



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*.

In our last entry, Pastor Quast explained why the Church year does not follow the secular year. This raises two other important questions that the Director of Communications (Dr. T) puts to Pr. Teuscher* in today's *Conversation*:

Dr. T: *What exactly is the Church year and why do we follow it?*

Pr. Teuscher: As the civic calendar revolves around the sun in the skies – spring, summer, fall, and winter; so, the church calendar revolves around the “Sun of Righteousness” (Mal 4:4), our Lord Jesus Christ who, as the writer of Hebrews declares, “is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb 13:8).

These two calendars, however, are not mutually exclusive. For instance, as nature experiences its annual ‘death’ in the fall and winter (at least in the northern hemisphere); the church year focuses on judgement and the death of this world as we know it.

When the winter solstice takes place and the sun begins its ascent, the church celebrates at Christmas the coming in our flesh of the Son of God, the “Light of the world” (Jn 8:12). The ‘rebirth’ of nature in the spring is paralleled by the resurrection of our Lord at Easter. The Pentecost or Trinity season carries out the image of our life in Christ when the summer fields are ripe with the fruits of God’s creation.

In short, the church year centers on what God has done and continues to do for us; and, as such, it serves to determine the priorities and activities of congregations and her members.

**Rev. Dr. Timothy Teuscher has served two terms as Lutheran Church—Canada's president, serving from 2017.*

In our next *Conversation*, we continue our journey back to basics, with a 'follow spotlight' on our pastors during the divine worship services. Have you ever wondered *why* they do what they do?