

Doctrinal Catechesis

Baptism - What is it? Which is that Word?

St. John Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, ND

What is a Sacrament?

- ❖ What is a Sacrament? A Sacrament is a sacred act
 - A. Instituted by the command of Christ;
 - B. In which He adds His Word of promise to a visible element;
 - C. By which He gives to us and bestows on us the forgiveness of sins He won.

What is a Sacrament?

- ❖ By this definition, there are two Sacraments:
 - ❖ Baptism
 - ❖ Lord's Supper

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

What is Baptism?

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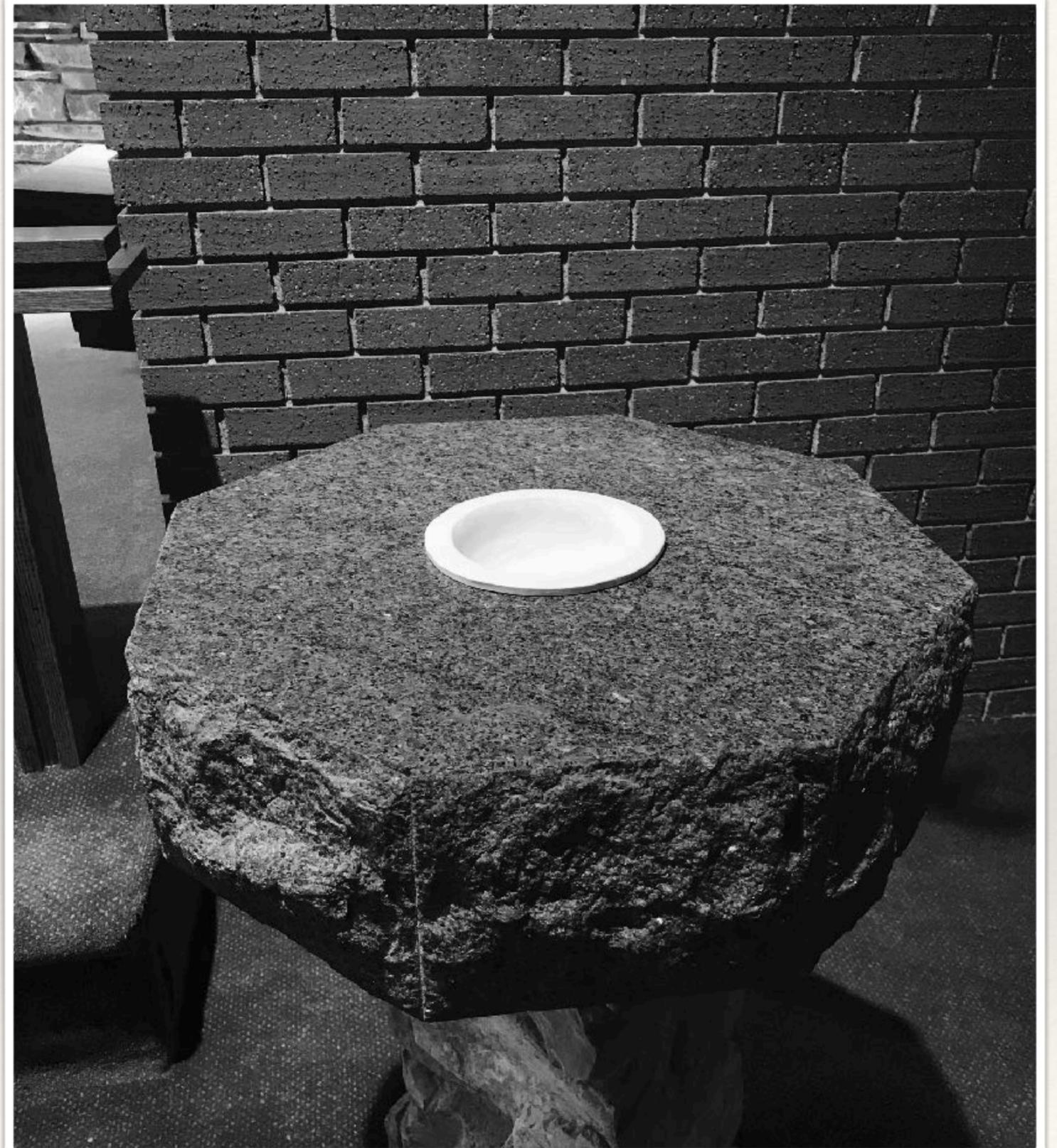
Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

