**BAPTISM**

 **What is baptism?**
Baptism is not merely water, but it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word. **What is this Word of God?**As recorded in Matthew 28:19, our Lord Christ said, "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." **What gifts or benefits does Baptism bestow?**If effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and grants eternal salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare. **What is this Word and promise of God?**As recorded in Mark 16:16, our Lord Christ said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned." **How can water produce such great effects?**It is not the water that produces these effects, but the Word of God connected with the water, and our faith which relies on the Word of God connected with the water. For without the Word of God the water is merely water and no Baptism.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Jesus gave His life for us on the cross. He sacrificed His body and blood on the cross as payment for our sins. Jesus initiated Holy Communion as a means by which those who believe in Him may receive the benefit of His suffering and dying for us (1 Corinthians 10:16). Jesus is truly present for us in the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion. Holy Communion also unifies all believers because of our common need for God's grace (1 Corinthians 10:17). All earthly distinctions fall away when we recognize our own sin, and realize we all have the same need for Christ and God's forgiveness in Christ. After receiving the bread and the wine, trusting in Jesus, we know we are again in right relationship with God and are renewed and strengthened to serve God and others in Jesus' name.**