



# The Wartburg Project

## September 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™*.

## Progress Report

The editing of the translations of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther is essentially complete with all of the technical reviews entered. There will still be touchup work from proofreaders, test readers, and so on. In the next few weeks the same translation work will be done for Kings and Chronicles. See the September chart at the end of this report.

Work is progressing well on the 2016-2017 lectionaries. The online setup is being tested.

Final proofreading of the NPH setup for the 2017 edition of the NT and Psalms is in progress.

We have received acceptance notices for all of our EHV, Evangelical Heritage Version, and Wartburg trademarks from the US Patent and Trademark Office, and now we need to provide the USPTO with evidence of use of the trademarks in interstate commerce before receiving final certification.

## Special Proofreading

Joshua, Samuel, Kings, Ezra, and Nehemiah present some special nightmares for proof readers because of the extensive lists of place names, personal names, and numbers. It is very easy for names to be dropped from the list, and a study of the available manuscripts shows that this in fact happened often, as the scribe in one manuscript or another skipped a name. There is a new cause for such skips in Word and other word processors, in which an editor with a wrong touch of a button can accidentally delete a word pages away from the spot at which he is working.

Our regular proof readers will of course be checking these lists, but because of the magnitude of the problem, some special checks would be wise. A good way to do this is for one proof reader to read the list aloud from another Bible translation while a second proof reader follows the list in the EHV, watching for any skips. If you are interested in helping with this kind of double check, email to [wpbrugj@gmail.com](mailto:wpbrugj@gmail.com).

**WEBSITE** See our website ([wartburgproject.org](http://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!

**Special Appearances** The Wartburg Project is scheduled for a presentation at the Luther Fest at Shoreland Lutheran High School in Somers, WI on Saturday September 17 at 2 PM. This is billed as the largest Luther Fest in North America. Admission to the festival is free if you register online.

The Wartburg Project will present a seminar in the *Christ in the Media* online seminar beginning October 10. This is especially intended for Lutheran high school and college students. The topic is “Between a Rock and a Hard Place,” an interactive seminar on the tensions between formal and informal language and blunt and euphemistic language in Bible translation.

**Resources** One of the resources we use for Old Testament textual criticism is *Textual Criticism of the Old Testament: Principles and Practice* by John Brug. This is a 200+ page textbook on all aspects of Old Testament textual criticism: principles of textual criticism, causes of variants in the text, manuscript resources for textual criticism, the history of textual criticism with a focus on the pioneering role of Martin Luther, and a number of textual studies. This is a technical work, which requires an ability to work with the apparatus of the Hebrew Bible and which makes some use of the Hebrew alphabets which preceded the present Hebrew alphabet. Perhaps a simplified summary of the principles, which does not require use of the Hebrew, will appear in the not too distant future. In the meanwhile, chapter one, which does not require knowledge of Hebrew, is posted in the library section of our WP website. This provides a sample of the book’s approach to Old Testament textual criticism.

The print paperback edition can be purchased from Northwestern Publishing House or Amazon. Current list price is \$21.95. Pdf copies can be bought for \$8.00 from the author at [brugjf@gmail.com](mailto:brugjf@gmail.com).

**Old Testament Commentaries** A list of recommended commentaries for working with the Hebrew text of the Old Testament has been added to our online library. It reviews the major series of Old Testament commentaries for the pastor’s study and provides a simple list of recommendations. The focus is on commentaries for working with the Hebrew text though some popular commentaries are also listed. The emphasis is on Lutheran commentaries including older volumes that may be out of print.

**Introduction** The tentative introduction to our 2017 edition is posted in the library section.

## September 2016 PROGRESS CHART

### Key:

✓ = completed for publishing  
 × = Tech review complete  
 Bold = completed initial draft  
 Blue underlined = recently completed  
 \*Asterisk = assigned or in progress  
 Red *Italic strikethrough* = not yet assigned

### OLD TESTAMENT

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

### NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels – Acts	Epistles I	Epistles II & Prophetic
✓ 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

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.**