

# The Word on the (F) Street

## The Use of NLT

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

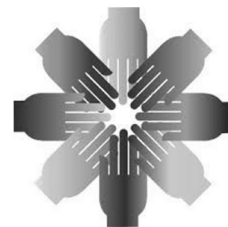
I remember very few splits in our votes, as Elders, at the Northern Lighthouse and at “F” Street Church. But I do recall one, in which I was the one breaking ranks, pressing hard to not let this vote pass. It passed, regardless of my efforts to disrupt the departure from truth.

That vote was for the use of the New Living Translation (NLT), as the primary translation, to be used at the Northern Lighthouse. Like many things, it has carried over to “F” Street Church.

I was opposed, in part, because I had grown up with the New International Version (NIV), a translation that replaced the New King James, in my tradition (CRC). It had roots even to the church I served in Seattle, as a youth pastor. I like the NIV, and at the moment I was heading towards the even “more accurate” translation of the New American Standard Version (can we stop calling them all *NEW?*), or the English Standard Version (this gets by vote for dropping the use of *NEW*). So the NLT seemed blasphemous to me, as it was heading the wrong direction in being right.

As true as it is that they are more accurate, as a word for word translation, they are more challenging to read, and it’s difficult to grasp meaning, due to the use of language that can be archaic or overly sophisticated. The argument that I was fighting against, and that I am happy that I lost that day, is that the NLT is simpler to read and comprehend.

To this day, I am grateful that we use the NLT, as it is a reader friendly text, and makes the Bible easier to grasp for many. That stated, when studying, I often read the text in multiple versions to help with the understanding and meaning, including the study of the Greek or Hebrew. But when sharing scripture in church, studying the Bible in Community Groups, sharing in a newsletter, or giving out Bibles at church, you will most often find that the translation is the NLT as it is our heart to help as many be able to grasp that beauty and truth of the Word or God.



## Be Part of a TEAM

At our latest Family Meeting, held on July 15<sup>th</sup>, we discussed what it means to be a member here at “F” Street Neighborhood Church (have a relationship with Jesus, be active in: giving, serving and attending). As many of you have merged with us from Jacobs Well, and others of you are just getting connected with us, I want to encourage you to be a part of a TEAM. TEAMS are pretty much what the sound like (we try to keep it simple). They are a group of people who work together, each taking care of a specific ministry of the church. There are many different TEAMS, listed below, that you can be a part of. If you have been around long enough, you will see that they can even be a bit fluid, as there are some that come and some that go. Each one however, helps “F” Street Church fulfill its vision to be a place of Acceptance and Direction.



*A Place of Acceptance and Direction*  
*“F” Street Neighborhood Church*

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### Calendar for August 2020

2nd: Sunday Service  
4th: 6:30am Prayer  
6th: 6:30pm FoodNet  
7th: **Happy Birthday Chelsea Pfeiffer**  
9th: Sunday Service  
10th: **Happy Birthday Matthew Greenfield**  
11th: 6:30am Prayer  
13th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Tad Stryker**  
15th: **Happy Birthday Elouise Schowalter**  
16th: Sunday Service  
18th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Judy Guidel**  
20th: 6:30pm FoodNet;  
**Happy Birthday Troy Moghadam**  
23rd: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Lyle Follen**  
25th: 6:30am Prayer; **Happy Birthday Tony Ballard, Stephen Mailand**  
26th: **Happy Birthday Abigail Heerspink**  
27th: 6:30pm FoodNet  
30th: Sunday Service

*Please keep us up to date on birthdays & anniversaries!*  
*If you aren't sure that we have your information, talk to Jane Mailand or simply fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to her. In addition, if your address, phone, or email has changed, let Jane know.*

In addition, being a TEAM member is a great way to grow spiritually, as we are called to serve and be active in ministry. Last but not least, it is one of the best ways to get to know others at “F” Street Church. I cannot encourage you enough, for the sake of “F” Street Church, your own growth, and as we strive to build relationships between what was once two churches, to sign up today to be on a TEAM.

Each TEAM is overseen by a leader, these TEAM leaders, for us, are our Deacons. A lot of this comes from the reading of Acts 6, where the Apostles assign seven men, filled with the Holy Spirit, to oversee the feeding of the widows. In that same way we see each of our TEAM Leaders as someone who is overseeing an area of ministry. These leaders must be able to meet the qualifications of a spiritual leader, and they are responsible for recruiting, equipping, and encouraging their team members. The leaders get together once a month (that was pre - COVID, but we hope and pray to begin again soon) for the purpose of equipping, encouraging, brain storming and some fun together.

If you are interested in being on a TEAM or becoming a TEAM Leader, please fill out one of the forms on the TEAM Leader document (available at the greeting table in the back of church), or reach out to Pastor Jeff at [fstreetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com).

