



## Life in Christ, Vol. 69 Issue 8 August, 2025



Words are powerful.

Recently, I had the opportunity to watch the documentary, “1946.”

“1946: *The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture* is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.”

<https://www.1946themovie.com/>

With one choice in translation, and what the documentarians point out as a mistranslation, the inclusion of the word, “homosexuality,” in our Bible translations in the Revised Standard Version (RSV), created in 1946, has had immense power in culture and society. It has affected generations of LGBTQ+ people and their experience (or lack thereof) of welcome, inclusion and celebration. It has given power and affirmation to Christians and people of faith to say, “But the Bible says...” as way to isolate, harm, exclude, etc. our LGBTQ+ siblings.

Then we learned that the RSV text, containing this error, was used as the basis for multiple other translations that has perpetuated and amplified this misrepresentation of the biblical text and contributed to the widespread belief that God is somehow against our LGBTQ+ siblings. We know this is not true.

*God created all. God loves all. God celebrates all for who we are.*

And yet, our Bible, God’s Word, is being used in a way that his causing harm, not building up. This is not okay. And as Christians, it’s our responsibility to educate ourselves and others, speak up and out, and advocate and align with those whom God loves, especially those who have been historically marginalized, excluded and harmed. And as Christians, it’s important that we familiarize ourselves with the biblical text so that we can speak confidently, thoughtfully, and accurately about what the Bible really does say.

Because words are powerful.

And it’s going to take work to right this wrong, address harm done, and create a new cultural narrative.

### **Did you know?**

Our current Pew Bibles are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), copyright 1989. The NRSV was released as an update to the RSV, copyright 1946.

### **Did you know?**

The New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition (NRSVue) was completed in 2021 and serves as an update to the NRSV. The Bibles that are in our Sanctuary are NRSV. However, we have been using the NRSVue since post-Easter in our worship readings. NRSVue Pew Bibles became available in early 2025.

Augsburg Fortress, our denominational publisher, says this about the new translation:

“The NRSVue reflects discoveries of ancient texts and new insights made in the 30 years since the NRSV was last revised. This newly-updated translation offers clearer, more direct, and inclusive language, and increased cultural sensitivity absent of the unintended biases of prior versions.”

Friendship Press, the publishing arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, says this,

“The NRSV Updated Edition sets out to be the most literal translation of the Bible available to date with its clear use of unambiguous and unbiased language. The new version gives English Bible readers access to the most meticulously researched, rigorously reviewed, and faithfully accurate translation on the market. It is also the most ecumenical Bible with acceptance by Christian churches of Protestant, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, African American, and Evangelical traditions.”

The good news is that it doesn't appear that new translations are released every year or other year (as this one took 30+ years to be released) so it's safe to say that utilizing and/or purchasing this new translation will not go out of style anytime soon. Our Church Council, on the recommendation of myself and the Worship & Music Committee, are encouraging us to purchase Bibles with the newest translation for our Sanctuary. This will be a noteworthy cost, about \$1500. You'll hear more about this at our September Congregational meeting, but I wanted to give you a heads up. As has been done with previous purchases of Bibles and hymnals for the Sanctuary, we will provide opportunity for church members and attenders to sponsor a Bible, in which you can have a personalized dedication, “Given by the \_\_\_\_\_ family to the glory of God” or “Given by the \_\_\_\_\_ family in memory of \_\_\_\_\_” In addition, the Council will be looking to donate the bulk of our NRSV Pew Bibles to an

organization that can use them. We will also be offering a chance for individuals and families to take home a NRSV Pew Bible if they so choose.

It matters the Bible translation that we're using in our worship and it matters the Bible translation that you're using for your own devotional life. Because words are powerful.

### **Looking for a new Bible translation?**

Of course, I'd commend to you the NRSVue. But if you're curious how this version might compare with your personal Bible or other translations that are available, I found the following chart helpful. It is represented on a continuum from Word for Word to Paraphrase, with Thought for Thought in the middle.

