



The Wartburg Project

Article of the Month:
Why Should I Try the EHV?

November 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

EDITING

Joshua, Judges, and Ruth have been handed in to Northwestern Publishing House. The editing of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles is largely complete. Parallel texts in Kings and Chronicles have been harmonized to a considerable degree. Because there has also been considerable harmonizing of the footnotes, spelling, and formatting, a second proofreading of these six books is underway.

LECTIONARIES

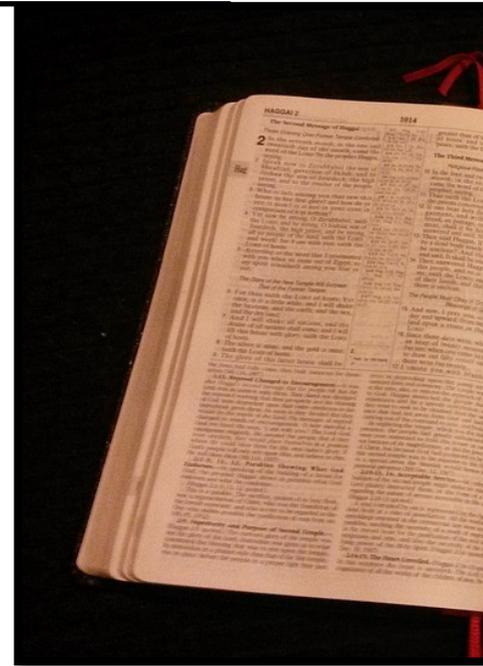
The lessons for the first half of the 2016-2017 church year (both those used in WELS and LCMS) are now live for downloading at the Lectionaries link on our website, free of charge for anyone who would like examine them or use them. Announcements have gone out, but feel free to share this information with pastors and friends who may not be on our mailing list.

These Scripture lessons are provided for use in worship and devotions. They are offered free of charge. Downloading these resources gives the user permission to copy and reproduce this material for use within a congregation or organization. The material may be inserted into congregational bulletins or posted on-screen. The passages of the lectionary may also be reproduced in congregational Bible classes. The lectionaries themselves may not be sold or posted online without permission from The Wartburg Project,

but bulletins, sermons, and lessons which include the readings may be posted online.

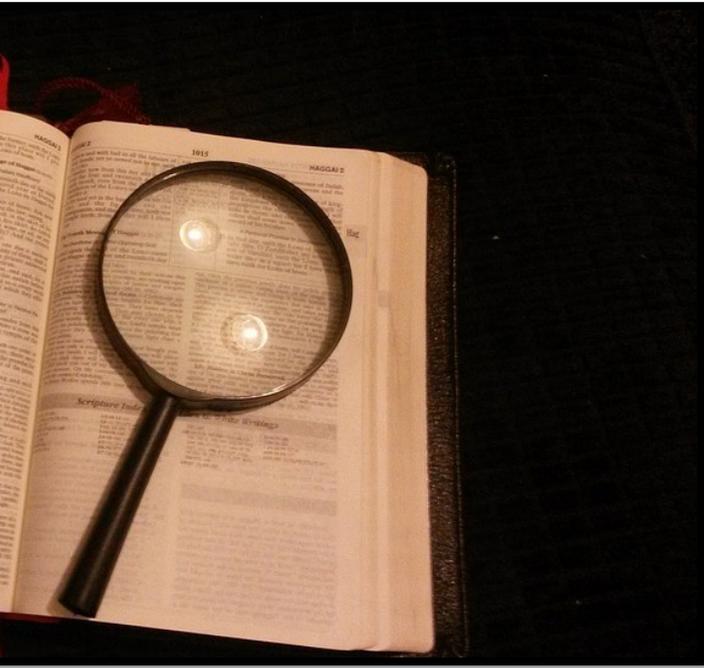
It is understandable that some people may not want to use the readings in public worship until the whole Bible is completed. The readings, therefore, are also available for examination rather than use. If your congregation prints out the weekly lessons in the service folder, you may want to take the folder home and compare the readings printed there with the EHV lessons. This will give you a good cross-section of various types of books in the EHV. (Not all of the Old Testament readings have undergone their final editing.)

The readings for the second half of the church year will be made operative well before the time for their use. Their headings now are just place holders.



2017 PREVIEW EDITION

Final proofreading of the Northwestern Publishing House print-outs for the 2017 preview edition of the New Testament and Psalms is nearing completion. Lord willing, it will be available for purchase in the summer of 2017. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is only a year away.