**TEAMS:**

Those with \* represent those without a current TEAM Leader.

- Accounting
- Bagels and Coffee
- Benevolence and Health Ministries
- Community Groups
- Care
- Farmers Market
- Financial Development
- Greeting
- Journey Group
- \*Maintenance (Redeemer and Washington House) –
- \*Media
- Music Worship
- Neighborhood Parties
- \*Nursery
- \*Outdoor Worship
- \*Prayer
- Sacred Eyes
- Security
- Sound
- Transportation
- Video

**Timing is Everything, and for That, We are Grateful and Hopeful**

About a year and a half ago, Beth and I traveled to Texas for a vacation. While there, we attended a church that I had some knowledge about, and wanted to just be present. They ministered to a great number of homeless and hurting, so I was paying attention to how they were engaging and caring for the body and the community. During the service, the pastor mentioned something about those on the patio. I was intrigued, so I got up

and headed out of the church to see this, said, patio.

Outside was a sound system and, I believe, two TV’s broadcasting the service to the homeless as they sat, many off by their loaded “mobile homes” (AKA shopping carts), and sipping on hot black coffee. Within weeks I was dreaming about the idea being something we could incorporate here as well. Also within weeks, I was also told about the number of people who were milling around outside of church on Sundays, wanting to be here but not ready or comfortable to enter.

The plan was set, only it took time, as it required some additional sound equipment, moving the parking spaces back and adding to our deck out the office staircase. After months of planning and working, we were ready for our first service last fall. For months we were hosting those who have fear of crowds, those who want a smoke, those who are just curious and giving them an opportunity to hear the gospel.

***That idea to create a space for those not yet ready to enter the building, turned into a new crowd of people not yet ready to enter the building.***

Never in the planning would this also be a third venue for us, and in many cases, becoming our primary venue on Sunday mornings during the COVID pandemic. That idea to create a space for those not yet ready to enter the building, turned into a new crowd of people not yet ready to enter the building. How awesome is God that we have this space, and we had many things in place for this to be an alternative space for many of you to worship at this time.

However, we are also aware that we are lacking in the accommodations for this number of people. Not to mention our (\$2000 designed for outdoor use) TV ended up getting hit somehow and is garbage.

Well again, timing is everything, and God is good with getting the timing right. This past month, “F” Street Neighborhood Church was gifted with a large estate gift, that our Elders are using, and setting aside for the purpose of building projects, and special opportunities (not for staffing and regular budgeted items). One of those projects is a new roof over the education wing, that has leaked as long as we have owned the building, turning a part of the top floor into our pastoral offices.

In addition to this, we are also purchasing a replacement TV, and a 20 x 40 tent that will serve as a shade area for those of you who would rather be outside at this time. This will allow some of you to move forward where the sound and viewing is better, as well as giving space to others to be out on the lawn.

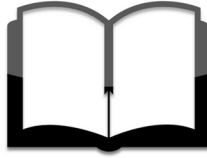
We are grateful to God for this space, the process pre-COVID, and now the resources to make it better for everyone.



# What Does a “Teaching Pastor” Do?

## Part 2 Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

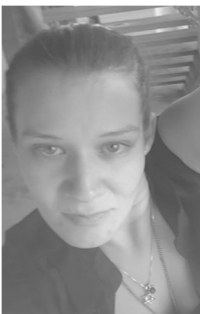
Last month I took a little bit of time to begin answering the question, “What does a ‘Teaching Pastor’ do?” I think this is important for church leaders and members alike, as we all get used to working with one another as fellow servants of Jesus Christ. In my last article, I mentioned that my work alongside of Pastor Jeff will focus in four main areas: Preaching, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Discipleship, and Training. I briefly discussed our Community Groups as a key method that we employ in fostering spiritual growth in our “F” Street Church family. I am planning to bring our current group leaders together early in August to discuss the current state of our groups, as well as how we can grow this area of our ministry.



Another important area of my role will be to help foster the area of Pastoral Care and Counseling in the life of our congregation. I will be working alongside Parish Nurse, Barb, in caring for the pastoral needs of the “F” Street Church congregation, and the neighborhood we serve. I am grateful for her fine leadership of our Benevolence and Health Ministries, and now I have been asked to oversee the existing Care Team that seeks to provide personal and individual pastoral care for the members of our church. During the weeks ahead, I will be seeking to learn more about, and providing support for our current efforts, as well as looking at how we might grow this aspect of our congregational life.

