



## THE ANATOMY OF A BAPTISM

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In this video commercial, “Katie Lu” and her husband “Winkie” Luther find themselves walking through puddles of water around the baptismal font in a church. Winkie gets so carried away with the sacrament that he splashes water everywhere! Fortunately (and as usual) Katie has an answer to the problem at the ready, so Winkie can continue with his exuberant baptisms.

1. Have you ever seen a baptism—or a church service designed to remind worshipers of their baptisms—in which there was a good deal of splashing? When and where? How was the water wiped up?
2. Why does Winkie use water so abundantly? Does an abundance of water remind you of anything about God?
3. Some Christians insist on using enough water to actually fill a tank or to dip a person completely under the surface. Do you think Luther would be in favor of using this much water? Why?
4. Luther wrote in his Small Catechism, “Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead it is water enclosed in God’s command and connected with God’s Word” (The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, in *The Book of Concord*, ed. Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, Fortress, 2000, p. 359.). Would Luther insist that a baptism is not valid without a certain, minimum amount of water? Explain your answer.