

A photograph of Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, featuring a prominent stone tower with a cross on top and half-timbered buildings on a hillside. The sky is clear blue, and there are green trees in the foreground.

The Wartburg Project

October Report
2016

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 called the *Evangelical Heritage Version™* or *EHV™*.

The Nature of Our Monthly Reports

How should readers use our monthly reports? They are like a monthly or quarterly magazine. Though email may be the mode of delivery, our monthly reports do not function like emails or letters—they are more in-depth reports for those who want to delve more deeply into the EHV process. As in any magazine or newspaper, people will page through them, look at the headlines, and skip the parts they are not interested in. Some items they may read later.

The parts may also be distributed through Facebook or other media. Some of the parts may

also be posted online in the library or in FAQs—this is analogous to putting WLQ articles in the essay file for later use.

Since we are always thinking long-term, it is seldom necessary for us to send out quick emails on “breaking news.” The next monthly letter is usually soon enough for an update.

An example is the update on the ESV in this issue. After our autumn issue was in press, the ESV reversed the decision which we discussed in the Autumn Extra. This month’s report carries an update.

Progress Report

The **editing** of the translations of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther is essentially complete except for additional proofreading. Work on Kings and Chronicles is nearing completion. Parallel texts in Kings and Chronicles have been harmonized to a considerable degree.

The **lectionaries** for the 2016-2017 church year (both those used in WELS and LCMS) are now “live” for downloading the lessons for examination or use. Announcements have gone out, but feel free to share this information with pastors

who may not be on our mailing list. A copy of one of the announcements is at the end of this report.

Final proofreading of the NPH setup for the 2017 edition of the NT and Psalms is well underway. The 500th anniversary is only a year away!

We have received acceptance notices for all of our EHV, Evangelical Heritage Version, and Wartburg **trademarks** from the US Patent and Trademark Office, and we have filed statements of use in interstate commerce.

Gospel Outreach with Media

hosted by the [Christ in Media Institute](#) at [Bethany Lutheran College](#), Mankato, Minnesota, USA

coordinated by [Tom and Judy Kuster](#)

Christ in Media Online Seminar

Gospel Outreach With Media, an online seminar presented by the Christ in Media Institute.

The EHV presentation *Between a Rock and A Hard Place* helps students understand the dilemma communicators face when they are addressing a diverse audience. It uses the tension between formal and informal grammar as an illustration of this problem. If a speaker says, “Who are you looking for?” some readers will say, “That is bad grammar.” If the speaker says, “For whom are you looking?” some readers will say, “That sounds so stuffy. Who talks like that?” The communicator is between a rock and a hard place. Whichever option the communicator chooses some readers won’t like it. How does the communicator deal with this dilemma? To join the discussion. go to [GOWM.org](#) between October 10 and October 31. The seminar and discussion remain posted after that, but there will be no longer be live discussion.

Part II of *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* deals with the sensitive issue of the blunt sexual language in some passages of the Bible. The Bible is most often euphemistic when dealing with sexual language, but there are some passages that are surprisingly graphic. People are often unaware of these because translations tend to hide them with euphemistic translations. How should we deal with these? This part of the discussion also presents the issue of the appropriate age for students to deal with this material. This is an important topic that young Christians (actually all Christians) must learn to deal with in a way that is both honest and tactful. Because of the sensitive nature of the topic, this module is not posted online, but must be requested by teachers or other adults from wpbrugj@gmail.com. This procedure gives teachers the opportunity to preview the material and decide what is appropriate for their setting. It allows for “teacher discretion” and helps them to avoid possible offense in their particular setting.



