



## Pastor's Page

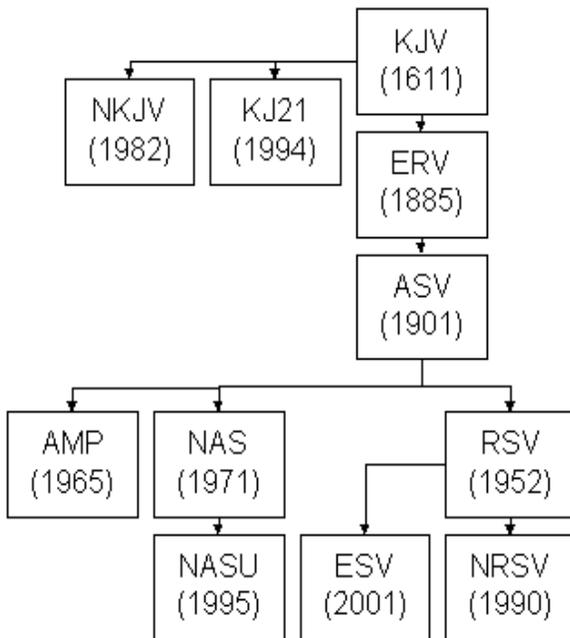


I am often asked which version of the Bible is the best. As I tell all my Bible Study Students, it depends on what you are looking to do! Are you just reading the Bible or are you studying the Bible? There are many English Translations as evidenced by the charts below.

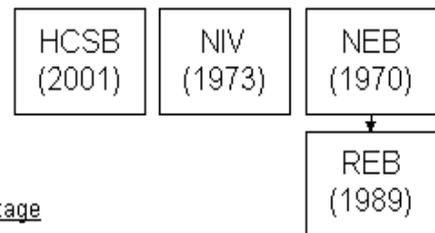
On the next pages you will see what are considered the "best" for study vs. devotional/reading.

## English Translations of the Bible - Since 1611 A.D.

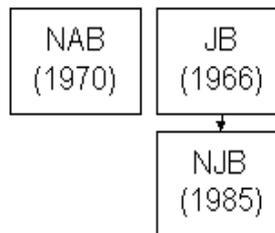
### King James Heritage of Formal Equivalence



