

ABOUT THE COVER

DECEMBER–JANUARY–FEBRUARY — QUARTER 1 2026

December 7, 2025



Advent

About the Cover: From his clothing to his diet, John certainly stood out as his voice echoed in the wilderness. However, John’s voice did not stand out because of him. His call to repent was all about preparing the way for Christ, the stand-alone Savior of the world. For Christ alone is the one who has taken all of our sins upon Himself and atoned for them on the cross.

December 14, 2025



Advent

About the Cover: Jesus responded to John’s question concerning His identity by pointing to the scriptural prophecies in Isaiah. “The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them” (Matthew 11:5). When we have questions, the Lord wants us to go back to His sure Word. His Word alone brings faith in Him and reminds us of the forgiveness of sins and salvation that He accomplished for us through His death on the cross and resurrection.

December 21, 2025



Advent

About the Cover: The loving gaze of a mother upon her child is a special thing. When Mary looked into the eyes of her newborn, she was looking into the eyes of God, and He was looking back at her. Jesus is Immanuel, which means “God with us.” He looks upon us with His infinite and never-ending love. He poured out His love on the cross in order to forgive our sins and have us forever.

December 28, 2025



Christmas

About the Cover: We were all born as slaves under the Law because of our sin. There was no way we could free ourselves. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4–5). Jesus came to earth to rescue us and make us sons and heirs of God!

January 4, 2026



Christmas

About the Cover: By God’s gift, no mere man has arisen with wisdom like Solomon. However, Jesus is Himself Wisdom. He is not merely wise in a human way like Solomon; He is the very source of all wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:24). He showed this when He taught the teachers in Jerusalem as a boy. No one will ever arise like Him. For Jesus alone is the only Savior of the world. He makes us wise unto salvation by way of His work on the cross and resurrection.

January 11, 2026



Epiphany

About the Cover: When the Spirit descended upon Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, it marked the beginning of His public ministry and His mission to head to the cross to fulfill God’s plan. Jesus is the servant mentioned in Isaiah. He followed the Father’s will perfectly, even suffering for our sake. By our Baptism into Jesus, we have received all that Jesus accomplished in His mission because the same Spirit, through the Word, brings us to believe in Him.

January 18, 2026



Epiphany

About the Cover: In the Divine Service, we are called and also call. Every service begins with the Invocation, a reminder that God calls us His in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we are all called saints and made holy by faith in the One who died and rose for us. The Lord has made us His. We call upon Him in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving!

January 25, 2026



Epiphany

About the Cover: Christ walked among the people in Zebulun and Naphtali in Galilee as He fulfilled God's promises and brought the kingdom of heaven to those who sat in darkness. Christ is among us by His Word, and His light still shines today, calling us out of the darkness of our sin and into the light of the Gospel of forgiveness.

February 1, 2026



Epiphany

About the Cover: Looking up to a man hanging on a cross is considered foolishness to many people in this world. God's Word teaches us that, by faith, we see in Christ's work on the cross the power of God, which brings us forgiveness and salvation. Because of the powerful work of Christ on the cross, we see that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Forgiveness is only found in Jesus, God's Son, who died on the cross to forgive our sins.

February 8, 2026



Epiphany

About the Cover: Like rays of light stretching out over the horizon, the Lord promises that repentance and sincerity will be met with a new dawn filled with righteousness, healing, and the Lord's protection. Jesus has entered into the darkness of our sin through His death on the cross, but the break of a new day came on the first Easter morning to show us that He lives to bring us His righteousness, healing, and protection.

February 15, 2026



Transfiguration

About the Cover: Terrified disciples with their faces to the ground felt the touch of their merciful Lord. The power of the sight of the transfigured Lord is only matched by the power of His mercy, which removes fear. His glory is found on His cross, where He gave His life for the sake of sinners and rose from the dead, forever removing the terror of judgment for sin and giving eternal peace through forgiveness, life, and salvation.

February 22, 2026



Lent

About the Cover: In eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam disobeyed God and brought sin into God's good creation. Christ, however, followed the will of His Father all the way to death upon a tree, taking the curse of sin to bring the renewed creation. Now, the cross has become a life-giving tree for all who believe in Christ Jesus.