

The Wartburg Project List of Biblical Resources For Lutheran Teachers and Bible Students 2021

This listing of biblical resources was prepared with elementary and high school teachers in mind. We hope this list will help them make decisions about which volumes to buy on a tight budget. This listing is certainly not exhaustive. It merely aims to provide a selection of options. Many more books could be mentioned. New volumes appear constantly.

Volumes marked with an asterisk (*) are recommended for purchase. That does not mean total agreement with everything stated in that book. It also does not mean that there is nothing useful in the other books listed. Often the ones marked with an asterisk are simply more useful for confessional Lutheran teachers.

Volumes marked with a double asterisk (**) are especially recommended for confessional Lutheran teachers.

Study Bibles/ Single-Volume Commentaries/Handbooks

***EHV Study Bible* – We believe this study Bible will meet most of the needs of elementary school teachers for class preparation. When displayed on a landscape screen, the computer edition presents the biblical text on the left half of the screen and shows notes, textual variants, maps, and color pictures on the right half of the screen. The notes will scroll along with the text. There are also resource articles on an array of topics. It works very well on classroom smartboards.

A computer edition is available through the Microsoft Store for use on Windows computers. For Apple computers and smartphones, use the Logos/Faith Life edition of the EHV Study Bible notes. A print edition of the study Bible is expected from Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) in Fall 2021. (There is a metric edition for teachers in countries that use the metric system. Make sure you order the right one.)

Other useful resources

- *The Concordia Self-Study Commentary (RSV text, 1979)* by Roehrs and Franzmann is still useful.
- *Concordia Self-Study Bible (NIV84 text)* is off the market but there should be a lot of used copies around.
- *The Lutheran Study Bible (ESV text, 2009)* also from CPH. This study Bible places more emphasis on devotional use and on references from the Lutheran Confessions than the EHV Study Bible does, but it has less on archaeology, geography, etc.
- *Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook for Students* (CPH, 2011) is a useful volume and more economical than the following.
- * *Lutheran Bible Companion* (CPH, 2014) – a two-volume handbook, based on the ESV text. This set makes extensive use of older resources, such as previous CPH introductions to the Bible, apologetic works like Arndt's *Bible Difficulties*, and the *Concordia Bible Dictionary*. It joins the best of the old with much new material into a new compendium of resources. It includes both general topical articles as well as a whole array of information on each book of the Bible. General topics include the land of the Bible, chronology, the canon, the synoptic problem, biblical archaeology, ancient literature parallel to the Bible, and a very brief church history. Its interpretations and opinions will occasionally differ from those of the EHV Study Bibles, so it is a useful source for comparative study.

Bible History Commentary

***Bible History Commentary* (NPH) – Werner Franzmann’s comments reliably cover pretty much everything that comes up in teaching Bible History. There are three volumes total.

Commentary Sets

***People’s Bible* – This set of popular commentaries (41 volumes) is strongly recommended, but they are fairly basic and they do not handle every difficult question that comes up. They can be supplemented by other works. The biblical text is from NIV 1984.

**Kretzmann Popular Commentary* – 4 volumes. Though very dated (1921 first edition) and based on the KJV, this reliable old set can still be useful to consult concerning difficult questions. It is out of print, but free editions are available online.

Non-Lutheran Commentary Sets to Use Along With the People’s Bible

These sets refer to the Hebrew and Greek, but they are fairly simple and relatively inexpensive. In general, the Old Testament volumes have fewer disagreements with Lutheran teaching than New Testament volumes.

- *Tyndale* (Inter-Varsity Press). This set is generally conservative and Evangelical. It includes references to the Hebrew and Greek, but it is semi-popular in style. Its once-inexpensive paperback format made it a good choice for a “back-up” commentary especially for OT books. See if you can find used copies of the old series. The new updated series has gotten more pricey. It is available in Logos.
- *Expositor’s Bible Commentary (EBC)* (Zondervan). Six volumes cover the Old Testament. Evangelical, generally conservative. Many authors are premillennialists, but this slant does not show up as often as one might expect. A relatively economical way to get up-to-date information on the whole Old Testament. Available in Logos.
Expositor’s Bible Commentary –Revised Edition (REBC) (Zondervan). Now updated and revised with 60% of the volumes by new authors.

Commentaries on Individual Books

The Gospels

- **The Life of Christ, CPH* 2017, A. Fahling – this updated version is very useful
- **The Gospels*, NPH, 1905, J. Ylvisaker. Now quite dated, but it is reliable.
- * *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ*, NPH, is an EHV harmony of the Gospels but it focuses on the biblical text with limited notes.
- **The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah & The Temple: Its Ministry and Service* by Alfred Edersheim. These two were written in the 1800s but they are based on ancient written sources so they still are useful. You should be able to get them for free online.

