



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, we began exploring pastors' movements during the Divine Service and began learning that they are not as random as we probably thought. The Director of Communications (Dr. T) continues this *Conversation* with Rev. David Haberstock:

**Dr. T:** [Can you say more about the theological significance of the pastor's direction and movements during the Lutheran Divine Service?](#)

**Rev. Haberstock:** Historically, Lutherans have distinguished between parts of the Divine Service as 'sacramental' or 'sacrificial'. Sacramental actions are actions and words which are spoken on behalf of God to the people (absolution, blessings, proclaiming the Word). Sacrificial actions are those which are spoken on behalf of the congregation to God (confession of sins, confession of faith, prayers, praises).

During Sacramental parts of the service the pastor faces the people, and during sacrificial parts of the service the pastor faces the altar. Many parts of the Service may be both sacramental and sacrificial (such as the *Introit*, or the *Invocation*) and so you will sometimes see pastors doing either. In the case of the Invocation to face the people would be to bless the people with the name of God, whereas to face the altar would be to remember with the whole congregation that the pastor too comes before God as one of the baptized.

With all this turning around, it would be easy to simply turn in circles. For particularly observant people this can be off putting, so there is a rule of thumb to consistently turn from the altar to the right and back to the altar by the left. This prevents the pastors from “turning in circles” until the final benediction when he turns from the altar toward the congregation, completing the circle.

*Rev. David Haberstock was ordained in 2004. He has been Regional Pastor of Central Region for 7 years and has served parishes in Ontario and Saskatchewan.*

In our next *Conversation*, we begin a new series on our journey back to basics . . .