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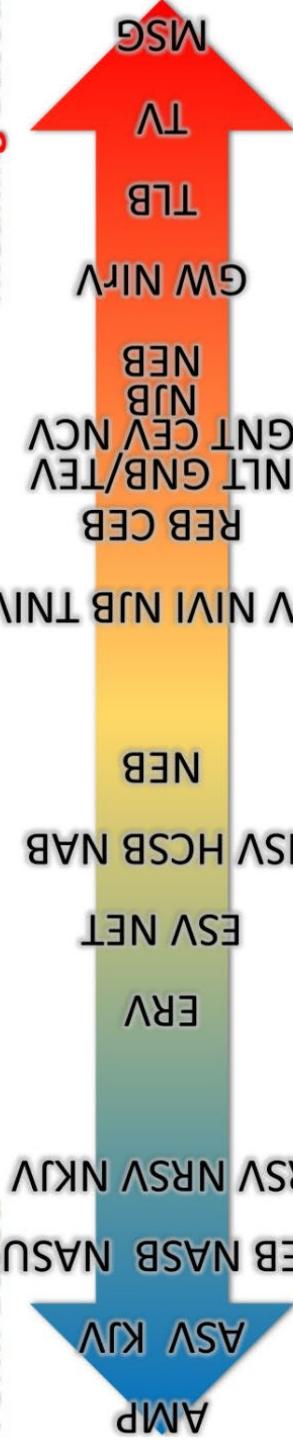
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**Word for Word**  
**Formal Equivalent**  
**Literal**  
**Form Based**

**Thought for Thought**  
**Dynamic Equivalent**

**Paraphrase**  
**Functional Equivalent**  
**Paraphrase**  
**Meaning Based**



AMP  
 ASV KJV  
 LEB NASB NASU  
 RSV NRSV NKJV

AMP - Amplified Bible (12)  
 CEV<sup>AA</sup> - Common English Bible (7)  
 CEV<sup>A</sup> - Contemporary English Version (5)  
 ERV<sup>A</sup> - Easy to Read Version (3.5)  
 ESV<sup>A</sup> - English Standard Version (9.5)  
 GNB/TEV<sup>A</sup> - Good News Bible (6)  
 GNT - Good News Translation (6)  
 GW - Gods Word (4.5)  
 HCSB - Holman Christian Standard (8)  
 ISV<sup>AA</sup> - International Standard Version (8.5)  
 KJV<sup>A</sup> - King James Version (13)  
 LEB - Lexham English Bible (11.5)  
 MSG - The Message (4.5)

ERV  
 ESV NET  
 ISV HCSB NAB  
 NEB

NAB<sup>\*</sup> - New American Bible (7)  
 NASB - New American Standard Bible (11)  
 NASU - New American Standard Update 1995 (11)  
 NCV<sup>A</sup> - New Century Version (5)  
 NEB<sup>AA</sup> - New English Bible (7)  
 NET<sup>AA</sup> - New English Translation (7)  
 NIRV - New International Readers Version (3.5)  
 NIV - New International Version (8)  
 NIV2011<sup>AA</sup> - New International Version 2011 (8)  
 NIVT<sup>A</sup> - New International Version Inclusive (8)  
 NJB<sup>A</sup> - New Jerusalem Bible (7.5)  
 NKJV - New King James Version (9)  
 NLT<sup>A</sup> - New Living Translation (6.5)

NIV NIVI NJB TNIV  
 REB CEB  
 NLT GNB/TEV  
 GNT CEV NCV  
 NBJ  
 NEB

NRSV<sup>AA</sup> - New Revised Standard Version (10.5)  
 REB - Revised English Bible (7)  
 RSV<sup>A</sup> - Revised Standard Version (11)  
 TEV<sup>A</sup> - Today's English Version (6)  
 TLB - The Living Bible (8.5)  
 TNIV<sup>A</sup> - Today's New International Version (7.5)  
 TV - The Voice (7)

GW NIRV  
 TLB  
 TV  
 MSG

<sup>AA</sup> No gender neutral language for God, moderate inclusive language for man.  
<sup>A</sup> Gender neutral language  
<sup>\*</sup> Apocrypha available or included  
<sup>(#)</sup> Grade reading level