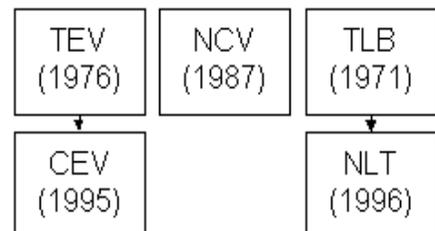
### Dynamic Equivalence Movement

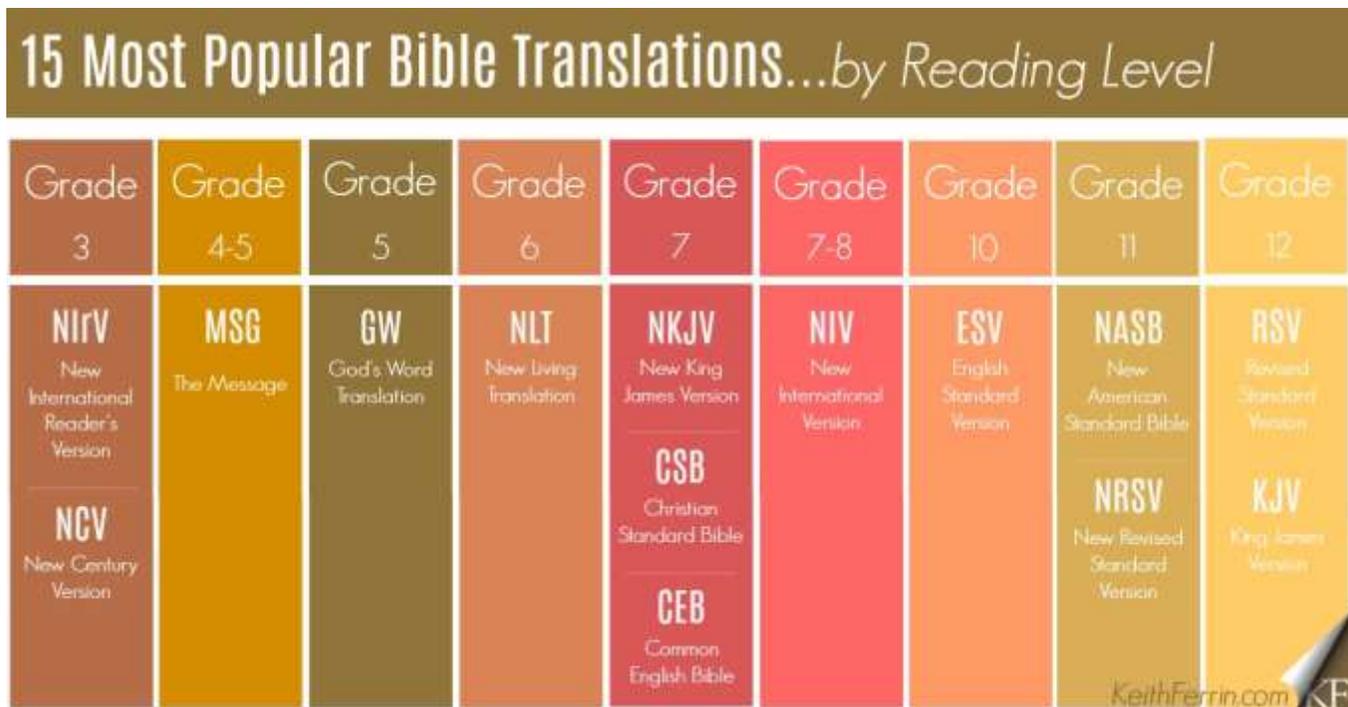


### Roman Catholic Heritage



### Loose / Paraphrastic "Translations"





**The King James Version (KJV):** Often called the "Authorized Version" and abbreviated "AV," this translation was introduced in 1611 after King James organized and managed the then "modern" translation of the Bible into English. The stated purpose was to "deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand," and it was a remarkable first in making the Bible widely available in English.

Disadvantage: The KJV is written in 17<sup>th</sup> century English and can be challenging for the average modern reader

**Revised Standard Version (RSV):** Is a 1952 "revision" of the American Standard Version, the RSV produced a slightly less literal and better flowing text.

Disadvantage: Too liberal a methodology of translation, which contradicted even New Testament expositions of Old Testament texts.

Advantage: A very readable translation of the Bible with a smoothed literal approach.

**The Amplified Bible (AMP):** A 1965 production of the Lockman Foundation this bible "amplifies" the text with alternate readings and renderings in parentheses or brackets. The translation is fairly literal, while the pregnant word expansions lead to much longer verses than usual. This Bible is too "amplified" to actually read from, but it serves as a nice study guide.

Disadvantage: Not designed for public out-loud reading, as the amplification is drawn out and wordy.

Advantage: A nice version to study from, since key words of the text are amplified throughout, giving additional meaning and understanding to the reader.

**The Living Bible (TLB):** A 1971 interpretive paraphrasing of the English Bible, produced by Kenneth Taylor. Taylor had little to no understanding of the original languages and produced the TLB by drawing from existing English translations. It was aimed at not only being used by children, but also by adults.

**Disadvantage:** The TLB is loaded with interpretations of its translator and is therefore very unreliable for understanding what was originally written.

**Advantage:** It is very readable & useful for teaching young children.

**The Good News Bible: The Bible in Today's English Version (TEV):** A 1976 work by the American Bible Society to render the text of the Bible into every day English that a non-churched or church individual of any basic education level would be familiar with. This version certainly falls under the "dynamic equivalence" form of translation (actually in some places it is paraphrased).

**Disadvantage:** This bible loses lots of the depth of theology by dumbing down many verses and concepts (such as avoiding the biblical phrase, "blood of Christ," and replacing it with terms like "sacrifice").

**Advantage:** Perhaps useful for teaching young children, those with special needs, or individuals whose second language is English. Also used by translators in mission fields, who are attempting to put the Bible into a language in which they are not firstly proficient.

**New International Version (NIV):** The bestselling translation in America, the NIV was produced in 1978 by a broad team of over one hundred evangelicals. The NIV was an entirely original translation, not following in the heritage of the KJV. The major aim of the NIV was to produce a very readable text. The translators operated under a conservative mindset, but moved away from the word-for-word approach in translating with a moderate level of idea-for-idea or phrase-for-phrase.

**Disadvantage:** While very readable, the NIV is subject to some level of subjectivity as an idea-for-idea translation in many places. Consequently, it is not the best edition for a verse by verse study. The NIV, being so readable, also dulls some of the text by removing unique and original wording.

**Advantage:** Very well-known and readily available translation today. Produced by conservatives, this text is used by many evangelical churches in their services for public out-loud reading.

**New King James Version (NKJV):** A 1982 revision of the KJV by over one hundred translators, the NKJV was based on the same underlying Hebrew and Greek text (the *Textus Receptus*). The NKJV strove to produce a more modernized and readable version of the KJV with its twentieth century English.

