

ABOUT THE COVER

DECEMBER–JANUARY–FEBRUARY — QUARTER 1 2027

December 6, 2026



Advent

About the Cover: Isaiah foretold long ago, “A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD’” (Isaiah 40:3). John appeared in camel’s hair and a leather belt, like Elijah, preparing for the advent of Christ. Jesus came not in the grand display of earthly might but in the lowliness of a servant who went all the way to the cross, taking the world’s sin upon Himself to do the mighty work of salvation for us.

December 13, 2026



Advent

About the Cover: Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, and giving thanks in all circumstances often seem like tall tasks in this life of waiting. However, the rejoicing that Paul speaks of springs forth from knowing “the will of God in Christ Jesus” to save us through Christ’s death and resurrection (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Because of Christ, we know that the sadness and circumstances of this world are not greater than Jesus. For nothing can separate us from “the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).

December 20, 2026



Advent

About the Cover: The mystery of God’s plan of salvation was revealed to Mary as the angel Gabriel appeared to her. The Savior of the nations was to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to Mary. This mystery could not remain a secret. For Christ was born, grew, ministered in public, died, and rose to forgive us and give us everlasting life. This message has gone out to the nations and continues to spread to this day.

December 27, 2026



Christmas

About the Cover: Simeon’s long wait was finally over. His peace to depart was wrapped up in his arms. The presence of Christ brings eternal peace by what He has accomplished through His death on the cross and His resurrection. So, Christ’s presence still brings us peace today when He delivers His forgiveness to us in Word and Sacrament. It is fitting that we often join in singing Simeon’s words after the Lord’s Supper, for the peace of the world has come to us in His body and blood.

January 3, 2027



Christmas

About the Cover: God’s wisdom and insight are right before us in His Holy Writ. For His Word reveals to us the mystery of His will to save us by Christ Jesus, who was born to us, went to the cross, suffered, died, and rose from the dead to win for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Because of all this, the mystery of God’s will has been revealed. We must proclaim near and far that Jesus is the only Savior of the world.

January 10, 2027



Epiphany

About the Cover: The triune God was present in creation as the Spirit hovered over the waters. That same Spirit descended upon Christ when He came out of the water, having been baptized by John. The voice of God from heaven and the Spirit descending on Jesus in the form of a dove confirm that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, come to restore all creation. Jesus, true God and true man, joined Himself to sinners through His Baptism and went to the cross, where He died in our place as the perfect and sinless sacrifice to redeem us and all of creation. In our Baptism, even the triune name is placed on us!

January 17, 2027



Epiphany

About the Cover: Nathanael was amazed at Jesus' prior knowledge of him. But Jesus had more in store for Nathanael, and He has more in store for us. His knowledge of Nathanael was just a foretaste of greater things. Jesus is the Savior of the world. He has opened heaven to us by going to the cross, dying, and rising again to bring us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Every time we receive God's Word and Sacrament, we get a foretaste of heaven. Christ delivers to us what He has promised.

January 24, 2027



Epiphany

About the Cover: Christ has been revealed and has accomplished the once-for-all sacrifice for us on the cross (Hebrews 10:10–13). After Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection, the last days began, meaning we should treat each day as if it is the day of Christ's return. For no one knows the day or hour (Mark 13:32). Yet, at the same time, we know that all time, including eternity in heaven, is in His hands.

January 31, 2027



Epiphany

About the Cover: When Jesus taught in the synagogue, His words accomplished what they set out to do, even casting out a demon. He speaks with the authority of God because He is God in the flesh. It was by His authority that He laid down His life and took it up again (John 10:18). It is also by His authority that He forgives sinners, delivering what He accomplished through His death on the cross and His resurrection.

February 7, 2027



Transfiguration

About the Cover: The glory of Christ radiantly shone forth on the Mount of Transfiguration, showing Him to be the beloved Son of God. Both Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus has come to restore the image of God to humanity. Amazingly, His glory was made manifest after He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration to ascend another mountain, Calvary. For it was there that Jesus suffered gloriously in order to redeem us.

February 14, 2027



Lent

About the Cover: The season of Lent provides us time to reflect on the Lord's provision through all times, even trials. Christ Jesus is the one who wore the crown of thorns and remained perfectly steadfast for us through His cross in order to win for us the crown of life with Him forever. So God gives blessed promises of the crown of life to those who remain steadfast in His Word. We depend on our Lord Jesus alone, who sustains us in all things.

February 21, 2027



Lent

About the Cover: God makes the impossible happen. He promised Abraham and Sarah a child, even in their old age. As sure as God made the promise, God fulfilled it in the birth of Isaac, filling Abraham and Sarah with joy. Although Lent is a time of penitential reverence, we know that times of joy will come, for God always fulfills His promises, especially when He sent the Savior, who suffered, died, and rose for us!

February 28, 2027



Lent

About the Cover: God's jealousy is not like our jealousy. It is different. God's desire to have us serve Him and Him alone is for our good so that He may give us every good gift that we need. There is only one true God, and He is the only one who can give us life. So the Father sent His Son to give His own life for us on the cross so that He could give us forgiveness and life in full by faith.