First

What is Baptism?

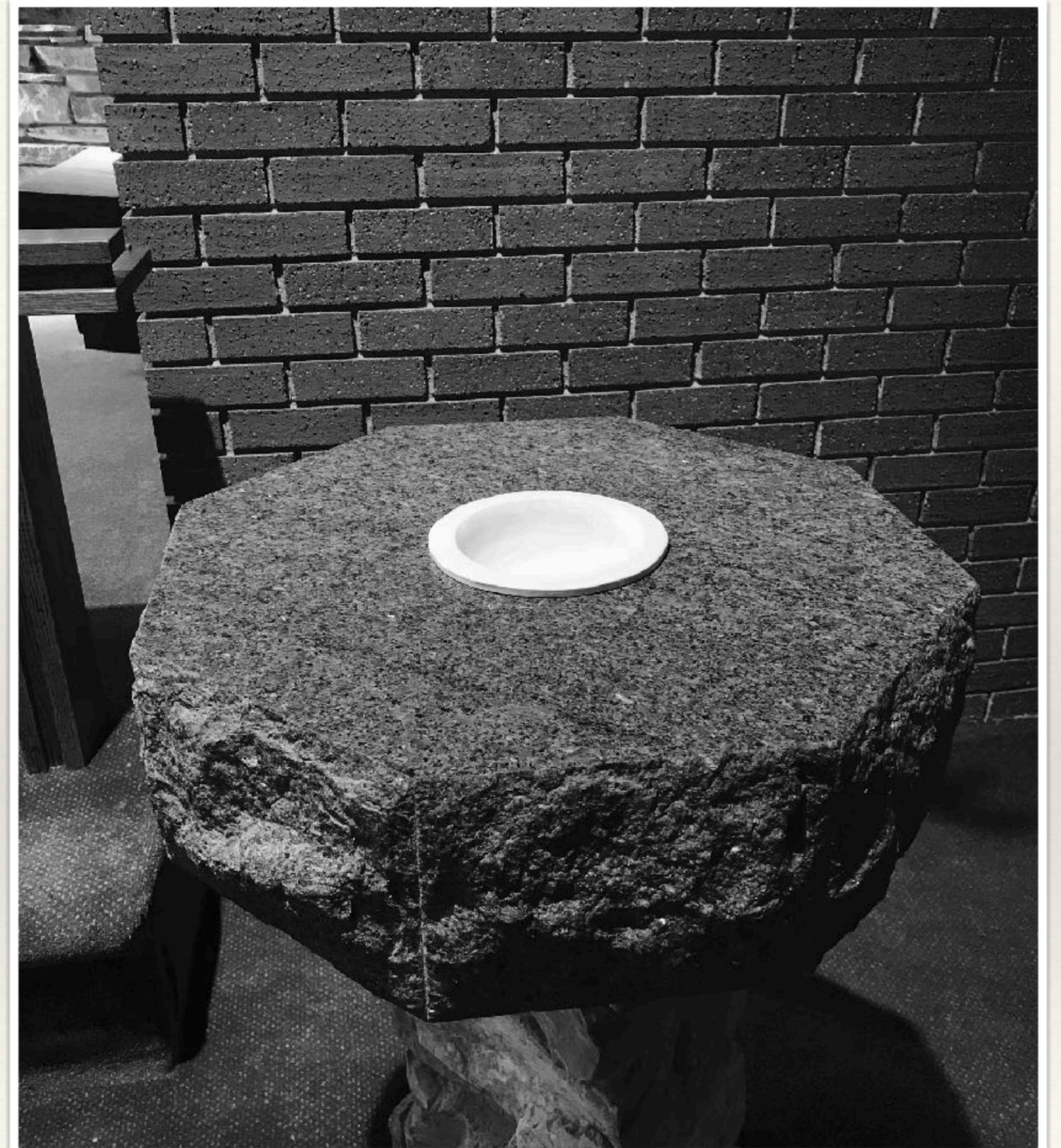
- The word *Baptize* simply means to wash with water, whether by sprinkling, pouring, or dipping.
- Christian Baptism means washing with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution.



