

2009 “ABOUT THE COVER” COPY  
EVERY SUNDAY BULLETINS  
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-QUARTER 4

September 6, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** Flowers and children are not the only things God has done well. Just ask the daughter of the Syrophenician woman and the deaf man in today’s Gospel. In fact, look at the miracles God does in our lives—good reason to join the chorus: “He has done all things well” (Mark 7:37). The “all things” includes Christ’s death and resurrection for our salvation. Nothing more to add but “Amen!”

September 13, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** The realities of life often sink us into the depths of disaster, disease, despair; and we turn to God in prayer with our “ifs”—“If You, Lord, can do anything, then deliver me.” That little “if” betrays our lack of faith. Better that we pray as the father prayed, “I believe; help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24). As Jesus strengthened that man’s faith, so He strengthens ours through His Word and Sacrament.

September 20, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** Who’s the greatest? To answer, we look at our mirrors, our titles, our successes. God defines greatness with words like “last,” “servant,” “least.” We don’t measure up to such definitions. Thus God answers by placing a child, His Son, Jesus, into our midst, to be “delivered into the hands of men” (Matthew 17:22), to be killed, and then to be raised from the dead—all as Servant for us.

September 27, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** The great power of prayer is located in the faith of the righteous person, the one who has been made right with God because of the saving work of Jesus Christ. The faith of the righteous person is located in the God who is able to answer prayer and does so every day.

October 4, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** The disciples were trying to put children in their place on Jesus’ agenda, yet He placed children in the center of God’s kingdom and love. Why? Because children, like adults, are in need of God’s salvation. To receive the kingdom of God like a little child is to realize that we are in the center of God’s love, to know that through the saving work of Jesus we are made children of the heavenly Father.

October 11, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** Prices are too high—at gas pumps, grocery stores, and anywhere else you look. The cost of living is more than the cost of goods; it is the cost of following Jesus. Left to ourselves, we are no different from the rich young man who can’t give it all up. Despite that fact, Jesus loved him. Thank God that His Son, Jesus, gave up His life on the cross to pay the high cost of living for us.

October 18, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** It is difficult, in fact, impossible, to serve God and our neighbor if our hands are filled with possessions, if our hearts are filled with ego and sin—impossible for us sinners, but not for God. Christ’s forgiveness, won for us on His cross, rids us of our sin, loosens and opens our grip on things, and makes it possible for us to pray: “Lord, Thee I love with all my heart.”

October 25, 2009



**Reformation Day**

**About the Cover:** Any castle, even the Coburg Castle once visited by Martin Luther, is a great defense against attacks. To withstand the attacks of Satan, who uses sin, guilt, and death to defeat us, we need an even greater defense—our holy and just God, who sent His Son to be our justifier. With Christ’s death on the cross, our sin, guilt, and death are defeated along with Satan. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word.

November 1, 2009



**All Saints' Day**

**About the Cover:** The great tympanum over the door of the cathedral in Chartres, France, shows Christ sitting on His throne at the Last Judgment. He is surrounded by four beasts representing the Gospel writers and then by various saints who are there because Christ has redeemed them. This small picture gives us a glimpse of that day when all believers will gather around Christ’s throne.

November 8, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** The widow giving everything she had sets the bar quite high for our giving. What covers our shortcomings is the all that Christ gave with His death and resurrection. With forgiveness, His cross gives us life. His cross changes our view of money: no longer a god, but means for thanking God for the riches of His mercy.

November 15, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** Autumn leaves remind us that the evening of the year is soon coming with its short days and longer nights. But the morning will come—the day when the stones shall cry out in praise as those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake to stand before the throne of the One who has redeemed them with His blood.

November 22, 2009



**Pentecost**

**About the Cover:** This Last Sunday in the Church Year prepares us for the Last Day, when Christ will come as judge of all. We know that we are guilty. The only way we can stand blameless before God is to believe in Jesus. Washed in His blood, we stand before Him. The cover painting is from *Growing in Christ*, CPH’s Sunday School curriculum.

November 29, 2009



**Advent**

**About the Cover:** It’s the most wonderful time of the year. Preparations and presents, food and festivities all mark these pre-Christmas days of Advent. Palm branches also mark these days, for they remind us of the One we are preparing to meet—Jesus Christ, who comes to redeem us. Blessed indeed is His coming!