



The Wartburg Project

January Report
2017

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 Reports

TRANSLATION

The draft translation of Job is complete and is undergoing technical review.

EDITING

Now that the historical books of the Old Testament are completed, we are concentrating on editing Job. There is still some work left on Proverbs, but the other poetical books are done. Our second main emphasis in January is getting Isaiah ready for review.

LECTIONARIES

Some congregations are testing the lessons for the first half of the 2016-2017 church year. They can be downloaded from the *Lectonaries* link on our website free of charge (both those used in WELS and in the LCMS). Other individuals and groups are testing them in their own private reading.

Remember that the Old Testament lessons, especially the prophets have not yet undergone final editing. We can still incorporate changes in them. Please also report any typos you spot.

Last Saturday I was working on the editing of Isaiah 42. By coincidence, the next morning, the EHV version of Isaiah 42 was read as the Old Testament lesson at the congregation I was visiting. One wording that struck me both times was

Isaiah 42:1, “He will bring forth *the verdict* for the nations.” This is the preferred reading of the *Concordia Commentary*, and it agrees very well with the primary meaning of the Hebrew word *mishpat* as *an act of judging or the verdict rendered*. The NET reads *he will make just decrees*. Many translations of this verse use the more abstract rendering *justice*. Revisiting the issue and hearing the public reading of the text suggested that perhaps the best rendering here might be *provide a just verdict*, with the familiar rendering *justice* cited in a footnote. In other passages *mishpat* might have other shades of meaning. This is one minor example of how further editing and testing will give us opportunities to fine-tune the readings. And you have opportunity to participate in the process! We are not aware of any other translation that has provided pastors, teachers, and congregations with as much opportunity to participate in the preview and review process as the EHV does.

The readings for the second half of the year will be made operative well before the time for their use.

2017 PREVIEW EDITION

Our proofreading of the Northwestern Publishing House 2017 preview edition of the New Testament and Psalms is nearing completion. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is less than a year away.

SOME RECENT FAQs

No. 27 Why should I try the EHV?

No. 29 What are the greatest difficulties you faced in developing the EHV?

No. 30 What are some of the notable differences about the EHV?

No. 31 Did the Israelites eat cheese curds like ours?

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

Articles of the Month

The article of the month is an adaptation of FAQ 31. It was occasioned by a question about the occurrence of the term *cheese curds* in one of our readings. This provided the opportunity to discuss a very important principle of translation. Many biblical terms like cheese curds, trumpets, and beer are analogous to something we are familiar with, but they are not exact matches. How do we deal with both the similarity and the differences? See the article which is included along with this message.

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 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!

January 2017

PROGRESS CHART

Key
✓ Completed for publishing
● Tech review complete
○ Completed initial draft
+ Assigned or in progress
➤ Updated this month

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
	✓ Philipians	✓ 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.