



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*.

This week, we begin a new series; we go further back, exploring fundamentals of our Christian Faith: *God, Trinity, and Revelation*. Walking into any confessional Lutheran church, we will hear reference to the Trinity. What is that, or should the question be, ‘who is that?’ In today’s *Conversation*, the Director of Communications (Dr. T) puts one of these fundamental questions to Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee:

Dr. T: **Why does Christianity insist on the Trinity?**

Rev. Bugbee: The word “Trinity” is not mentioned anywhere in Scripture. At the same time, the teaching is deeply rooted in Scripture that the one and only God reveals Himself in three distinct “Persons,” Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The oneness of God is a bedrock truth of our faith (Deuteronomy 6:4) . . . “The Lord is One.” Yet in leaving our world, Jesus commanded that people be baptized into this faith “in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). The Scripture gives divine Names and honours to all three of these “Persons.”

There are religious groups which appear to be Christian and seem very pious which deny the Trinity. They may make much of the fact that the word “Trinity” does not appear in the Bible. If you dig deeper, you’ll generally find that people in those cases aren’t just avoiding a word (Trinity), but deny the Biblical teaching that Jesus is truly God (John 1:1; John 10:30; Romans 9:5). The Scripture similarly makes clear that the Holy Spirit is truly God (Acts 5:3-4). Thus, faithful Christians joyfully cling to this term, Trinity, because it is a shorthand expression for clear Scriptural teaching.

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee serves as pastor of First Lutheran Church and Christian Academy in Windsor, Ontario. He is a Past President of Lutheran Church-Canada (2008-2018).

As the *Conversations* continue, one pastor adds: “Christianity has confessed and taught the Trinity since the very beginning; it is not a modern invention. As one theologian puts it: The doctrine of the Trinity is so complex and mysterious that no one would or could ever invent it. . .” We have been talking about the Trinity, but let’s not take it for granted that we know who God is. We’ll explore that in our next *Conversation*.