

ABOUT THE COVER

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER–NOVEMBER — QUARTER 4 2026

September 6, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Every single little sheep in the Lord's flock is precious to Him. He, like a shepherd in search of his lost sheep, is willing to go to great lengths to find every missing sheep. You are also precious to Your Savior, who laid down His life for you on the cross (John 10:17). He knows you by name (John 10:3). He has gone to great lengths to find you, who was once lost. But today, you are found, and there is great rejoicing!

September 13, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Forgiveness cannot be quantified. The unforgiving servant in Jesus' parable shows that disregarding his own forgiveness results in withholding it from fellow servants. But forgiveness is to be given just as it has been received. Our debt of sin could not be overcome by us. But Christ paid what we could not by His death on the cross. Therefore, the abundance of His forgiveness leads us to forgive one another abundantly.

September 20, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The weight of our sin can only be lifted by the Lord. How blessed are we, His children, to know that He desires to forgive us abundantly! There is no sin too great for His grace and pardon. Christ's love is so abundant for us that He died for us before we even had a say in the matter (Romans 5:8). So, by faith in His promises, we receive the abundant life-giving benefits of His death and resurrection forever.

September 27, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The Israelites thought they could weigh the scales of justice and found God at fault. However, the Israelites ignored God's Law, which showed their ways to be unjust. We cannot tip the scales of justice in our favor by disregarding God's Law, which condemns sinners to death. God, however, does not take pleasure in death. He desires mercy. In Christ, both perfect justice and perfect mercy were delivered when He took the sin of the world upon Himself and suffered the punishment for our sin in our place.

October 4, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The wicked tenants thought that by killing the heir, they would gain the vineyard and its fruit. Christ's parable was about how He, the only Son of God, would be rejected by both His own and the world. Yet the irony is that Christ's crucifixion at the hands of sinners was actually God's work and the means to offer freely the fruits of His death and resurrection. By faith, we receive a wonderful gift from God—the inheritance of eternal life through the forgiveness of sins—even though we do not deserve it.

October 11, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Isaiah gives us the vision of the great feast on the Lord's holy mountain that will be given to us on the great day of the Lord. It will be a feast filled with all the best food and drink for all people. However, according to Isaiah's prophecy, the Lord will be consuming a meal as well. He will swallow up death and will wipe away our tears (Isaiah 25:8). This is our promise in Christ, who has already defeated death by His death on the cross and resurrection. He drank from the cup of His suffering and death to give to us the cup of salvation (Matthew 26:39; Psalm 116:13).

October 18, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The Pharisees' question over taxes was meant to trap Jesus as either an unfaithful Jew or a political threat to the Roman government. However, Jesus astonished them all with His answer. God reigns over all things, even governments. So, yes, we are to pay our taxes, but we owe our whole lives to our Lord, who gave His whole life for us on the cross, paying for our sins in full.

October 25, 2026



Reformation Day

About the Cover: The Reformation was all about abiding in the Word of our Lord. Martin Luther did just that during his rediscovery of the Gospel, which resides plainly in the Lord's words of forgiveness. This forgiveness has been won for us by Jesus' death on the cross and delivered to us in His words. His words come to us with the water of Baptism to bring the power of His presence. Because of His Word, wherever we go, we know that Jesus is there. Wherever Jesus is, we also have truth and freedom.

November 1, 2026



All Saints' Day

About the Cover: "Let the godly exult in glory." All the saints bask in the glory of the Lord. He enlivens them eternally. They sing of all that Christ accomplished when He died on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. So, on this All Saints' Day, let us join them in this eternal anthem, praising our Savior. He has made us among the godly not because of our works, but because of His forgiving work for us and all the saints of the Lord.

November 8, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The day of the Lord is not a day of light but of darkness for the complacent who have abandoned the ways of the Lord. God's Law strikes the knell of coming judgment. That Law is in our hearts today. But through prophets like Amos, the Lord gives us His Word so that we will repent before the day of judgment, turn from our sin, and turn toward our Savior. The fear of the dark day of judgment is removed in the light of Christ alone (John 8:12).

November 15, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: The great day of judgment cannot be treated as if it is a day that will be delayed. Whether the end of this earthly life or the return of the Lord comes first, we ought to be sober-minded in waiting for its arrival (1 Thessalonians 5:6). However, we who believe in Christ need not be afraid. For in Christ, the day of judgment has already come at His cross, where He made full atonement for our sins. So, we look only to Him. "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

November 22, 2026



Pentecost

About the Cover: Another Church Year has come to an end, reminding us that this world will also come to an end. All will be raised. Unbelievers will be raised to eternal judgment. But for all who are in Christ, "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep," the day of resurrection will be the end of death itself (1 Corinthians 15:20). The last enemy will be no more since Christ was raised to never die again (Romans 6:9). All believers shall be raised to eternal life.

November 29, 2026



Advent

About the Cover: Jesus came in the name of the Lord in a way that no one ever has or ever will. Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, came in humility in His incarnation to finish His course to win the forgiveness of sins for all people. He also comes to impart His blessing to us in Holy Baptism, when the triune name is placed on us. On the Last Day, He will come again to gather all who now bear this name by faith into eternal blessing!