

How Good and Pleasant

Look, how good and how pleasant it is
when brothers live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

After a project covering about seven years (the original estimated timetable was fifteen years), with God's blessing, the Wartburg Project has completed the first generation of EHV Bibles. The Wartburg Project is a group of WELS and ELS pastors, professors, teachers, and laypeople who have been working together to pass our evangelical heritage from age to age by producing and distributing a new translation of the Bible called the *Evangelical Heritage Version* ® or *EHV* ®.

Blessing 1: The Participants

The EHV is a grass-roots translation. It made extensive use of parish pastors and lay people in the editing and evaluating of the translation. About 100 people were contributors to the process of translating, editing, proofreading, evaluating the translation, and suggesting improvements or clarifications. Every translation was reviewed by at least 10 people. This helped make the EHV user-friendly. About 15 of the 100 contributors played larger roles in the production of the EHV. An editorial and administrative board of about ten members guided the project. Many other individuals both from our own circles and beyond our circles offered suggestions and provided financial help.

Other work included building and maintaining our websites and online library.

Blessing 2: The Experience

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the project was the once in a lifetime opportunity to work together with like-minded Christians to translate, edit, evaluate, and share a translation of the Word. Though there were of course differences of opinion on many points of translation, the participants worked together harmoniously without strife. For them this fellowship was as a great a blessing as the resulting products. Participants were blessed with growth in their own biblical knowledge. They had the joy of serving the church by providing biblical resources. They had the pleasure of working on a cooperative project with like-minded brothers and sisters.

Blessing 3: The Products

The basic suite of EHV Bibles is now complete and circulating world-wide. It includes:

- The basic hardcover print Bible, suitable as a pew Bible or classroom Bible, has been available from Northwestern Publishing House since 2019. This Bible is also available in e-versions from Bible Gateway and a number of e-Bible distributors.
- The print edition of the EHV Study Bible has been available from Northwestern Publishing House since 2021.
- An electronic version of the EHV Study Bible is available from the Microsoft Store. This edition works very well on classroom whiteboards. This is available in a version that uses both American (Imperial) measurements as well as metric measurements for readers in other countries.
- The Faith Life / Logos version of the EHV Study Bible is suitable also for Apple computers and most smart phones.

- A condensed Bible, *the Story of God's Love*, is available from Northwestern Publishing House.

The suite is essentially complete though it will never be finished, since there will be updates and improvements. Editions in progress are a free audio Bible and a large-print edition (though the computer Bibles also serve this purpose very well.)

Blessing 4: Spreading Ripples

Authors, composers, and artists may use up to 1000 verses of the EHV in each of their derived works without permission. The EHV can also be licensed for use in works that incorporate more than 1000 verses. Permission for use in works like catechisms, commentaries, and evangelism materials that are intended for free distribution is generally granted free of charge. For example the Project granted a mission society permission to distribute free copies of the Gospels of John and Luke in Hong Kong and in the UK. A Passion History and copies of the lectionaries commonly used in WELS and the LCMS are among the additional works available for free on the site wartburgproject.org. We are in the process of granting a license for the metric version of the EHV to be included in an app for free use in isolated areas of Africa where internet connections are not always reliable.

We ask you to join us in giving thanks for these blessings in your private and public prayers.

Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.
Translators come, translations go, but the Word of our God endures forever.



The Wartburg Project The Evangelical Heritage Version