Gospel



Outreach



Media

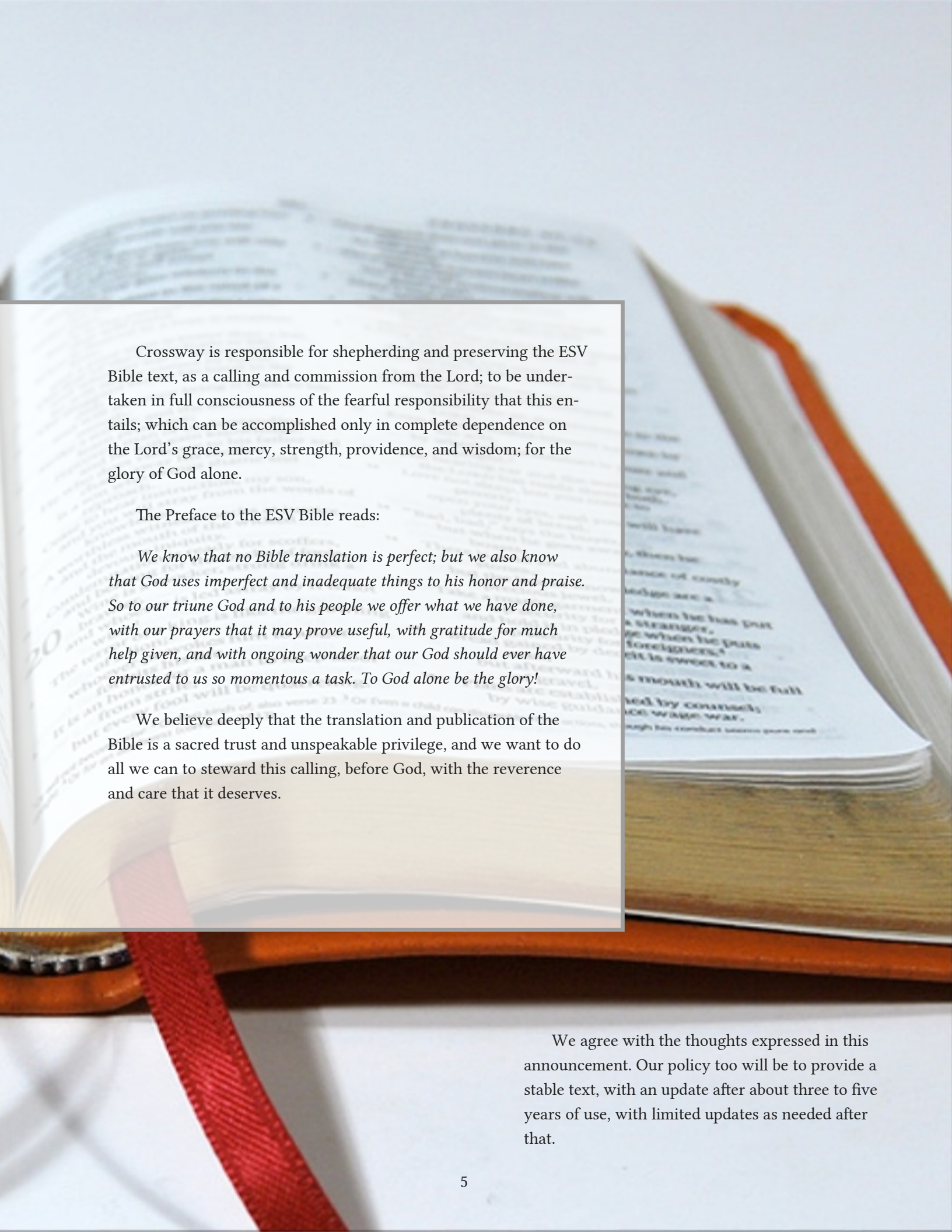
ESV Update

In our Autumn Extra we discussed the ESV's decision to freeze the text of their translation. We defended their right to make this decision, while saying we did not plan to go in that direction. After the Autumn Extra was in press the ESV reversed their decision. This is part of their press release.

In August 2016, we posted on our website that “the text of the ESV Bible will remain unchanged in all future editions printed and published by Crossway.” The goal behind this decision to make the text permanent was to stabilize the English Standard Version, serving its readership by establishing the ESV as a translation that could be used “for generations to come.” We desired for there to be a stable and standard text that would serve the reading, memorizing, preaching, and liturgical needs of Christians worldwide from one generation to another.

We have become convinced that this decision was a mistake. We apologize for this and for any concern this has caused for readers of the ESV, and we want to explain what we now believe to be the way forward. Our desire, above all, is to do what is right before the Lord.