First

What is Baptism?

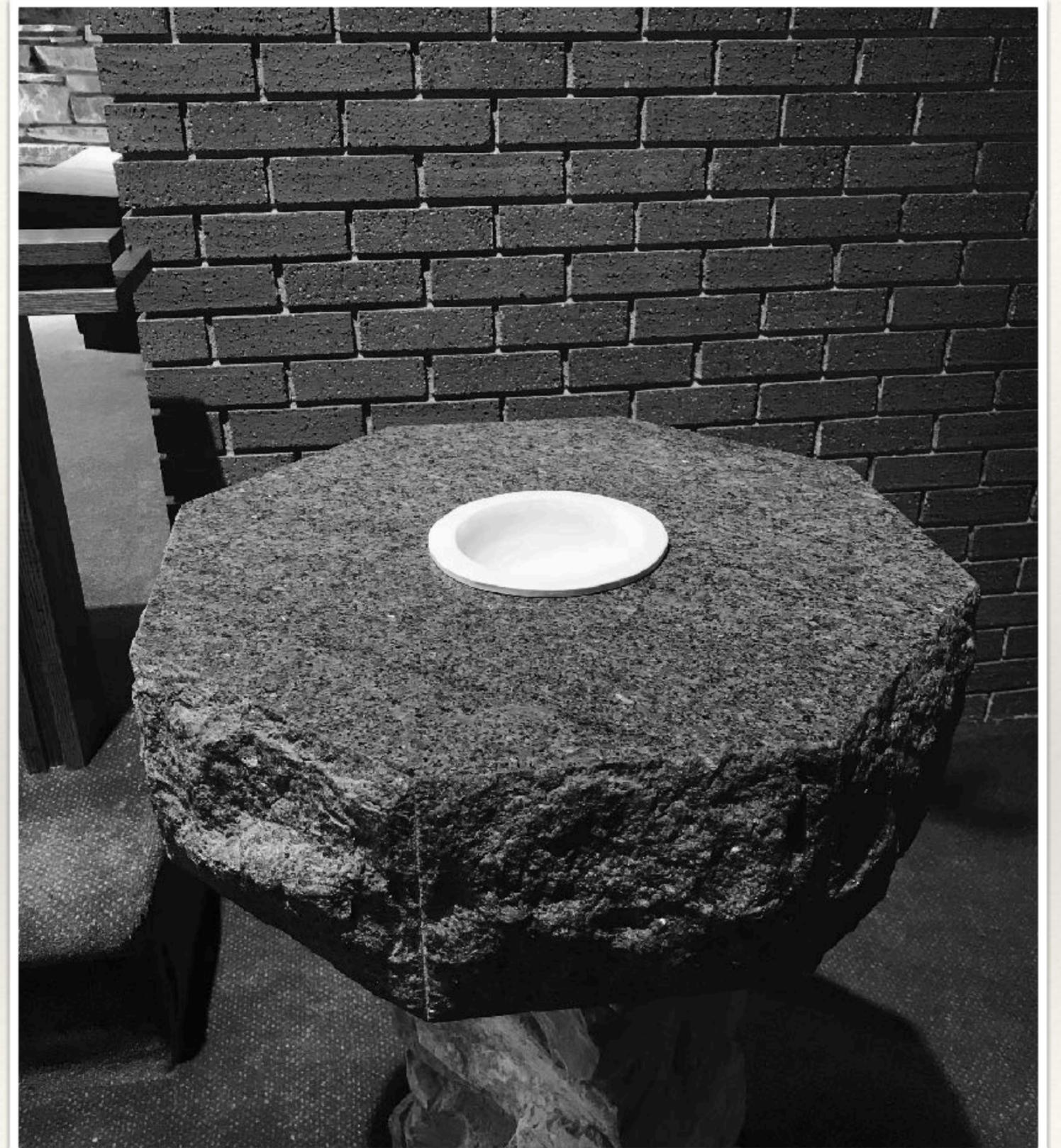
- **Mark 7**, "When they [the Pharisees] come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash [literally, *baptize*]. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing [literally, *baptizing*] of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches."
- Christian Baptism not plain washing, but it is a washing of water and Word according to Christ's command.