A third part of my job is in the area of Training. I have been asked to oversee and develop the Lincoln School of Ministry, that has been a combined effort of “F” Street Church and Jacob’s Well the past few years. Over the course of three trimesters, our students receive equipping in theology, ministry, and leadership that helps prepare them for service in the local church and community. (Please see the separate article in this newsletter for more information). If interested in beginning classes in September, please see Pastor Jeff or me to pick up an application.

## Have We Met? Jessica Hernandez, Journeys Group



You may have seen me outside of the church in search for my son Rafael. Or we may have met because you are a fellow patron in our church van ministry. Perhaps you’ve had the pleasure to dine on bagels and coffee with me, or you may have caught me pouring over my Action Bible before service, and you didn’t want to interrupt? Hello, I’m Jessica Hernandez and I am one of the teachers for the Journeys Children’s Group, for ages 5-5<sup>th</sup> grade. So, if

you see me, please come and say hello, and remind me your name. Although I’ve improved drastically, remembering names has always been a challenge for me.

I am a native of Connecticut, but grew up mostly in Bradshaw, Nebraska, then moved to Lincoln when I was 12. I love traveling,

and have also lived in Chicago, Missouri and Alabama. I have always attended church, Bible study groups, and church camps as long as I can remember. God has always been a constant throughout my life. I have five brothers, no sisters, and two kids of my own. My daughter, Kiarra, is 23, and my son, Rafael, is 12. I also have one grandbaby, A’Livia, who is four years old. I graduated from Lincoln High School, and have worked as a CNA for the past twenty years. In my spare time, I am an avid cheerleader/spectator of any sport my son participates in; most recently soccer, basketball, and his favorite - football, got canceled (unfortunately) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also enjoy swimming, fishing and barbequing at the lake. When I’m home, I enjoy reading, writing, and cooking some delicious food.

For some reason, throughout my whole life, kids seem to make a bee - line to me. I relate to them. I’m a big kid myself. I am thrilled that God decided to bless me with the amazing opportunity, and immense responsibility, to teach the babies of our church. I want to teach them everything I can about who God is, who Jesus is, and most importantly, help them discover who they are, and where they fit into his Glorious Kingdom. I truly feel I have one of the most important tasks in the church, and that’s something I don’t take lightly. That’s why I review my Action Bible over coffee: I want to be sure I’m telling them the correct information. These kids will soon be the future of the church...we don’t want our generations to be written that they have forgotten about God like we read in the scriptures such as Genesis: 11 - 12. We already know history has a way of repeating itself.

We are so sad to see Meg step down from Children’s Ministry. Her family needs her. She will be sorely missed, but must go on her own path, as God gently leads her way, so she can become the Meg he created her to be. He’s still working on all of us. I know he’s still working on me. You know they say. “It takes a village to raise a child.” God put it on my heart that the people that want to serve with us, to keep the Journeys group and the youth group going, are already amongst our congregation. If everyone can pray with us...and as you’re praying, if you hear God calling you to Children’s Ministry, and you know you can pass a background check, please don’t tell God you must have the wrong person. God is very specific when he chooses people for tasks! So, if you hear him calling you, please be obedient and let me know, or let Pastor Jeff know, so you can utilize your talents to keep Gods Kingdom growing. Maybe kids aren’t your cup of tea - no problem. We all have very special talents that were designed purposely to please and praise the Lord. I challenge you this week to have a little talk with Jesus, and ask him if he would like any help establishing his kingdom. Then be obedient to his voice. Love = WORDS X ACTIONS.



## Lincoln School of Ministry Begins

### Another Year Bill Thornton, Teaching Pastor

For the past few years, the “F” Street Neighborhood Church and Jacob’s Well have partnered together to provide training that

equips disciples for service in the local church and the surrounding community. Next month, LSOM will offer the first of three modules that are scheduled to be completed by May 2021.

The fall module, which begins in September, will last twelve weeks. It will provide students with a basic theological foundation, will include a survey of the Old Testament and New Testament scriptures, an overview of Church History, as well as an introduction to Christian Doctrine.

The winter module is scheduled to start in January, and will last ten weeks. It will provide practical instruction in key areas of ministry, including Biblical communication, pastoral care, and evangelism.

Finally, the spring module is slated to begin in late March, and will also last ten weeks. It will address how to care for one's self, marriage, and family while serving others, as well as considering other important topics likely to be faced by leaders in the local church and community being served.

Please help us spread the word as we envision LSOM as our way to equip ministry leaders for our congregation, as well as beyond. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me for an application. We would love to have you join us!

## Regular Email Updates

If you would like to, but are not getting regular updates about things at "F" Street Neighborhood Church, please send a request to be added to the email list at [fstreetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)

## Prayer Requests

If you have prayer requests, please send them to our office email at [fsncoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fsncoffice@gmail.com)



**Farmer's Market**  
**June 9 - August 23**  
**4:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

