



When you were baptized, the Pastor made the “sign of the cross upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.” Whenever you enter or leave this sanctuary, you are invited to dip your fingers into the water and again mark yourself with the sign of the cross.

May the Holy Spirit empower all who worship here to be **“dead to sin”** and **“alive in Christ”** as they remember and live who they are — baptized members of God’s “forever” family!



BAPTISMAL FONT

“ALIVE IN CHRIST”

The Story of Our
Baptismal Font



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

THE “ALIVE IN CHRIST” BAPTISMAL FONT

Romans 6: 11-12 “...Count yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.”

The underlined words from Romans 6 are inscribed on the steps leading into the baptismal font of St. Paul Lutheran Church. It is our prayer that the design of the font will help everyone grow in their understanding of the tremendous significance of baptism for the Christian.

As you face the altar in the church, look high up to your left to the window picturing the baptism of Jesus by John. As Jesus stood in the “moving” water of the Jordan river so that John could baptize Him, so also an adult could (if they wished) literally stand in this font to be baptized in “moving” water. Infants are normally baptized in the moving water of the upper pool.

Jesus “entered” His public ministry with His baptism. A Christian “enters” the “forever” family of God, the Church, through Holy Baptism. Placed at the entrance to the sanctuary, the cross-shaped font constantly reminds us of the terrible price Jesus paid to make it possible for us to be adopted as God’s children.

As you look down into the font, it isn’t hard to also visualize the burial chamber of Jesus or one of our modern burial vaults.



The significance of our baptism is spelled out by St. Paul:

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... , we too may live a new life.

If we have been united with Him in his death, we will certainly also be united with Him in his resurrection”

Romans 6: 3-4

In our baptismal service, children and adults are invited to “enter the grave with Christ” trusting His promise “*Because I live, you also shall live*” John 14:19. Being united with Christ by faith and baptism gives Christians confidence in the face of both death and life.

Therefore, at funerals the casket is literally placed on the font because we are confident that believers in Christ have been “*buried with Him through baptism... (and) will certainly also be united with Him in his resurrection*”. Through the “living water,” the visual reminder of the cross and burial place of Jesus, and the inscription **“alive in Christ”**, we pray that the Holy Spirit will be able to greatly comfort families in their grief.

Do you lack self-esteem? Look at this font and remember who you are - a child of God! Do you lack motivation to try to live a more Christ-like life? Look at this font and sense the power of Christ’s love for you. Let Him fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit to “*walk in newness of life.*” As baptized children of God, the Holy Spirit wants to help you grow and become more **“dead to sin”** and **“alive in Christ”** day by day.