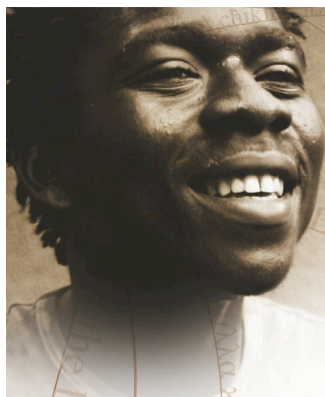




they will See and Understand

ISAIAH 52:15; ROMANS 15:21

FALL 2026

Hi, Team! Greetings from Northfield, MN, where life is routined around raising our four kids, Josh working at Farm Bureau Financial Services, and me (Ruthie) working with Lutheran Bible Translators. I love my work and the teams I get to work with, and I can only do this thanks to your support!



Over the last two years, churches and communities throughout Ukerewe Island have been receiving portions of translated Scripture for the first time in their language!

IMPACT OF ITERATIVE TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTION

As we experiment with new methods in Bible translation, I periodically look back at project reports to see what effects the changes have had over time. Here is an example. In 2024, I conducted a training for a translation project and team to implement an "Agile Mindset." This means that the team works more collaboratively with one another and with the language community through increased, iterative distributions of completed portions of translated Scripture. The community has the joy of engaging with Scripture, and the translation team receives valuable feedback.

This method is different from traditional methods where translators work individually on drafting and then come together to check one another's work. This team changed to drafting a single book together through exegetical and drafting

WHO WE ARE



The Wagner Family first served in Sierra Leone alongside the Themne people in Translation & Scripture Use. Now Ruthie is a Translation Development Specialist and a Consultant-in-Training, based in Minnesota and travels a few times a year doing training.

Making God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. (LBT's Mission)

TIMELINE

- AUG- Ruthie's 40th birthday on Aug 6th; research
- SEPT and writing and supporting translation work remotely
- OCT- Lizzie's 9th (golden!) birthday on Oct 9th;
- NOV trip to Bangladesh Oct 16-Nov 4 (with family for part of the time); our 17th wedding anniversary on Nov 21st
- DEC- Josiah's 11th birthday on Dec 21st; Josh's
- JAN birthday on Dec 24th; Ruthie's tentative work trip

TAKE ACTION

JOIN our "Wagner Updates" group

[facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)

GIVE to "Wagner Ministry" online or by mailing a check. lbt.org/wagner

PRAISE for the opportunity to support Bible translation as a trainer and as a consultant-in-training.

PRAY for our trip to Bangladesh in October!

CONTACT/SUPPORT

✉ Ruthie.Wagner@LBT.org

📘 [facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates](https://www.facebook.com/groups/wagnerupdates)

📞 612-433-1199 (call or text)

🏠 1317 Honeylocust Dr, Northfield, MN 55057



Lutheran Bible Translators

Designate "Wagner Ministry"

LBT • PO Box 789

Concordia, MO 64020

800.532.4253 lbt.org/wagner

Are you new to Wagner Updates? Please introduce yourself and contact us if you have any questions about our ministry.

RECURRING SUPPORT • To cover my 2026 budget, my support needs to increase a bit. Thank you!

92%

100%

discussion and collaboration, resulting in a higher-quality text earlier in the process. Also, traditionally, communities often wait until the New Testament or the entire Bible is published before they have God's Word in their hands. This community receives books or portions of the Bible in pamphlet form as they are completed. Scripture is distributed through early and iterative publications. Every month or two, the team visits an area and shares what they have done. This has led to engaging communities in other ways such as reading contests and producing material geared toward children.



As I look at the impact these changes have had on the project's progress, I can see the team intentionally slowing down the drafting and giving more attention to other stages of translation, including publication and Scripture engagement. Often, translation projects focus on getting drafting done, which can lead to a large backlog of drafts to be checked and moved through other translation stages.

With this new method using an Agile Mindset, the team sends much smaller portions through all the translation stages. Not only are the drafts incrementally improving and the team is receiving valuable feedback from the language community, but look at this! The Kerewe community is already using and enjoying the Bible!

Progress in	2024	2025	2026
Stage 1: Drafting	26%	27%	30%
Stage 2: Team Check	8%	27%	30%
Stage 3: Community Review	6%	12%	29%
Stage 4: Consultant Check	2%	11%	27%
Stage 5: Typesetting & Publication	0%	0%	7%



ELIJAH started high school! He's in soccer, multiple choirs, band, and honors. He loves all things music.



ISAIAH/ ZAY is in 7th grade. He is incredibly kind, and he loves people (especially kids) and strategy games.



JOSIAH is in 5th grade. He loves working with his hands, fixing and creating. He's adding trumpet to violin and piano this year.



LIZZIE is in 3rd grade. She loves to craft, write stories, sing, and dance. Grandma Kathy is teaching her needlework!

UP NEXT - TRIP TO BANGLADESH

Please pray for my family as we travel to Bangladesh in October! Lutheran Bible Translators has the opportunity to observe Oral Bible Translation projects in Bangladesh, managed by the Bangladesh Bible Society. I have been invited to visit these projects and teams. Also, an LBT colleague and I have been invited to meet with the local Lutheran church leaders.

These visits coincide with the 50th anniversary Jubilee celebration of LAMB Hospital, which my grandfather helped start. Some of you may know that I grew up in Bangladesh from 1987 to 1997. My grandparents moved there in 1957, and my parents in 1982. The last time I was there was in 2002. I look forward to introducing Josh and the kids to my childhood "family" and showing them places I lived. My parents and aunt are also going, and they will be a great help interpreting and supporting my research and meetings.

ORAL BIBLE TRANSLATION LEARNING

Please pray for wisdom as I observe and learn about Oral Bible Translation in Bangladesh. Oral Bible Translation is a growing effort for communities worldwide that prefer oral methods of communication and learning. Scripture is not only published in audio formats, but it is translated and produced orally to overcome barriers of literacy and to support non-written preferences and what we like to call multimodal translation. Multimodal translation is using multiple modes of processing and communication in the translation process, rather than just written.

Understanding this approach will help me better support Lutheran Bible Translators and translation projects as a trainer and consultant-in-training.

Thank you so much for your care and support for our family and the work of Bible Translation! Please consider closing my funding gap for 2026 - I've gone from 90 to 92% in recurring support since my last letter!

♥ *Ruthie & Josh Wagner*
~ *Elijah (14), Zay (12), Josiah (10.5), & Lizzie (9)*