Examples of **W4W** | **T4T** | **PARA**  **identity intelligence®**

| Idiom  | Reference                      | Hebrew/Greek  | Word-for-Word   | Thought-for-Thought   | Paraphrase   |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| His nose burned  | Exodus 4:14                    | ויסר-אף יִקוּן  | And the nose of Yahweh burned. (NASB)                                   | The Lord became very angry. (NLT)                                 | God was fuming! (MSG)  |
| Their heart is as fat as grease                                  | Psalms 119:70                  | טֶפֶס כִּתְלֵי לֶבָם                                  | Their heart is dull like fat. (LEB)                                     | Their hearts are callous and unfeeling. (NIV)                     | They were thick-headed and didn't care about anything! (MSG)         |
| They ate wind  | Hosea 12:1                     | חָסַף יִרְעָה   | Ephraim feedeth on wind. (KJV)  | Ephraim chases the wind all day long. (NLT)                       | They were chasing shadows, always running after nothing! (MSG)       |
| My bones stuck to my skin  | Psalms 102:5                   | מִקוּל אֶנְקוּתִי יִצְמְנוּ לִבְשָׁרִי                | Because of the sound of my groaning, my bones cling to my flesh. (NASB) | I am reduced to skin and bones from my suffering. (NLT)           | I was so starved I looked like a walking skeleton! (MSG)             |
| Wickedness burns like a fire                                     | Isaiah 9:18                    | כִּי-בִעֲרָה כְּאֵשׁ רָשָׁעָה                         | For wickedness burns as the fire. (KJV)                                 | Surely wickedness burns like a fire. (NIV)                        | That situation blew up like a house on fire! (MSG)                   |
| The mountains skipped like rams                                  | Psalms 114:4                   | הַרְרִים רָקְדוּ כְּאֵילִים                           | The mountains skipped like rams. (NASB)                                 | The mountains leaped like rams. (NLT)                             | Even the hills were jumping for joy! (MSG)                           |
| Your speech is smooth like butter, but there's war in your heart | Psalms 55:21                   | הִלְקִי מִתְקַוֵּאת פִּי וְקִרְבִּי לְבָבִי           | His talk was smoother than butter, yet battle was in his heart. (LEB)   | His words are as smooth as butter, but war is in his heart. (NIV) | He was smiling to your face but stabbing you in the back! (MSG)      |
| They gnash their teeth   | Psalms 35:16 (LXX) / Acts 7:54 | ἔβηγον ἐν ἐμὲ τοὺς ὀδόντας αὐτῶν                      | "They began gnashing their teeth at him." (NASB)                        | They were so furious they ground their teeth. (NIV)               | They were so mad they could chew nails! (MSG)                        |
| Their stomach is their god                                       | Philippians 3:19               | ὧν ὁ θεὸς ἡ κοιλία                                    | Whose god is their belly. (ESV)   | They only live to satisfy their appetites. (NLT)                  | They worship food like it's a religion! (MSG)                        |
| Blind guides straining out a gnat but swallowing a camel         | Matthew 23:24                  | οἱ διυλίζοντες τὸν κώνωπα, τὴν δὲ κάμηλον καταπιόντες | Who strain out a gnat but swallow a camel. (KJV)                        | They focus on small details but ignore major problems. (NIV)      | They make a big deal about nothing but ignore the real issues! (MSG) |

This second chart offers examples of how each translation might differ in their approach by showing side by side comparison of one verse but appearing in a translation from each category.

I want to encourage you to get a copy of the NRSVue, but to also have other translations at your fingertips, whether in print or online. The different translations have their advantages and disadvantages. The NRSV (now NRSVue) has the clearest, more direct and inclusive translation, and reflects the most up to date biblical scholarship. However, you might also appreciate the Message (MSG) translation whose language involves interpretation and has very accessible and evocative language. This translation can really paint a picture. When I'm finding a version for children, I would consider the grade level for which the translation is most appropriate. The Easy to Read Version (ESV) or Contemporary English Version (CEV) would be good choices in this case. And the list goes on. Consider what translation might be best for you and your study.

