



There are repeated calls from pastors and laity to return to fundamentals—helping people understand why we do what we do as a synod. We hear you. In response to this, the Director of Communications (Dr. T) connects with pastors and have these *Conversations*.

You may have noticed that while we are in the month of January—marking a new year, the Church’s year began earlier, with Advent. As we open our *Conversation*, we put this question to Pastor Quast*:

Dr. T: *Why doesn’t the Church year follow the secular calendar?*

Rev. Quast: The Church year is intentionally out of sync with the secular calendar, leading us more deeply into the life and saving work of Jesus Christ year after year.

Just as societies mark important events with calendars, the Church has long done the same, commemorating the great acts of salvation.

The Church year centers on what God has done for us in Christ.

Its lectionary draws us into Scripture season by season, shaping our worship and faith. Over time, this rhythm forms us—how we pray, live, and understand the world—rooted in Holy Scripture.

**Pastor Jacob Quast was a parish pastor for over 20 years, and now serves as the Director of Domestic Missions for Lutheran Church-Canada.*

In our next *Conversation*, we continue our journey back to basics, exploring ‘What exactly is the *Church year*’.