



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, Rev. Quast explained that pastors' movements during worship services are not merely ritualistic, but there are deeper meanings behind them. In today's *Conversation*, our Director of Communications (Dr. T) explores this further with Rev. Jacob Quast:

**Dr. T:** *Why do pastors geographically stand in one location at different points during the service and even face specific locations at other points?*

**Rev. Quast:** Pastors' movements also convey meaning throughout the Divine Service. While this may vary from specific church to church depending on how it is architecturally constructed, pastors will often begin the Divine Service outside of the chancel area (the area immediately surrounding the altar).

Following the Invocation and Confession and Absolution, the pastor will then move from the nave (outside the chancel) to the Sanctuary (inside the chancel) as the forgiveness of sins has been pronounced, we are then worthy to enter into the presence of the divine (signified by the altar—the very place where the Lord comes to us with His body and blood in bread and wine in the holy sacrament).

Pastors will speak from different areas for different purposes throughout the service: lectern to read the Holy Scriptures; pulpit to preach the Word of God; before the altar to offer up the prayers of the church to our Lord, in addition to consecrating the elements for Holy Communion.

Note that when the pastor is speaking on God's behalf, he will face the people (speaking God's Word, proclaiming blessing, etc.), but when he is speaking on behalf of God's people, he will face the altar (confessing the Creed, offering up prayers and petitions, etc.).

*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 continue our journey back to basics, exploring *why* do we do what we do?