

Leland Community UMC Weekly News

January 13, 2019

Why the English Standard Version?

I praise God that we have the Bible in English. We cannot begin to estimate what this is worth to Christians and churches, let alone to non-Christians and the different cultures of the English-speaking world.

I would rather have people read any translation of the Bible, than to read no translation of the Bible. If there could be only one translation in English, I would rather it be my least favorite than that there be none. God uses every version to bless people and save people.

The issue before the church in the English-speaking world today is not "no translation vs. a weak translation." It is between many precious English Bibles. A Bible does not cease to be precious and powerful because its translators overuse paraphrase and put way too much of their own interpretation into the Bible. We are not replacing our current pew Bible, *The Good News Translation*, because it has suddenly become outdated or "bad," but because it was published over 40 years ago, and we can no longer purchase replacements for our worn-out copies.

The reason we decided to use the *English Standard Version* (ESV) for our pew Bible is, among other considerations, to put a more literal, and yet a beautifully readable, memorable Bible in the hands of every person who attends a worship service, or participates in a Bible Study at the Leland Community Church.

A more literal translation such as the *English Standard Version* respects the original author's way of writing. It is a way of honoring the inspired writers.

A more literal translation also often preserves ambiguities that are really there in the original (Hebrew and Greek) texts and keeps open the possibility of new insight by future Bible readers. We do not claim that the ESV is the "ultimate" or "perfect" English Bible. I am simply arguing that the ESV is the best balance available of readability and literalness currently. May we all be blessed in reading and hearing and studying God's precious gift of the Bible for years to come.

Pastor Daniel Hofmann

Sunday Youth Brunch & Springhill Update

This Sunday, **January 13** the youth, aka "*biGfisH*", will be serving brunch to our congregation immediately following the worship service. Please join us for a time of friendship and fellowship.

The donations that you provide help support our youth who will be attending SpringHill camp on February 1-3, 2019.

SpringHill sign-up has begun. Please check your email for sign up information. Please contact Sherry Wolin if you need further information, 231/499-6055.



2018 Year-End Finance Update

On behalf of the Finance Committee, we would like to thank you for the generous and gracious response to our appeal for year end giving. Thanks to your gifts and prayers we were able to reduce what looked to be a \$22,000 year end deficit to just over \$4,000. The shortfall was able to be covered by reserves that had been built up over the years. Thank you again for your commitment to our wonderful church.

Bill Small, Chair of Finance



Northern Waters District invites you to a FREE Super Sunday Training Event This event, strategically scheduled between Playoffs and the Super Bowl, is specifically designed to help equip your church's current and future leaders. What super gifts has God given YOU? Workshops Include: Staff Pastor Relations Committee (SPRC), Trustees, Finance, Laity, Spiritual Disciplines, Admin Council, and Hospitality. Join us as we help equip leaders with the answers to their questions. Cadillac United Methodist Church: 1020 E. Division St., Cadillac 2:30—5:00 p.m. Online registration: <https://michiganumc.org/super-Sunday-2019/>

LCUMC Membership Class

If you are interested in joining our church or just wanting to learn more about the Methodist denomination and LCUMC, we invite you to come to our next membership class to be held on Sunday, January 27, following our church service, downstairs at 11:30. Pastor Daniel will be conducting this class and a light lunch will be served. Please make a reservation, if possible, with Sherry or the Pastor at 256-9161.



Reminder: When Leland Public Schools are closed, LCUMC will be closed and meetings will be cancelled for the day Monday-Friday.

If there is inclement weather on Sunday, please check your local news stations. If there is a state of emergency to stay off the roads we will follow the recommendation and church will remain closed.

*Leland Community United Methodist Church
106 N. Fourth Street/P.O. Box 602
Leland, MI 49654
Church Office: 231/256-9161
Office Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30
Email: office@lelandcommunityumc.org*