable Baptism in your family or congregation.
3. Martin Luther wrote, "You must esteem Baptism as something high, glorious, and excellent. . . . If you look upon Baptism as being only water, then you will consider it to be a paltry and ordinary thing" (LW 51.183). Why is it difficult to believe that God gives great blessings through water and His Word?
4. How does Baptism connect you with the Lord and His death and resurrection? How does Baptism connect you with others?
5. "The church is a baptizing community." How does this truth shape your congregation's attitude toward and mission to your community?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending me Your Holy Spirit through my Baptism. Help me to live Your amazing grace in my life so that others may see You in and through me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.