

# Lake Forester

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## King James Bible exhibit coming to First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest

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The history of the 400-year-old King James Bible will be on display at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Oct. 18 through November, 2013.

### *Facts*

“Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible” What: Traveling exhibit, buffet dinner and talk  
When: 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, self-guided tour/exhibit viewing; 6 p.m. dinner; 6:45 p.m. keynote presentation Where: First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, 700 N. Sheridan Road Tickets: \$12; contact Kerry at 847-234-6250 or [kspera@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:kspera@firstchurchlf.org) Details: Go to [manifoldgreatness.org](http://manifoldgreatness.org) and [manifoldgreatness.wordpress.com](http://manifoldgreatness.wordpress.com)

A special exhibit arriving this week at a Lake Forest church might have never made it here without the quick thinking of a parishioner.

“Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible,” a traveling exhibit celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first printing in 1611, will be on display at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest on Friday, Oct. 18. and will extend through November.

**Church member Gordon Paul of Libertyville was instrumental in making First Presbyterian a special stop for the exhibit.**

**Paul owns Craters & Freighters of Chicago in Elk Grove Village, a specialty company that shipped several copies of the exhibit around the country for the past two years through its work for the American Library Association.**

**“As soon as I saw the title of the exhibit and saw what it was about, I thought the church might like to exhibit it after the tour ended,” Paul said.**

## **Paul contacted First Presbyterian to see if the church would like to host a showing.**

“We kind of jumped on it,” Lake Forester Denise Ertell, who organizes adult education at First Presbyterian, said. “One of our goals is to educate people about their faith. We felt this was a nice way to educate people about the impact of King James Bible, not only people within our church but with all churches and other organizations in the community.”

With the church on board, Paul asked permission from the American Library Association if one of the exhibit copies could stop in Lake Forest before he shipped it off to its final destination. Once it received the all-clear from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., the Library Association agreed.

With permission secured, Paul shepherded the exhibit to Lake Forest, where the panels will be shown from 1 to 3 p.m. on Fridays from Oct. 25 through November, with group showings available by appointment.

To kick off the showing, a buffet dinner is planned featuring a presentation by Ken Sawyer of McCormick Seminary, who will provide insight on the translation, “Authorized Version?”

“It’s an exciting exhibit,” Sawyer said, “well done and wonderfully-organized.”

The exhibit consists of high-quality reproductions of rare and historic books, manuscripts and artwork from the collections of the Folger Shakespeare Library and the University of Oxford’s Bodleian Library, combined with interpretive text and related images.

The exhibit was organized by the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington and the American Library Association Public Programs Offices. It is based on an exhibition developed by the Folger and Bodleian libraries, with assistance from the Harry Ransom Center of the University of Texas.

The exhibit “places the King James Bible within this context of several different English translations of the Bible” and explores “how it is that the translation of the Bible has helped form the consciousness and culture of English-speaking people,” Sawyer said.

Sawyer will talk about the place of this text in the history of England and its “literary echoes” throughout English-speaking literature.

“It’s not a surprise that whole swathes of the King James version are memorized and quoted and echoed through American literary history,” he said. “It’s a magnificent story. It’s a story of politics and faithfulness, power and piety.”