

The Wartburg Project



January Report
2018

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*®.

Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

Translators come, translations go, but the Word of our God endures forever.

Annual Report

The annual meeting of the Wartburg Project Board was held on January 24, 2018. This month's news letter will be based largely on the reports presented at that meeting. Much of this information has already appeared in monthly reports during 2017, but it is brought together here to give a picture of our work in 2017 and 2018. New or especially important material is marked in **purple**.

1. RECEPTION AND STATS FOR THE 2017 EDITION OF NT AND PSALMS

The 2017 Reformation Anniversary Edition of the EHV New Testament and Psalms has been on sale for over six months now, and distribution is going well. Over 10,000 copies have been sold and distributed, including gift copies to faculty and students of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Martin Luther College, Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Luther Preparatory School, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary due to generous gifts for that purpose. We have also been able to distribute gift copies to several state teachers conferences with special gifts.

Kindle and Nook versions are available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

2. PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS FOR THE 2017 EDITION LEADING UP TO THE WHOLE BIBLE

We are continuing the delivery of review copies to various Lutheran, Baptist, and Evangelical periodicals and to scholars of various denominations for review. We are beginning to receive responses and hope for reviews in the future that will lead into the publication of the whole Bible.

In addition to reports to conferences and study groups and to students at MLC and Bethany, we also have made and will continue to make reports to various congregations and local groups like retired pastors and OWLS. We will continue to make such reports as requested.

3. THE REMAINING WORK ON THE BASIC TRANSLATION OF THE WHOLE BIBLE

The text for whole Bible is in the hands of NPH. We have received and responded to their proofreading for the whole Bible. After all these corrections have been made, there will be another round of checks by their proofreaders and ours. Most of the remaining work to be done toward producing the whole Bible is between NPH and the printer. Our WP role is largely checking the updated manuscripts. **NPH expects the Bible and EHV catechism to be available for the 2019-2020 school year. We understand that many people are eager to begin curricular use of the whole Bible, so we hope this date can creep earlier.**

4. STUDY BIBLE PLANS AND PROGRESS

- Maps and charts
- Formats

Planning and initial work on the EHV Study Bible is well underway, including the gathering of maps and charts. We currently have basic drafts completed for twenty-five Old Testament books (Genesis to Song of Solomon and some prophets), and Matthew and Ezekiel are in progress. We are adding archaeological, historical, geographical, and doctrinal notes to files in Word format file with popup footnotes and maps. These initial files will be further developed by committees of editor/reviewers during 2018 and 2019 and then transferred into various formats.

We are also testing the feasibility of producing various **additional electronic formats such as an electronic Bible in landscape format, with the left side of the screen Biblical text and the right side of the screen scrolling notes. Maps and charts will be accessed through links to pop-ups.** We have a trial edition of some books in this format that seems to work well, but this will likely be a difficult task that requires tweaking as we go.

Our focus right now is on gathering written and pictorial data that we will be able to convert into various formats.

We are working to gather and edit maps and charts for use not only in the study Bible but also in an electronic Bible atlas which pastors and teachers will be able to use to create their own presentations.

Annual Report (continued)

5. LICENSING OF EHV TEXT

These are the terms for licensing and permissions:

If authors are working on a project for which they would like to use the EHV text, no permission is needed to use up to 1000 verses, unless the selection includes whole books of the Bible or more than half of the text of the product is EHV. For uses beyond 1000 verses, licenses are available on favorable terms. An appropriate EHV copyright notice is to be posted on the copyright page of the work in question.

If authors would like to produce a product based on the EHV, they should contact the Wartburg Project if WP would be the expected publisher of the product, but if the expected publisher would be a publishing house or a producer of Bible software, they should express their interest in the product to the potential producer (for example, to LOGOS or NPH). The more market interest there is, the sooner a product appears.

If authors have developed a suitable product using the EHV which they would like to make the public aware of, they should send us an appropriate notice.

Authors thus have the option of requesting a license to use the EHV text in products for which WP has no editorial responsibility, or they can ask for a contract to publish their product through us, in which case we assume editorial responsibility for the content of any addition material used with the text.

All users of the EHV text have to agree to make no alterations to the translation.

The following are some of the additional products are in the hopper at some stage of production or as proposals:

1. The Lectionaries for all three years of the reading cycle will be available in multiple WELS, LCMS, and ELS versions.
2. The Passion History – available for use during Lent.
3. Harmony of Gospels – in the hands of NPH.
4. WELS Catechism(s) – expected for fall 2019.
5. EHV Bible Story Book – in progress.
6. Lay Commentary on Mark – in progress.
7. Commentary on Matthew – long term.
8. EHV version of “The Story” – long term.
9. Psalms texts for composers – in progress.

Others:

- **The ELS has requested and received permission to use the EHV in an ELS Catechism beginning with an electronic version and print-on-demand version. This is expected to be available quite soon.**
- A “Synodical Conference” Catechism from an LCMS source—this is a privately published (i.e., not CPH) new, updated edition of the Schwan Catechism. It is in print and is being tested in congregational use.

We must consult with NPH before granting licenses for Bibles that use the whole Bible text since NPH is the publisher of the basic Bible text. We have had requests from two Bible publishers to use the EHV text in an illustrated Bible and an application Bible, and we hope that there will be more requests from other publishers. We hope that as the whole Bible nears completion, we will be able to proceed with establishing licensing terms that will be fair and feasible for all parties involved.

Electronic editions:

BibleGateway — The present NT edition now online. The whole Bible will follow.

Bibleworks — some setup work being done.

LOGOS — Official version of whole Bible will be done by LOGOS in connection with NPH.