First

What is Baptism?

- There's nothing special about the water, it's the Word that makes it a "divine water."
- **Eph. 5**, "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."



“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” *Matthew 28*

–Jesus instituted Baptism just before He ascended into heaven.

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- ❖ To be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit to receive God's name on our hearts.
- ❖ In Baptism, God puts His name on us and promises to be with us and bless us.

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

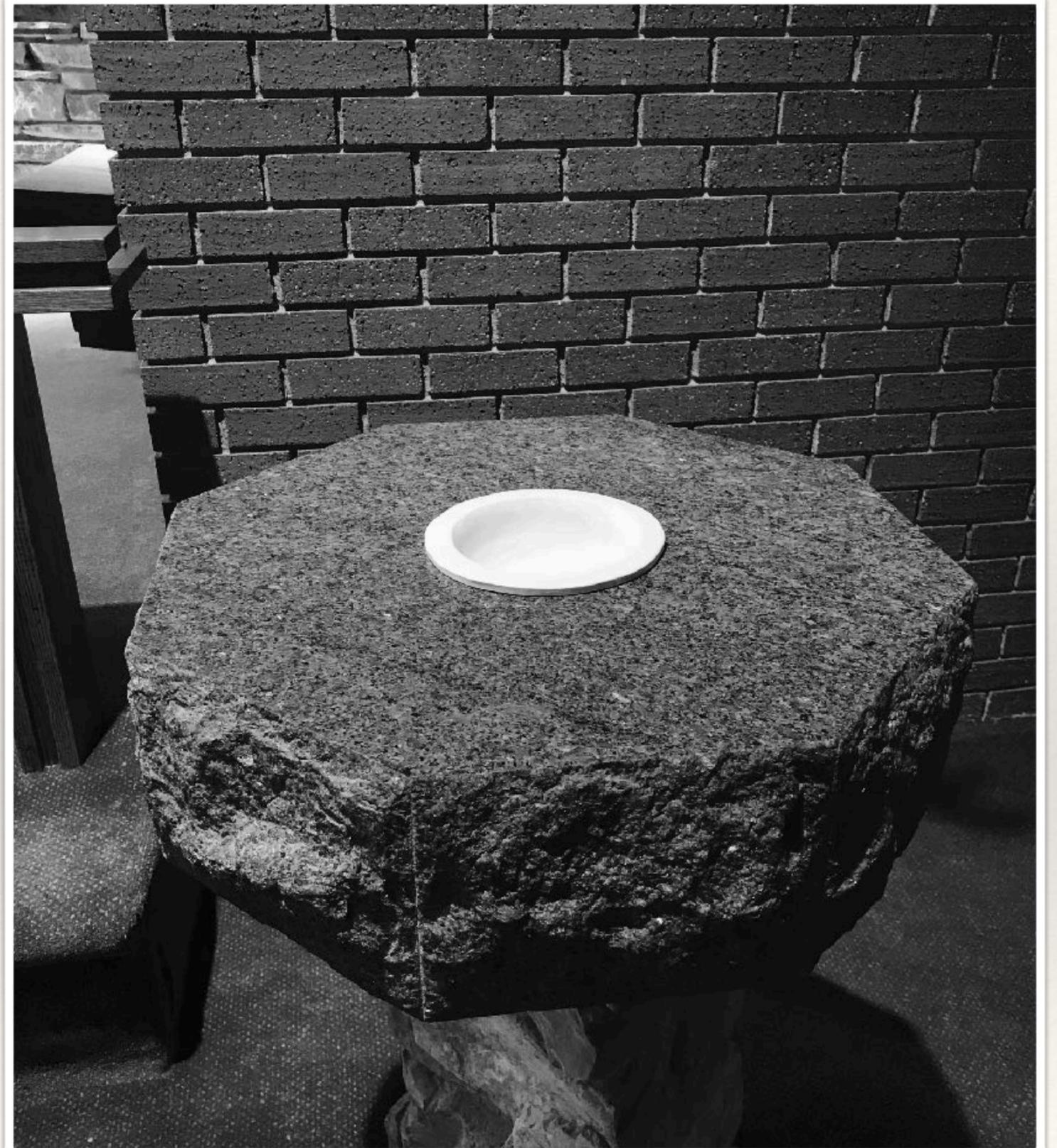
“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- ❖ **Ex. 24**, “In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.”