Individual Books

NPH also publishes commentaries that are primarily intended for pastors and contain Greek or Hebrew, but teachers can read these and benefit from them. Two you might want to look at because of the importance of the two books are:

Genesis 1-11, C. Lawrenz and J. Jeske

Revelation, S. Becker

Tons of Free Resources

** There is a great deal of free information on issues of Bible translation and interpretation in the FAQ and library sections of wartburgproject.org

Bible Background

**Bible Discovery Series* This 14-volume series provides the same level of coverage for biblical topics that the *People's Bible* does for books of the Bible. Buy selected volumes as needed or desired.

- *Bible Facts: Finding Tools to Read and Interpret Scripture*. Donald W. Patterson. 2010.
- *The Bloodstained Path to God: Experiencing Worship With Old Testament Believers*. Daniel and Sarah Habben. 2012.
- *A Chosen Land for a Chosen People: Exploring the Promised Land Jesus Called Home*. James A. Aderman. 2016
- *Digging for Insights: Using Archaeology to Study the Bible*. John F. Brug. 2010.
- *Flowers in the Desert: Learning to Love the Prophets*. Robert J. Koester. 2016.
- *Four Portraits of the One Savior: Discovering Why the Bible Has Four Gospels*. Mark J. Lenz. 2012.
- *God's Imagery: Interpreting Scripture's Symbols, Parables, and Word Pictures*. Joel C. Seifert. 2013.
- *Grand Themes and Key Words: Exploring Important Bible Terms*. Karl A. Walther. 2011.
- *Hard Sayings of Jesus: Embracing His Words of Life*. Joel C. Seifert. 2015.
- *His Hand Among the Nations: Seeing God's Control in the Old Testament World*. Lyle L. Luchterhand. 2013.
- *Life in the New Testament World: Understanding Professions, Practices, and Politics*. Armin J. Panning. 2011.
- *One God—Two Covenants?: Discovering the Heart of the Old Testament*. Lyle W. Lange. 2010.
- *Time Between the Testaments: Connecting Malachi to Matthew*. Mark E. Braun. 2016.
- *Unexpected Treasures: Finding Value in Bible Names, Dates, and Genealogies*. James F. Becker and Joshua J. Becker. 2014.

You might want to get a book on daily life in Bible times such as *Everyday Life in Bible Times* or *Manners and Customs of the Bible* or *Handbook of Life in Bible Times*. Try to get one with a relatively recent date.

Digging for Insights: Using Archaeology to Study the Bible. John F. Brug from the list above also deals with some of these issues. There are lots of web sites on this topic.

Doctrine

**People's Bible Teachings* This 24-volume series provides the same coverage for biblical doctrines that the *People's Bible* does for books of the Bible. This series of little books is not based on the EHV text and may offer some different opinions than those in the EHV notes, but users of the EHV will enjoy readers these books along side of the EHV Study Bibles.

- John Schuetze, *Angels and Demons*
- Gaylin Schmeling, *Baptism*
- Brian Keller, *Bible*
- Harlyn Kuschel, *Christ*
- William Fischer, *Christian Freedom*
- John Brug, *Church Fellowship*
- Johnold Strey, *Christian Worship (release date: Fall, 2021)*
- Armin Schuetze, *Church—Mission—Ministry*
- Daniel Deutschlander, *Civil Government*
- John Brenner, *Conversion*
- Cleone Weigand, *Creation*
- Thomas Nass, *End Times*
- Mark Lenz, *God's Providence*
- Brian Keller, *Heaven and Hell*
- John Vogt, *Holy Spirit*
- Wayne Mueller, *Justification*

- Leroy Dobberstein, *Law and Gospel*
- Arnold Koelpin, *Lord's Supper*
- Lyle Luchterhand, *Man*
- John Schuetze, *Marriage and Family*
- Joel Petermann, *Prayer*
- John Moldstad, Jr., *Predestination*
- Lyle Lange, *Sanctification*
- Arno Wolfgramm, *Stewardship*
- Richard Balge, *Trinity*

** *God So Loved the World: A Study of Christian Doctrine* by Lyle Lange is a one-volume doctrinal summary. NPH

**Grace Abounds* by Daniel Deutschlander is aimed more at high school level. NPH

The WELS and ELS catechisms have EHV versions.

For an overview of doctrine that goes a little deeper you might want to buy one of these:

Hoenecke, Adolf, *Evangelical Lutheran Dogmatics*, 4 volumes, Northwestern Publishing House.

Pieper, Francis, *Christian Dogmatics*, 3 volumes, Concordia Publishing House

Here are some collections of topical articles:

Lange, Lyle (ed), *Our Great Heritage*, 3 vol. Northwestern Publishing House

Jahn, Curtis (ed.), *Wauwatosa Theology*, 3 vol. Northwestern Publishing House

**Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*. An annotated version of the Lutheran Confessions, CPH

**What Luther Says*, E. Plass, 3 volumes, CPH. A collection of quotations from Luther, topically arranged.