If you're interested in more info on the NRSVue, you can visit:

[www.friendshippress.org/pages/nrsvue-quick-faq](http://www.friendshippress.org/pages/nrsvue-quick-faq)

**These charts can be found  
using this link...**

<https://identity-intelligence.org/different-bible-versions-comparison-charts/>



# Preschool News

Our summer session began on Monday, June 24 and our summer theme is, "Adventure Explorers: A Summer of Wonder". Our weekly themes will include: Time Travelers: Adventures through History, Mission to Imagination: Space & Beyond, Backpack to the Wild: Nature Explorers, Ocean Commotion: Under the Sea, God's Creation, Our Awesome World: Community Helpers, Make Believe & Magic: Fairy Tales and Fantasy, and Super You!

To celebrate the 4th of July, the children dressed in red, white and blue, made instruments and had a parade. Parents joined us for the fun and cheered on the children throughout the parade. We had rocket popsicles following the parade. We have also continued to have water days once a week. With the heat of the summer, this is always a favorite day for the children.

We participated in the Church Vacation Bible School the week of July 21st. The preschoolers really enjoyed going to the activity stations and the opening and closing sessions. Families were invited to the BBQ on Thursday to enjoy a meal and fellowship as well as see the children perform the songs they'd learned throughout VBS. We had a great turnout!

We are full for fall with a waiting list. Our last day of summer will be on Friday, August 15. We will be closed the following week for our staff work week to get everything cleaned and prepped for fall. Our Fall session will begin on Monday, August 25.

**WISHING YOU A GREAT END OF SUMMER!**

*Lisa Clinton*



 **Lutheran Maritime Ministry**

# Honoring 30 Years of Serving the Seafarers

Anniversary Luncheon

**Saturday August 16, 2025**  
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
Westchester Lutheran Church  
7831 S. Sepulveda Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Ca 90045

Kindly RSVP by Aug. 10 to:  
[jksaru@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jksaru@sbcglobal.net)



**Lutheran Maritime Ministry**  
*Making a Difference - Serving in Jesus' Love*

For over 30 years, Lutheran Maritime Ministry has welcomed seafarers arriving at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles—offering care, comfort, and connection to thousands of mariners and their families.

**Now, as we mark our 30th Anniversary, we invite you to be part of the mission.** Enjoy a meaningful afternoon filled with community, purpose, and the opportunity to support those who spend their lives at sea.

**CONTACT US**

 [lmsocal.com](http://lmsocal.com)

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Long Beach, CA 90802

 562-209-1577  
[lmsocal@gmail.com](mailto:lmsocal@gmail.com)

 follow our work on  
Facebook @lmsocal

Lutheran Maritime Ministry is a registered nonprofit. All donations are tax deductible.



By Jen Wilkin | A 10-Session Study

In this verse-by-verse study of the Book of Hebrews, Jen Wilkin explores how God “provided something better for us” in the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:40). Through stories of Old Testament heroes and practices, the author of *I Heebies* demonstrates how the new covenant is superior to the old and how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of every promise. Explore familiar verses in context of the entire Bible, learning how to place your hope and faith in Christ alone.

**Meeting on Wednesdays from 6-8 P.M.**

**September 3 - November 5, 2025**

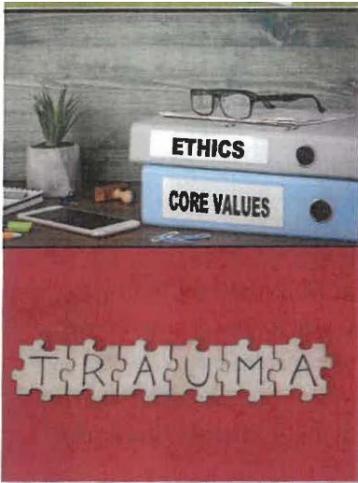
**Christ Lutheran Church - LB in the Founders Room**

**For more info, contact Shannon Timney at 562-598-2433**



# CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS SERIES

Please note dates are subject to change with advanced notice.



