

A summary of Luther's meanings of The Sacrament of Holy Baptism to be memorized by first year confirmation students:

The First Section:

From the catechism

The Second Article:

From the catechism

The Third Article:

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. With the word of God it is a baptism and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.”

The Fourth Article

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by repentance drown and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”