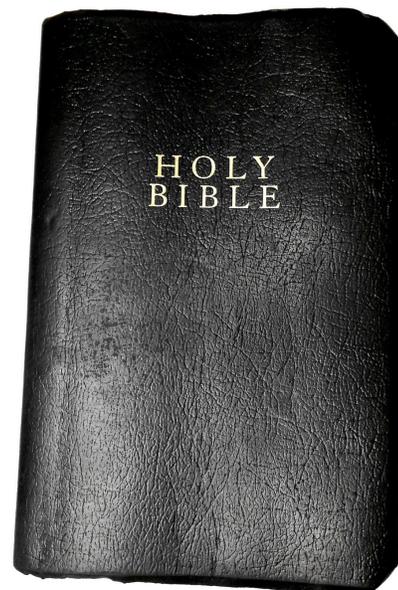


GIFT COPIES

The Wartburg Project will be distributing gift copies of the 2017 edition to reviewers and to church bodies and organizations that might be interested in using EHV. We have heard of an individual who made a substantial gift to his congregation to distribute gift copies to the staff and members of the congregation. Since, due to generous offerings, we are in a strong financial position to complete the translation in 2017, we encourage groups and individuals to use some of their planned contributions to the Wartburg Project for 2017 to make gifts of the 2017 edition to family and friends.

EVANGELICAL HERITAGE VERSION® OR EHV®

It is official. We have received notices from the US Patent and Trademark Office that our *Evangelical Heritage Version* and *EHV* trademarks have been approved and after the official posting in December we may use them on products as registered trademarks with the ® symbol.



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

The *Gospel Outreach With Media* online seminar, presented by the Christ in Media Institute, which was open to students from October 10 to October 31, has now been archived. This means that interested parties can still go the *Christ in Media Institute/Gospel Outreach With Media* website and read the seminar and all the discussion, but they can no longer add to the comments.

Our Wartburg Project presentation, *Between a Rock and A Hard Place*, was designed to help students understand the dilemma communicators face when they are addressing a diverse audience. It made use of 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. How does the communicator deal with this dilemma?

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? Because of the sensitive nature of the topic, this module was not posted online but was available on request from teachers and adult readers.

The full text of both parts, minus the discussion, is also available in the library section of our site under the title, *Between a Rock and A Hard Place*.

The *GOWM* online seminar was visited by 570 individuals from 107 cities in 24 states and from 14 cities in 9 other countries. Hometowns of participants included Fiddletown CA, Lone Tree IA, Kronenwetter WI, Tangerang, Indonesia, and Kropyvnytskyi and Slobozhanske, Ukraine, as well as Milwaukee and New Ulm. (Not all of these visitors necessarily visited the WP section of the site.)

About thirty people participated in the discussion on our portion of the site. The great majority of them were college students who were participating in the seminar as an assignment for a college course. The heaviest day for posting assignments was the last day before the site closed. 😊 Many non-students simply read the paper, and don't post. They have all the privileges of the course and none of the responsibilities.



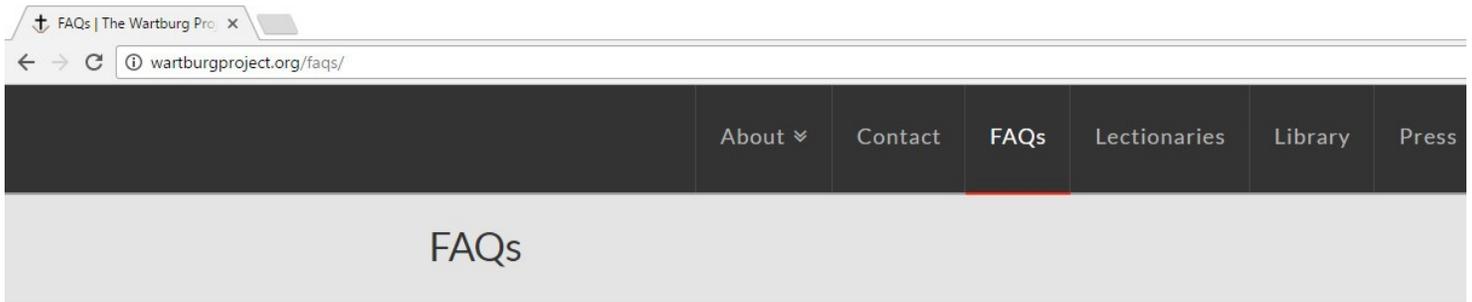
Gospel



Outreach



Media



RECENT 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?

