



The Wartburg Project

News Letter April 2015

The Wartburg Project[™] is a group of WELS and ELS pastors, professors, teachers, and laypeople who are working together to produce a new translation of the Bible in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

A lot is happening, so it is hard to keep up. The appendices to this letter provide more information on fast-moving developments.

- The Wartburg Project includes more than 100 participants from ELS and WELS who have volunteered to work on the translation in some capacity. By God's grace, the participants have grown by working with God's Word, and the Wartburg Project translation has progressed at a promising pace. Draft translations have been completed for 45 books of the Bible. There are only 2 books on which work has not yet begun. It is anticipated that a draft translation will be complete on all New Testament books, with many books in the process of technical review, editing, and synchronization by early this summer. See the progress chart, Appendix 1.
- As a result of the progress made on the New Testament, the Wartburg Project was able to make available a downloadable *Passion History* for pastors to use during the Lenten season. More than a 1,000 copies have been downloaded from the NPH website. The download granted rights for unlimited reprints for congregational use, and the readings are being widely used, as far away as Australia. This gives hundreds of WELS, ELS, and other Lutheran congregations an opportunity to offer input on a Bible translation. We will interact with some of this feedback in our online FAQs.
- In addition, draft translations of Matthew and Psalms are still available from Amazon. We will be able to update these versions in the not too distant future. Additional sample translations will appear from time to time.
- NPH has designed and WP has accepted the style and layout for the Reformation Anniversary edition. We hope to show you a couple of samples soon.
- To keep on schedule for the hoped-for 2017 edition of the New Testament and Psalms we will have to set deadlines for input for the 2017 edition. See Appendix 2.
- NPH and WP are developing formatting guidelines for our formatters and copyreaders. We will also share those with translators and reviewers, although the main responsibility for pulling this all together remains with the editors at various levels.

- With so many books under review our rubrics are expanding constantly. An update is being posted this week, and there will be extensive additions as we finalize the Pentateuch.
- Our English stylists who have been waiting patiently for us to get manuscripts to the final phase have begun to provide their valuable input on style and grammar.
- Though our focus remains on a positive emphasis on production of our own translation, Bible readers who wish to do so will have ample opportunity over the next two years to practice the “eclectic principle” adopted by the last synod convention. The new NIV Study Bible is scheduled to appear this year. Concordia Publishing House continues to produce materials linked to the ESV, mostly notably the comprehensive *Lutheran Bible Companion*, designed for use with the ESV *Lutheran Study Bible*, but which can comfortably be used with versions other than ESV. The Holman Christian Standard Bible is accepting input on a major revision which apparently is scheduled for 2018. So between now and our target date of 2017 Bible readers will have abundant opportunity to compare various translations and their potential as bases for a Lutheran study Bible. We are happy to be part of the process.
- So what will the name of the Wartburg Project Bible be? You have an opportunity to offer your input. See Appendix 3 for the specifications for a contest to submit nominations for the name of our Bible.

Appendix 1

PROGRESS CHART

April 12, 2015

OLD TESTAMENT

Key:

Bold = completed initial draft

Blue = recently completed

*Asterisk = assigned or in progress, draft likely in 2015-2016

Red Italic = not yet assigned

Pentateuch	Historical I	Historical II	Poetical	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets
* <i>Genesis</i> Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua * Judges * Ruth <i>1 Samuel</i> <i>2 Samuel</i> * 1 Kings (ch 6-7) * 2 Kings <i>1 Chronicles</i> (ch 1-9, 23-26) <i>2 Chronicles</i> (ch 3-4)	Ezra Nehemiah <i>Esther</i>	<i>Job</i> Psalms Proverbs * Ecclesiastes ✓ Song of Songs	Isaiah 1-12 * Isaiah 13-39 Isaiah 40-66 * Jeremiah <i>Lamentations</i> Ezekiel Daniel	<i>Hosea</i> * Joel * Amos Obadiah * Jonah * Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai * Zechariah Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels – Acts	Epistles I	Epistles II & Prophetic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Matthew ✓ Mark ✓ Luke ✓ John Acts ✓ Passion History	Romans * 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians ✓ Galatians Ephesians ✓ Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus ✓ Philemon	Hebrews ✓ James 1 Peter 2 Peter ✓ 1 John ✓ 2 John ✓ 3 John Jude Revelation