**Sunday,  
July 27**

**Critical Conversations 2:  
The Ethics of Disagreement**  
Time: 3-5pm  
Location: TBA

**Sunday,  
August 17**

**Critical Conversations 3:  
Israelis & Palestinians Living with  
Continuous Trauma: What They  
Wish We Understood**  
Time: 3-5pm  
Location: TBA

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## **Stewardship Monthly Focus—Greeters**

A Greeter is a volunteer member of Christ Lutheran Church who welcomes the congregation and guests as they enter the foyer/narthex and church areas before the worship service. The Greeter is warm and friendly, yet perceptive of each person's differing comfort levels. We would love to have you help us. If this interests you, please contact Robin Black at 562-505-6682 or [robinwow3@gmail.com](mailto:robinwow3@gmail.com)



### We pray for:

#### Members at Home or in Care Centers:

Laurie Ennen, Ione Marchael, Gale

Mussleman, Sydney Nichols, Phil Peterson, Bary & Janice Schlieder, and Frances Willms.

#### Those struggling with illness or other concerns:

Don Darnauer, Paige, Judy Haenn, Daniel Howard, Shannon Howard, Beverly Koenen, Parker Treat, Kristine Trost, Gary & Linda Zimmerman.

**\*Family & Friends:** Irene Audett, Lois Brown, Steven De La Rosa, Jasenko Dzinovic, Clark Enebo, Tamra Fitzgerald, Brechin Flournoy, Allan Gatzke, Cindy Gray, Bill Holford, Kylie & Crystal Huber, Bryan Koenen, Barb Korsmo, Katrina Lahr, Luke McCann, LaRaesha Murray, Linda, Steven, Alexis, Colin, Kristina & Scott Randolph, Sharry Reed, David Sarvela, Marlene Shafer, Laura Straus, Jason Thompson, Vicki Thompson, Jessica & Larisa West, and Bethany Wildes.

#### We pray for the ongoing work of:

- + Linda Gawthorne among the Kogi people of Colombia
- + First responders who provide safety, security, and care
- + Those serving in our nation's Military, especially Samuel Brown, Ryan Dorris, Morgan Llewellyn, Austin Marsh, Johnny Luna, Jim Reeder, Austin Rowell, Jalan Sanchez, Steven, Brina and Michael Navarro.

**We remember:** Our unhoused neighbors, who find themselves without shelter and a place to call home. We pray for their safety, health, and wellness. We commit to treating them with compassion and working to combat systemic issues that leave our neighbors in need.



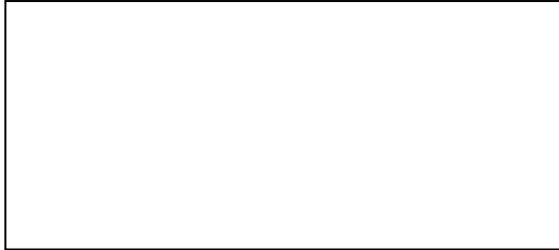
- 8/2 Shannon and Steve Howard
- 8/7 Robin and David Black
- 8/9 Shannon and Matthew Timney



- 8/6 Aiden Jenkins
- 8/7 Nick Flournoy
- 8/9 Meaghan Randig
- 8/9 Shannon Timney
- 8/10 Garrett Book
- 8/15 Bryce Bonilla-Haenn
- 8/15 Elise Joubert-Honacki
- 8/16 Ione Marchael
- 8/18 Gale Mussleman
- 8/24 Brad Croes
- 8/27 Karl Hansen

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**6500 Stearns Street**  
**Long Beach, CA 90815-3497**

**Return Service Requested**



**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ's example,  
 we welcome, serve, and love  
 all through God's grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God's love  
 and grace is for all, Christ  
 Lutheran Church is a vibrant  
 and active community spreading  
 the good news through acceptance,  
 action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

September Newsletter Deadline:  
 August 15

***Life In Christ***

Is the newsletter of  
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**6500 Stearns Street**  
**Long Beach, CA 90815-3497**  
 562.598.2433  
 www.christlutheranlb.com

email:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com

**Please join us in person for Sunday  
 Worship 9:30am**

**Live on our YouTube Channel**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@christlutheranlb>**



Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook.

**[facebook.com/christlutheranlb](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranlb)**