Who Does the Baptizing?

- Normally, pastors - Christ's called ministers - are to baptize.
- In an emergency, or when no pastor is available, any Christian may baptize.
- **1 Cor. 4**, "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries [Sacraments] of God."



Who Should Be Baptized?

- ❖ When our Lord said, "Go and make disciples of all nations," He meant that *all* people be taught His Word and baptized - regardless of age, sex, color, or race.

Who Should Be Baptized?

- ❖ Included in "all nations," is also the Baptism of babies.
- ❖ St. Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and **for your children** and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2)

Why Else Do We Baptize Babies?

- ❖ Because, babies are sinful.
- ❖ And, because, the Holy Spirit can and does create faith in children.

Why Else Do We Baptize Babies?

- ❖ Because, babies are sinful.
 - ❖ **Ps. 51**, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."
 - ❖ **Eph. 2**, "We were by nature children of wrath."
- ❖ And, because, the Holy Spirit can and does create faith in children.

Why Else Do We Baptize Babies?

- ❖ Because, babies are sinful.
- ❖ And, because, the Holy Spirit can and does create faith in children.
 - ❖ **Ps. 22**, "Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God."
 - ❖ **Matt. 18**, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."
 - ❖ **Matt. 21**, "Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise."
 - ❖ **Matt. 11**, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children."

Baptism and Teaching

- ❖ When Jesus instituted Baptism, He connected teaching and Baptism. So,
 - ❖ Those who are able to be instructed before Baptism usually are. See Acts 2, 8, and 16.
 - ❖ Infants and young children are baptized as soon as possible, and are instructed in the faith as they are able. See Lk. 18:15-17 and Mk. 10:13-15.
- ❖ Baptismal sponsors help with this by praying for the Baptized, supporting them in the faith, and being examples to them of the life of faith.

Look Out: Not All Baptisms are Baptism

- ❖ Not all churches believe Christ's Word about Baptism. Baptisms where the words are changed or the effects of Baptism are denied are not Baptism. Neither are Baptisms are those done in churches that don't believe in the Trinity.
- ❖ However, wherever Baptism is administered according to Christ's institution, using water and the words "in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," it is a valid Baptism.

What if I'm Not Sure I'm Baptized?

- ❖ If you are uncertain whether you've been Baptized and no record can be found, talk to the pastor about being Baptized.

For Next Week:

Find out where and when you were Baptized;
Memorize *What Benefits Does Baptism Give?*