Samples Published:

Matthew – Kindle (www.amazon.com) Psalms – Kindle (www.amazon.com)

Passion History – available from Northwestern Publishing House (<http://online.nph.net/>) **FREE PDF**

Completed Initial Drafts are in various phases of review and editing. The Wartburg Project process is rigorous and will take time. All books are reviewed by three technical reviewers and three popular reviewers and by a sectional editorial committee and by the final editorial board. Many others have the opportunity to provide input to the translation. After all of this input, we seek to produce the most accurate and clear translation we can.

APPENDIX 2 Deadlines

In order to meet the target publication date for our *promotional paperback edition of the NT and Psalms*, the following chart provides **input deadline dates** when input/suggestions/reviews need to be in to the New Testament Editor for each book of the NT. It is certainly helpful to receive the input before the deadline, because we have very limited time to consider it at that time, but we will do our best. Input that is not received by these dates almost certainly will not be included in the *first promotional edition* (unless it is a correction and we have the time left). Perhaps other input could be incorporated into *the first edition of full Bible*, which will be published at a later date. **Please turn in your input and suggestions as soon as you can. Thanks!**

Bible Books	Input Deadline
Matthew	4/1/2015
Mark	6/1/2015
Luke	6/1/2015
John	6/1/2015
Acts	6/1/2015
Romans	8/1/2015

1 Corinthians	8/1/2015
2 Corinthians	8/1/2015
Galatians	8/1/2015
Ephesians	8/1/2015
Philippians	8/1/2015
Colossians	9/1/2015
1 Thessalonians	9/1/2015
2 Thessalonians	9/1/2015
1 Timothy	9/1/2015
2 Timothy	9/1/2015
Titus	9/1/2015
Philemon	9/1/2015
Hebrews	9/1/2015
James	10/1/2015
1 Peter	10/1/2015
2 Peter	10/1/2015
1 John	10/1/2015
2 John	10/1/2015
3 John	10/1/2015
Jude	10/1/2015
Revelation	1/1/2016
Psalms	2/1/2016

APPENDIX 3 Bible Naming Contest

Wartburg Project

Bible Naming Contest

The Wartburg Project is inviting suggested names for our Bible translation(s). This may become part of the process of choosing a name for the translation(s). We have two major publications coming up and are considering options for names.

1. We are planning to publish a special promotional edition of the **New Testament and Psalms** in time for the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (by October 2017, God willing).
2. At a later date, Lord willing, we hope to publish our translation of the entire **Holy Bible**.

If you submit a suggested name, you are granting to *The Wartburg Project* the right to use the name you are submitting. It is possible that there could be one or more winners accepted as nominees. Each winner would receive a free copy of the Bible you helped us name.

Here are the criteria for the name:

1. It clearly needs to be the name of a Bible.
2. It needs to be a name that can be trademarked.
3. It needs to clearly establish a brand name that sets this particular Bible apart in the market.
4. It needs to have good initials, so it doesn't spell something that would not be helpful.
5. It should not be to "narrowly Lutheran" so that non-Lutherans would think it's a Bible only for Lutherans.
6. It could be a sub-title, such as "The Holy Bible: such and such version." Or, it could be a self-standing name like "The People's Bible." (Someone already thought of that one.)
7. It would be good for it to carry a meaning that doesn't require too much explanation.
8. The name should work comfortably for a variety of products. For example: The People's Bible, The People's Bible Commentary, The People's Study Bible, The People's Bible Lectionary, The People's Bible Atlas, etc. etc.
9. It should have a personal and grassroots appeal reflecting the nature of our project.
10. It should not be confused with other Bible products.

Submit nominations at our online email.