**Disadvantage:** The NKJV does not make use of modern textual discoveries and relies on what was available in Hebrew and Greek in the seventeenth century.

**Advantage:** A reliable translation of the Bible, which today's reader can better understand than the KJV. The NKJV retains a nice literary flow throughout the psalms and proverbs. Additionally, the NKJV is readily available on the web and in print.

**New Revised Standard Version (NRSV):** A 1990 revision of the RSV. The NRSV translators used more recent Hebrew/Greek manuscript evidence in their work. The text is less literal than the RSV and strongly forwards gender-neutral language throughout.

Disadvantage: Easier to read than the RSV with its modern English; however, the translation continued to keep Christian interpretation (by the New Testament authors) out of the Old Testament (e.g. Isa. 7:14).

Advantage: Used for pulpit reading in mainstream churches.

**Contemporary English Version (CEV):** A 1995 "translation" of the Bible by the American Bible Society. The CEV is a paraphrasing of the original text to make it readable by those without much of an education.

Disadvantage: This translation is not for serious study of the Bible.

Advantage: Perhaps useful for teaching very young children or those who do not have a satisfactory vocabulary to draw from.

**New Living Translation (NLT):** The NLT is a paraphrased translation of the Bible from the original languages (unlike the TLB), which attempts to make the text readable by children and the uneducated. The translation was completed in 1996.

Disadvantage: As with the other paraphrased versions of the Bible, the NLT loses theological precision and depth. It loses truth and accuracy for readability and is clearly not a Bible of choice for study or teaching.

Advantage: Perhaps useful for young children or the uneducated.

Hopefully, this doesn't confuse us more!

My recommendations for a Study Bible is the NRSV, which is preferred by the ELCA, and the version we use in Worship. For a Devotional Bible, CEV or NLT.

**A NEW ADULT STUDY WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 13 on ZOOM & will focus on the book of ECCLESIASTES.**

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH - WEST BLOOMFIELD MI  
www.spiritdrivenchurch.com

JOIN US FOR OUR

**ZOOM**

**ADULT STUDY**

August 13 - September 3, 2020

## A Message from Holy Spirit's Finance Committee

Hello Holy Spirit Family,

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy as we live through these unprecedented times. As you know, we have decided to keep the church physically closed and have been utilizing electronic means to stay connected, continue our fellowship, and worship from home. I hope that you will join us in our upcoming virtual Sunday services and fellowship sessions like 11 am coffee.

In addition to shifting our worship and fellowship efforts online, we have continued to maintain the physical church both inside and out. Summer lawn and landscaping projects and necessary indoor maintenance projects have continued in partnership with different vendors and generous time given by congregation volunteers. And I am proud to say that we have continued to keep all of our staff on payroll and have not furloughed any employees.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing financial support and I hope that you will continue to support our congregation's mission. You can continue to financially give by sending a physical check to the church office or by using our PayPal account (information located on our website). Stay safe!

Cara Kunkel  
Finance Committee Chair

### August Birthdays

Rose Filipp	August 1
Jonathan Voorhees	August 1
Jeff Buckler	August 9
Heinz Mattern	August 9
Lorry Prus	August 10
Nancy Fish	August 11
Jarrold Dexel	August 14
Jennie Sweda	August 15
Marge Dronsella	August 22
Bob Burns	August 23
Liesa Helfer	August 23
Ralph Green	August 27
Cort Yohn	August 30
Sue Gates	August 31

### August Anniversaries

Jerry & Linda Iverson	August 3
Dan & Melanie Bergman	August 5
Mimi & Shawn Curlee	August 13
Norm & Carolyn Werner	August 13
Jarrold & Sophia Dexel	August 14
Matthew & Nicole Voorhees	August 14
Hal & Sue Adams	August 20
Matthew & Krystina Sawicki	August 28

AUGUST						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
			<p>A link to our latest pre-recorded worship service video is emailed to all on our mailing list.</p> <p>The videos are also available at <a href="http://www.spiritdrivenchurch.com">www.spiritdrivenchurch.com</a></p>			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Coffee & Conversation 11am Zoom  Online N.A.		State Primary Election Fellowship Hall 7am-8pm  			Online A.A.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Coffee & Conversation 11am Zoom  Online N.A.				Ecclesiastes Adult Study 10 am Zoom	Online A.A.	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Coffee & Conversation 11am Zoom  Online N.A.	Online Finance Meeting 7pm	Online Council Meeting 7pm		Ecclesiastes Adult Study 10 am Zoom	Online A.A.	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Coffee & Conversation Online N.A. <b>30</b> Coffee & Conversation Online N.A.	<b>31</b>			Ecclesiastes Adult Study 10 am Zoom	Online A.A.	