Our goal at Crossway remains as strong as ever to serve future generations with a stable ESV text. But the means to that goal, we now see, is not to establish a permanent text but rather to allow for ongoing periodic updating of the text to reflect the realities of biblical scholarship such as textual discoveries or changes in English over time. These kinds of updates will be minimal and infrequent, but fidelity to Scripture requires that we remain open in principle to such changes, as the Crossway Board of Directors and the ESV Translation Oversight Committee see fit in years ahead.



Crossway is responsible for shepherding and preserving the ESV Bible text, as a calling and commission from the Lord; to be undertaken in full consciousness of the fearful responsibility that this entails; which can be accomplished only in complete dependence on the Lord's grace, mercy, strength, providence, and wisdom; for the glory of God alone.

The Preface to the ESV Bible reads:

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to our triune God and to his people we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task. To God alone be the glory!

We believe deeply that the translation and publication of the Bible is a sacred trust and unspeakable privilege, and we want to do all we can to steward this calling, before God, with the reverence and care that it deserves.

We agree with the thoughts expressed in this announcement. Our policy too will be to provide a stable text, with an update after about three to five years of use, with limited updates as needed after that.

New FAQs

No. 24 What is the review process for the EHV?

No. 25 Has anyone proposed the idea of having Lutherans work toward producing a Bible translation before the Wartburg Project?

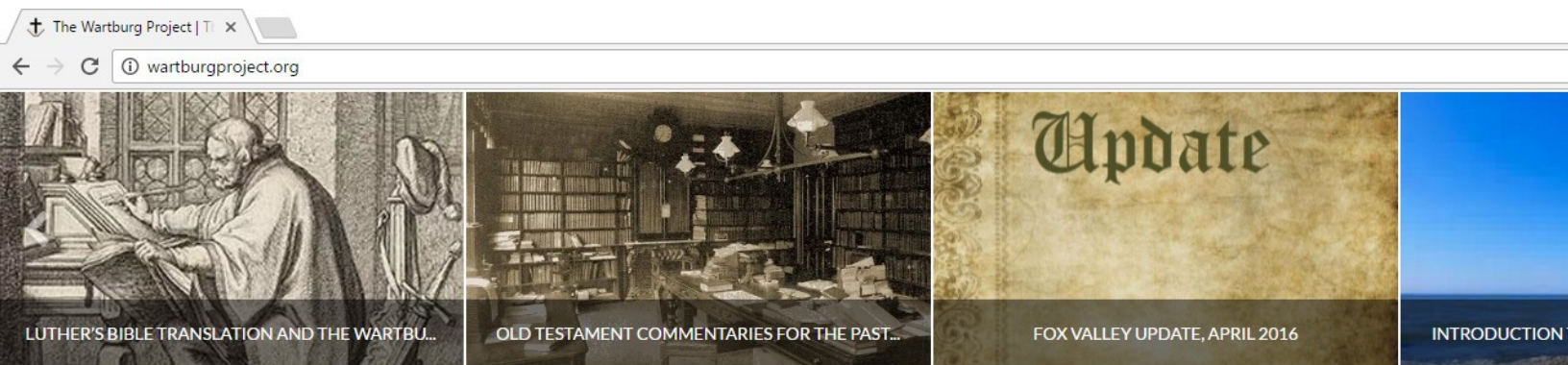
See our website, www.wartburgproject.org, for the answers to these and other frequently asked questions.

Website

See our website (wartburgproject.org) for more information relating to the EHV. See FAQ #15 on the Bible name. A paper explaining our name is posted in the “Library” section.

Sign up on the “Contact” page to receive free e-reports. Like us on Facebook to receive the latest updates posted there. (The purpose of our Facebook posting is not debate, but we’ve been able to

share information with many people very quickly that way.) We continue to be a “purely positive” effort, avoiding debates and controversy. We are just quietly and humbly trying our best to translate the Bible “to spread its light from age to age.” So far, so good! God has richly blessed us. To God be the glory and praise for all of his blessings!



