

## Why an EHV Study Bible?

Why was the EHV produced? Certainly, concerns about some aspects of the revised NIV translation and about the costs and control of the NIV text were part of the picture. But even before the Wartburg Project began, the number one concern was that we would have the ability to produce a confessional Lutheran Study Bible at a reasonable cost, using a text that would not be withdrawn from use.

The initial publication of the EHV was a “plain vanilla” Bible. For the most part, the footnotes were limited to explanations of translation decisions and textual variants. But our goal to produce a confessional Lutheran study Bible based on our translation was always in the foreground. Translators and reviewers were instructed to save materials that would be useful for producing a study Bible. At that stage (2015) we were not sure when it would be feasible to complete the study Bible.

Since the Old Testament study Bible closely followed the views taught in the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary notes and benefitted from the research done for the Concordia Commentary, it was possible to complete the study Bible quite quickly.

Why was there a need for such a study Bible? The Concordia Study Bible based on the text of NIV 84 was the most widely used study Bible in WELS, but NIV 84 was going to be withdrawn from use, and production of this study Bible based on NIV 84 would come to an end. It was clear that it would not be feasible to produce a Lutheran Study Bible based on the text of NIV 2011. This was apparent already as early as 2005 with the appearance of the TNIV (Today’s New International Version). The TNIV was to be a revised, more contemporary version of the NIV. Initially it was planned that the TNIV and a new NIV would exist side by side. However, the TNIV aroused a lot of protests, and the revised NIV retreated a bit from some of the views in the TNIV. Nevertheless the TNIV signaled the direction the NIV preferred to go. As early as 2005, a review of the TNIV in the *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly* said, “If the time comes to consider a new translation for general use, WELS should consider other options beyond the TNIV, perhaps one that does not yet exist.” It was in this period that the foundations for producing the EHV were laid.

Concordia Publishing House therefore turned to the ESV as the base text for its *Lutheran Study Bible (2009)*. The LSB is thoroughly Lutheran and has a devotional emphasis with prayers and quotations from Luther and the Lutheran fathers. It is recommended for Lutheran Bible students, along with its companion products such as the two-volume *Lutheran Bible Companion*. The LSB and EHVSB are complementary rather than competing study Bibles.

In spite of the existence of LSB, we believed that there was room or even a need for another confessional Lutheran study Bible. The EHV Study Bible would

- be more user-friendly in its English style than the ESV, which descended from the King James tradition.
- appeal more to people who used English as a second language.
- have a fuller biblical text than translations that follow the UBS/Nestle tradition.

- would also have a greater emphasis on up-to-date archaeological, historical, and geographic information. (See the attached description of the Microsoft EHV Study Bible.)

*The Zondervan NIV Study Bible* based on the text of NIV 2011 appeared in Fall 2015. It

- has a theological emphasis and is Reformed/Evangelical in its approach
- theologically it is not suitable for Lutheran students as their main study Bible.
- tends to offers options rather than stating clear, biblical positions on issues like the days of creation and the universal flood.
- has views on the sacraments that differ from what Scripture proclaims.

So that readers can form their own impression of this study Bible, we have attached an 8-page compendium of quotations from this volume on important issues of interpretation. This may be followed by an edition with notes that comment more directly on the shortcomings of these sections of the commentary.

The EHV Study Bible is decidedly Lutheran, but we believe it is useful for everyone.