YouVersion — Discussions are under way; they want the whole Bible before posting.

6. FINANCIAL

Generous offerings have kept us on a solid financial foundation. In 2017 we were able to make modest payments to translators and other major participants. We expect we will be able to make similar payments in 2018.



Martin Luther Translating the Bible, Wartburg Castle, 1521 — by Eugene Siberdt, 1898.

This Month's Articles

Found attached to the email, on the website, or by request.

Because of the length of this report, we will not post any study articles this month. Instead we will attach our electronic book *Getting Ready for the EHV*. This book, which has been posted previously, has four major sections: the EHV translation philosophy, difficulties encountered in translation work, distinctives of the EHV, and tips for getting used to a new Bible translation. Many of you already have this, but we are posting it again to encourage you to pass it on to people who might be interested in the EHV or in Bible translation in general. We invite you to share it with family, friends and colleagues. [🔗](#)

On the next page is the Progress Report for the Study Bible. This will be a regular item in our monthly reports. Also available at our website are our rubrics for the translation. [🔗](#)

EXCERPT FROM “GETTING READY FOR THE EHV”

Sometimes grammatical conventions change so abruptly that the translator is caught in a whirlpool. For hundreds of years it was not the custom to capitalize pronouns that refer to God. During the 19th and 20th centuries this practice became common place, and many people wrongly think that this was always the practice. More recently, when there was a return to the long-standing practice of not capitalizing such pronouns, this was interpreted by some people as diminishing God's honor, but, in fact, it was simply a return to the traditional practice, which, by the way, agrees with the practice of the original Hebrew and Greek texts. For further discussion of this issue read EHV FAQ #3b.

Another issue is the trade-off between familiarity and improved accuracy. Long-time Bible readers are used to hearing Jesus say, “Truly I say to you,” but in his recorded speech Jesus almost never uses a Greek word that means “truly.” He almost always is reported as using the Hebrew word “amen” even when all the surrounding words are Greek. When the original text uses Hebrew words like *halleluia*, *amen*, and *hosanna* in Greek text, it is good practice to honor that choice. First-time readers of the EHV are sometimes jarred when they hear Jesus say, “Amen,” but sometimes familiarity has to yield to accuracy.

(From Article 2: What Were the Greatest Difficulties Encountered in Producing the EHV? “Page 9.)

Coming Studies

1. Famous Biblical typos (hope we don't make the list)
2. Grammar—Mechanics vs Meaning?



January 2018 Progress Chart for the EHV STUDY BIBLE

| Key |
|--------------------------|
| No Work Yet |
| + Draft in Progress |
| ○ Initial Draft Complete |
| ● Undergoing Review |
| ➤ 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 |

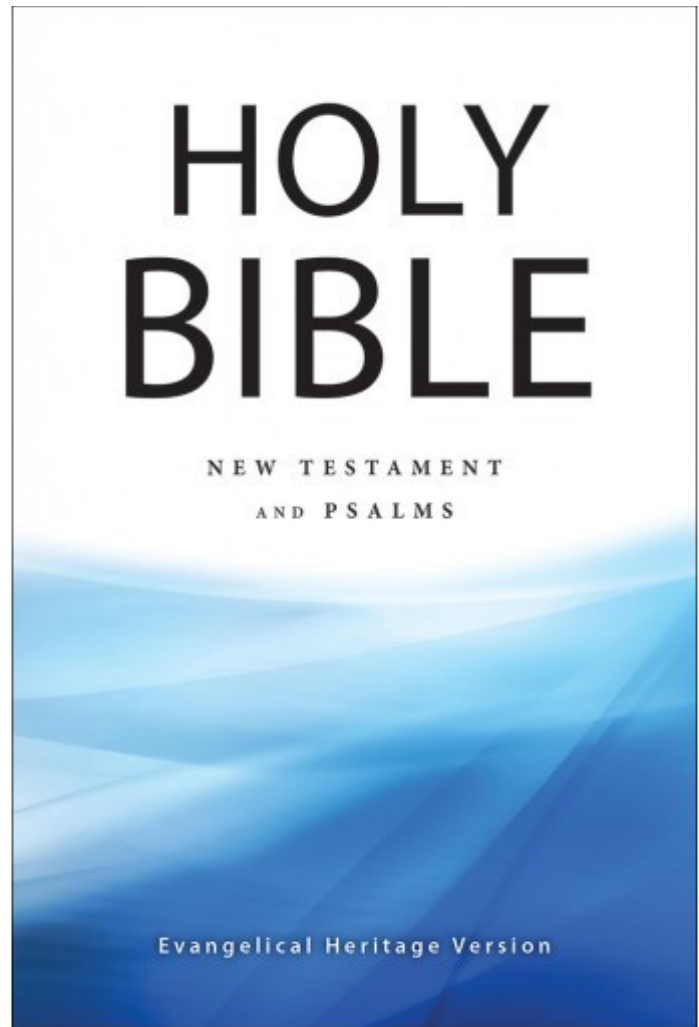
NEW TESTAMENT

| 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 |
| | Philippians | 2 John |
| Passion History | Colossians | 3 John |
| Harmony of the Gospels | 1 Thessalonians | Jude |
| | 2 Thessalonians | Revelation |
| | 1 Timothy | |
| | 2 Timothy | |
| | Titus | |
| | Philemon | |

**The Holy Bible:
Evangelical Heritage Version
New Testament and Psalms**

Available for purchase

nph.net



Website

See our website (wartburgproject.org) for more information relating to the EHV. See FAQ #15 on the name EHV. 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 (sometimes close to 14,000)).

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!

The address of our financial office is:

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