### Holy Spirit: A Praying Community

*As you pray throughout your days please include...*

**Pray for open hearts and minds, that we might reflect prayerfully on our church, society, institutions, laws, traditions and selves,** seeking meaningful change and reform to combat racism and white supremacy wherever they exist, perpetuate injustice or influence us.

**Pray that the story of Jesus feeding the hungry crowd will inspire us to be compassionate and generous,** and that, individually and together, we will be able and equipped to respond to the needs of our neighbor.

**Pray that we will not be too inhibited to wrestle with God and God's Word, or to have candid conversations with God, and that the Spirit will** deepen our trust in God's love, concern, forgiveness and patience with us.

**Pray that we will listen carefully to God and be receptive to the ways God speaks to us each day, especially when we least expect it or are slow to recognize God's voice** amid the noise and competing voices in the world.

**Ask the Spirit to help us be bold and articulate in sharing who God is, what God has done and what God is doing** in the world for the sake of all people.

**Pray that we will listen carefully to God and be receptive to the ways God speaks to us each day,** especially when we least expect it or are slow to recognize God's voice amid the noise and competing voices in the world.

**Pray that during this pandemic, which has stretched beyond our expectations and imagination, we will be renewed in our commitment to the patience, sacrifice and awareness of the example we set** as we continue personal health measures for the sake of our health and the wellness of our neighbors, community and nation.

**Pray for forgiveness and God's mercy when our actions, words, intentions or thoughts dishonor God's ways and commandments.** Ask for the Spirit to help us shine as bright witnesses to God's unbound, unbiased love for humanity and to serve our neighbor without prejudice or reluctance.

**Give thanks for nimble, creative teachers and school staff as they adapt to the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic** with concern for the safety, education and personal needs of students and their parents.

Who can argue with the psalmist who proclaims that it is good and pleasant when we live together in unity? **Pray that, amid unrest, conflict and division, we will work for the unity that God desires for us,** a unity rooted in love, respect, justice, diversity, reconciliation, mutual understanding and advocacy for neighbors in need.

How do you respond when someone asks you about your faith, your beliefs, the church or who Jesus is? **Pray that the Spirit will inspire our boldness and clarity as we, respecting and welcoming people's questions, talk about our faith, recognize and seek opportunities to bear witness to God's presence and work in the world,** and reveal the Jesus we know and follow through our actions and prayerful conversations.

**Give thanks that, as a church, we listen to the needs of our neighbors, roll up our sleeves and get to work with partners and companions in our communities and the world,** helping and serving where the needs are greatest.

In this presidential campaign year, **pray that our leaders and candidates will serve all people, especially those in the greatest need; work to heal wounds and divisions in society; strive for justice and equality;** and seek change for the well-being and prosperity of our communities. Pray that our faith, wisdom and concern for neighbors and global companions will guide our discernment and decisions in upcoming elections.



**Holy Spirit Lutheran Church**  
4800 Orchard Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
*A Caring Community of Faith*

**Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry**

**248-682-5441**

[www.spiritdrivenchurch.com](http://www.spiritdrivenchurch.com)

[fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch](https://fb.com/spiritdrivenchurch)

**Worship 10:00 am**

**Sunday School 10:45 am**

*(September – June)*



Pastor

Rev. William J. Matlack

Administrative Assistant

Cheryl Brouillette



Congregational President

Norm Werner



Music Staff

Bonnie Sweda, Musician

Kelly Perrin, Choir

Heinz Mattern, Handbells

*A Monthly Publication of*

**Holy Spirit Lutheran Church**

4800 Orchard Lake Rd.

West Bloomfield, MI 48323

**Our Mission:**

We are: CALLED by Christ

in our Baptism and GATHERED by the  
Holy Spirit into his community of faith to

celebrate God's grace in our midst so we  
can be SENT to share that grace in our

community and beyond.



## Annual Blanket Drive St. Peter's Lutheran Church Warren, MI

For the 7th straight year St. Peter's is collecting new blankets for patients of Children's Hospital. Each child will receive their own blanket to keep and take home. Last year they collected over 700 blankets and hope to break that record this year. They are asking for help.

Blankets must be new, washable and any size.  
They may purchased, knitted, crocheted,  
or hand tied.

The blankets will be delivered by  
October 31st to St. Peter's.