

LIVING OUR **BAPTISM**...*Five gifts of discipleship*

When a baptized Christian affirms the faith (often called confirmation) the presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism and asks the question: Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

**to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?**

RESPONSE: We do, and ask God to help and guide us.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2006), 236.

Five Gifts of Discipleship Small Group Resource

Called to Follow: A Daily Devotional and Small Group Discipleship Resource

by Rev. John Herman

Mechanicsville, VA: Rambling Star Publishing, 2013

Called to Follow uses the Affirmation of Baptism liturgy (see above) as a framework to help small groups and individuals deepen their understanding of being a disciple of Jesus. Each of the five responses is explored in detail. Rev. John Herman writes,

"We call these five promises our part of the 'baptismal covenant' with God. Together they provide a thorough description of the life our baptism calls us to live in the world, (the Christian vocation). They are a helpful summary of the life of a disciple of Jesus." (p.5)

"Finally, the response of the disciple, 'I do, and I ask God to help and guide me,' acknowledges the reliance upon God's gracious Spirit in shaping disciples, forming the church, calling them into God's mission, and strengthening them for God's mission." (p.5)

This book is intended for use by small groups (3-6 persons) and individuals, for people new to the faith as well as those who have grown up in the church. *Called to Follow* promotes daily quiet time dedicated to being in the Word, study, and prayer—spiritual disciplines that promote the work of the Holy Spirit in daily life.

This book can be ordered online.

Quotes from *Called to Follow*

"Discipleship to Jesus Christ means learning to follow Jesus. Learning to live the way of Jesus. Learning to live by the Spirit...In other words, discipleship is at the same time an invitation, a gift, God's transforming work, and our life response to that invitation, gift, and transforming work." (p.3)

"Discipleship is our response to God's grace and the call of Jesus Christ to follow him in a lifelong journey. It is the role of the Holy Spirit to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. Being joined to the death and resurrection of Christ, we are set free to live a new life in him." (p.3)

"Discipleship is our response to God's grace and God's call. It is the living out of the covenant of our baptism." (p.5)