



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 our synodical pastors have very deliberate movements during our divine worship services. In today's *Conversation*, our Director of Communications (Dr. T) explores this with Rev. Jacob Quast:

Dr. T: *Are pastors' movements during services purely ritualistic?*

Rev. Quast: While pastor's movements during the Divine Service may indeed be ritualistic (bowing, lifting up of hands, gestures, etc.) they are not MERELY ritualistic, but serve to convey deeper meaning as to what is happening in the Divine Service as God comes to be with us in time and space to deliver His gifts to us and we respond with sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.

For example, bowing or genuflecting as one approaches the altar, or in response to the Holy Triune name of God, is a way of demonstrating the honour and reverence that Christians have for the Name and presence of God—the Name which saves us from our sins.

Rev. 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 explore this further, wanting to know *what do some of these things mean?*