

Thinking about 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.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19).

What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Why are babies to be baptized? Babies are to be baptized because (a) they are included in the words "all nations"; (b) Jesus especially invites little children to come to Him; (c) as sinners, babies need what Baptism offers; and (d) babies are also able to have faith.



Luther's Small Catechism, pp. 24-25 and 207-208.



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Ministers: each member in daily life

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Bethesda, Maryland, October 12th, 2008



Dearest Jesus, we are here,
Gladly Your command obeying:
With this child we now draw near
In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven