



## Bible Reading Challenge

In 1522 Martin Luther translated the entire New Testament from Greek into German in 11 weeks. Will you take up the challenge of reading it in English within 95 days, or a little longer than 11 weeks?

Our journey will follow the route which the Gospel likely took as it moved from one culture to the next, and the church developed as it met new challenges.

We will begin August 20 and conclude by Thanksgiving, November 22, 2017. Of course, if you need more time to complete the journey, that's okay too.

*For more information contact:*

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## Our Journey Through the New Testament

### **Part One: An Overview of the Story: Acts**

As you read the story of the Gospel's spread from Jerusalem to Rome, look for markers that highlight the growth of the Word and the growth of the church.

August 20:	Acts 1:1 - 26
August 21:	Acts 2:1 - 5:42
August 22:	Acts 6:1 - 8:40
August 23:	Acts 9:1 - 12:24
August 24:	Acts 12: 25 - 16:5
August 25:	Acts 16: 6 - 19:20
August 26:	Acts 19:21 - 24:27
August 27:	Acts 25:1 - 28:21

### **Part Two: The Gospel in Jewish soil:**

#### ***Matthew and James***

Note the careful structure of the Gospel--A powerful prolog showing Jesus as the Christ with an equally powerful climax with the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In between are five discourses preceded by deeds anticipating the discourses, which in turn interpret the deeds.

#### The Gospel:

August 28:	Matthew 1:1 - 4:17
August 29:	Matthew 4:18 - 7:29
August 30:	Matthew 8:1 - 9:38
August 31:	Matthew 10:1 - 11:30
September 1:	Matthew 12:1 - 13:52
September 2:	Matthew 13:53 - 15:39
September 3:	Matthew 16:1 - 18:35
September 4:	Matthew 19:1 - 20:34
September 5:	Matthew 21:1 - 23:39
September 6:	Matthew 24:1 - 25:46
September 7:	Matthew 26:1 - 28:20

The Letter of James: The new life of faith is to be practiced.

September 8: James 1:1 - 2:26

September 9: James 3:1 - 5:20

### **Part Three: The Gospel Moves to Turkey:**

#### ***Galatians, Luke, Colossians, and Philemon***

Galatians emphasizes how all are saved through faith, but faith goes to work. Luke highlights the universal character of Jesus' ministry; Colossians shows Him as our all-sufficient Savior; Philemon reflects the transformation Jesus makes in lives.

September 10: Galatians 1:1 - 4:31

September 11: Galatians 5:1 - 6:18

September 12: Luke 1:1 - 2:52

September 13: Luke 3:1 - 4:44

September 14: Luke 5:1 - 7:50

September 15: Luke 8:1 - 10:42

September 16: Luke 11:1 - 13:35

September 17: Luke 14:1 - 16:31

September 18: Luke 17:1 - 19:48

September 19: Luke 20:1 - 22:34

September 20: Luke 22:35 - 24:53

September 21: Philemon

September 22: Colossians

### **Part Four: The Gospel Moves to Greece:**

#### ***Philippians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians***

Here we sense the challenge of living in a pagan environment, whether Philippi or Corinth. In the Thessalonian letters we see how the Christian hope needs to express itself.

September 23: Philippians

September 24: 1 Thessalonians 1 - 5

September 25: 2 Thessalonians 1 - 3

September 26: 1 Corinthians 1:1 - 4: 21

September 27: 1 Corinthians 5:1 - 7:40

September 28: 1 Corinthians 8:1 - 11:1

September 29: 1 Corinthians 11:2 - 14:40

September 30: 1 Corinthians 15:1 - 16:24  
 October 1: 2 Corinthians 1:1 - 4:18  
 October 2: 2 Corinthians 5:1 - 7:16  
 October 3: 2 Corinthians 8:1 - 9:15  
 October 4: 2 Corinthians 10:1 - 13:14

**Part Five: The Gospel Goes to Rome:**

***Mark and Paul's Letter to the Romans.*** As you read Mark sense the power that is stressed. Note Paul's purpose in writing to the Romans: to encourage them and secure a new base to reach out to Spain (1:8-15 and 15:14-32).

October 5: Mark 1:1 - 3:35  
 October 6: Mark 4:1 - 6:29  
 October 7: Mark 6:30 - 8:21  
 October 8: Mark 8:22 - 10:52  
 October 9: Mark 11:1 - 13:37  
 October 10: Mark 14:1 - 16:20  
 October 11: Romans 1:1 - 3:20  
 October 12: Romans 3:21 - 5:21  
 October 13: Romans 6:1 - 8:39  
 October 14: Romans 9:1 - 11:36  
 October 15: Romans 12:1 - 15:13  
 October 16: Romans 15:14 - 16: 27

**Part Six: The Gospel Addresses Matters of Church and Ministry: Ephesians, 1 Timothy, Titus and 2 Timothy.**

How should the church organize to live in the world, so that it can carry out the mission which God has given it?

October 17: Ephesians 1:1 - 3:21  
 October 18: Ephesians 4:1 - 6:24  
 October 19: 1 Timothy 1:1 - 3:16  
 October 20: 1 Timothy 4:1 - 6:21  
 October 21: Titus 1:1 - 3:15  
 October 22: 2 Timothy 1:1 - 2:26  
 October 23: 2 Timothy 3:1 - 22

**Part Seven: The General Letters highlight the importance of keeping the faith but also putting it into practice: Hebrews, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude, and 1, 2, and 3 John.**

October 24: Hebrews 1:1 - 4:13  
 October 25: Hebrews 4:14 - 7:28  
 October 26: Hebrews 8:1 - 10:39  
 October 27: Hebrews 11:1 - 13: 25  
 October 28: 1 Peter 1:1 - 3:12  
 October 29: 1 Peter 3:13 - 5:14  
 October 30: Jude, 2 Peter 1:1 - 3:18  
 October 31: 1 John 1:1 - 5:21  
 November 1: 2, 3 John

**Part Eight: Our Journey reaches its climax with the Gospel according to St. John and the Revelation given to him.**

Please watch for the signs Jesus does and their meaning; note also the significant "I Am" statements of Jesus, the Upper Room discourses, and how Jesus is shown to be the Christ. As you read the Revelation do not let the unusual symbolism puzzle you; rather see it as a sign of the victory Christ has won over the forces of darkness.

November 2: John 1:1 - 4:54  
 November 3: John 5:1 - 6: 71  
 November 4: John 7:1 - 9:41  
 November 5: John 10:1 - 12:50  
 November 6: John 13:1 - 14:31  
 November 7: John 15:1 - 17:26  
 November 8: John 18:1 - 21:25  
 November 9: Revelation 1:1 - 3:22  
 November 10: Revelation 4:1 - 5:14  
 November 11: Revelation 6:1 - 7:17  
 November 12: Revelation 8:1 - 10:11  
 November 13: Revelation 11:1 - 13:18  
 November 14: Revelation 14:1 - 16:21  
 November 15: Revelation 17:1 - 19:21  
 November 16: Revelation 20:1 - 22:21

**How to Read The Bible With Understanding**

**Wednesday Nights,  
 August 23 - November 15  
 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.**

This course is designed to help students learn the principles which aid the reader in understanding the Scriptures in light of

- their context,
- the text's language
- letting Scripture interpret Scripture
- the "rule of faith"
- their Christ-centeredness
- its message of Law and Gospel
- its "then and there" meaning and its "here and now" meaning

The course will provide help in interpreting different kinds of Scripture: poetry, prophecy, parables, and apocalyptic writings. The book by the same name will also provide background on how we got the Bible, translations, and tools for being sensitive to different contexts.

This course will give opportunity to participants in the "Bible Reading Challenge" to apply these principles.

Sign up at St. Peter Lutheran Church, or send an Email to Pastor Michael at pastor.stpeterlutheran@gmail.com. If you have questions, you may also contact him via his cell: 407-353-8420.