No. 26 Why does the EHV use the term “only-begotten” to describe Jesus in John 3:16?

No. 27 Why should I try the EHV?

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. (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!

Article of the Month

WHY SHOULD I TRY THE EHV?

With the recent publication of the EHV lectionaries for evaluation and use, and with the forthcoming appearance of the preview edition of the EHV New Testament and Psalms in 2017, an obvious question is, “Why should I try the EHV?”

The simplest and most important answer to that question is that for dedicated readers of the Bible the opportunity to be a participant in the evaluation of a new Bible translation is likely to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Regardless of what you decide about a specific translation, taking a closer look at the difficult task of Bible translation and undertaking an evaluation of specific examples of the complex decisions that are involved in Bible translation will be its own reward.

As far as the EHV translation itself, here are a few reasons to give EHV a look.

A key word for the EHV as we define our goals is *balance*. The goal of our project is to produce a balanced translation, suitable for all-purpose use in the church.

We seek a balance between *the old* and *the new*. We respect and try to preserve traditional terms that are well established in the worship life of the church, but the EHV also introduces some new terms in those places where a traditional translation no longer communicates clearly. Such terms will be explained in the footnotes.

We seek a balance between the poles of so-called *literal* and *dynamic equivalent* theories of translation. A translator should not adhere too closely to any one theory of translation because

literalistic, word-for-word translations sometimes convey the wrong meaning, or they do not communicate clearly in the receiving language. Overly free translations deprive the reader of some of the expressions, imagery, and style of the original.

Translators should strive for a balance between preserving the *original meaning* of the text and producing *English which sounds natural*, but the preservation of meaning takes priority.

We seek a balance between *formality* and *informality*. The Bible contains many types of literature and different levels of language, from the very simple to the very difficult. For this reason, the translator should not be too committed to producing one level of language but should try to reproduce the tone or “flavor” of the original.

The EHV places a priority on producing a text that provides a *fuller representation of the biblical text* that has been transmitted to us by the church. The EHV includes readings that are supported by ancient manuscript evidence which have been omitted in some recent translations, because they tend to focus on certain parts of the manuscript evidence rather than the whole range.

We place a *priority on prophecy*, so our translation and notes strive to give clear indications of Messianic prophecy.

The EHV is committed to using *archaeology, geography, and history* to provide a clearer understanding of the original meaning of the biblical text, and this will be reflected both in the translation and the footnotes.

We hope the *Evangelical Heritage Version* will prove to be very readable to a wide range of users, but the EHV is designed with *learning and teaching* in mind. We assume that our readers have the ability and the desire to learn new biblical words and to deepen their understanding of important biblical terms and concepts. Translators should not be condescending or patronizing toward their readers but should be dedicated to helping them grow. The Bible was written for ordinary people, but it is a literary work with many figures of speech and many rare words. The Bible is a book to be read, but it is also a book to be studied. Our footnotes are designed to assist in the process of learning and teaching. Our translation is in that sense a textbook. This concept will, of course, be much more fully implemented in our planned study Bible.

The EHV is a *grass-roots translation*, which makes extensive use of parish pastors and lay people in the editing and evaluation of the translation.

The EHV is a *gift to the church*. It is being produced at very low cost because of the abundance

of volunteer labor. We have also promised that the EHV will not deny people who have obtained rights to use the EHV in derivative works like commentaries or study Bibles the right to continue to use the version which they have adopted, even if new versions of the EHV appear.

Over the next year, as the EHV translation is being completed, this list of reasons for you to try the EHV will be expanded to booklet length by the addition of more reasons to use the EHV and by providing many specific examples. This “first edition” deliberately does not include any specific examples so that you can use it as a study guide for making your own discoveries as you study the examples provided by the lectionaries. In the meanwhile, our FAQs, our rubrics, and articles available in the library section of our website provide many examples of these principles in practice.

Next month we will provide a list of some of the greatest difficulties encountered in the production of the EHV, to be followed by a list of some of the points in the EHV that might seem most distinctive to first-time readers of the EHV.



Saint Paul Writing His Epistles by Valentin de Boulogne

November 2016

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.