The Wartburg Project is a 501(c)(3) parasynodical organization in fellowship with WELS/ELS. It includes more than 100 participants [pastors, professors, teachers, laypeople] from WELS/ELS.



NOW AVAILABLE!

Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)

Scripture Lessons for Worship

Pastors and congregations can now download EHV Scripture lessons for use in worship, sermons, and Bible classes. The first lessons available are for Advent 2016. From that point on, Lord willing, our website will provide Scripture lessons for lectionaries in EHV text. Pastors and congregations may use these free of charge. Lessons for the following lectionaries are offered:

- *Christian Worship (CW)* - 1 Year
- *Christian Worship (CW)* – 3 Year
- *Christian Worship Supplement (CWS)* – 3 Year
- *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* – 1 Year
- *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* – 3 Year

These lessons are offered in **Word** (docx), **PDF**, and **RTF** formats.

Find them online at wartburgproject.org/lectionaries

Copyright Information

Downloading these resources gives the user permission to copy this material for use within a congregation, school, or organization. The copyrighted material may be inserted into congregational bulletins or copied for use in classes. The copyrighted material may not be sold or posted online without permission from the Wartburg Project. However, no permission is necessary to post EHV text online if it is part of sermons or bulletins that are posted online.

The EHV text may be quoted (in written, visual, or electronic form) up to and inclusive of one

thousand (1,000) verses without written permission, providing that the verses quoted do not amount to a complete book of the Bible nor do the verses quoted account for 50 percent or more of the total text of the work in which they are quoted. When quotations from the EHV text are used in non-saleable media, such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies, or similar media, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials (EHV) should appear in connection with the quotation.

October 2016

PROGRESS CHART

| Key | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| ✓ | Completed for publishing |
| ● | Tech review complete |
| ○ | Completed initial draft |
| + | Assigned or in progress |

OLD TESTAMENT

| Pentateuch | Historical I | Historical II | Poetical | Major Prophets | Minor Prophets |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| ✓ Genesis | ✓ Joshua | ✓ Ezra | + Job | ○ Isaiah | ○ Hosea |
| ✓ Exodus | ✓ Judges | ✓ Nehemiah | ✓ Psalms | ○ Jeremiah | ○ Joel |
| ✓ Leviticus | ✓ Ruth | ✓ Esther | ● Proverbs | ○ Lamentations | ○ Amos |
| ✓ Numbers | ✓ 1 Samuel | | ● Ecclesiastes | ○ Ezekiel | ● Obadiah |
| ✓ Deuteronomy | ✓ 2 Samuel | | ✓ Song of Songs | ○ Daniel | ○ Jonah |
| | ● 1 Kings | | | | ○ Micah |
| | ● 2 Kings | | | | ● Nahum |
| | ● 1 Chronicles | | | | ● Habakkuk |
| | ● 2 Chronicles | | | | ● Zephaniah |
| | | | | | ● Haggai |
| | | | | | + Zechariah |
| | | | | | ● Malachi |

NEW TESTAMENT

| Gospels — Acts | Epistles I | Epistles II and Prophetic |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Matthew | ✓ Romans | ✓ Hebrews |
| ✓ Mark | ✓ 1 Corinthians | ✓ James |
| ✓ Luke | ✓ 2 Corinthians | ✓ 1 Peter |
| ✓ John | ✓ Galatians | ✓ 2 Peter |
| ✓ Acts | ✓ Ephesians | ✓ 1 John |
| | ✓ Philippians | ✓ 2 John |
| ✓ Passion History | ✓ Colossians | ✓ 3 John |
| | ✓ 1 Thessalonians | ✓ Jude |
| | ✓ 2 Thessalonians | ✓ Revelation |
| | ✓ 1 Timothy | |
| | ✓ 2 Timothy | |
| | ✓ Titus | |
| | ✓ Philemon | |

Completed Initial Drafts are in various phases of review and editing. The Wartburg Project process is rigorous and will take time. Some books are being carefully checked by “technical reviewers.” Other books are being read by “popular reviewers.” After all of this input, we seek to produce the most accurate and clear translation we can.

We are on track to publish a New Testament and Psalms special preview edition in 2017, God willing.