

TRINITY KLEIN REACHES MORE WORSHIPPERS MORE EFFICIENTLY WITH REAL-TIME TRANSLATION AND CAPTIONS FROM WORDLY.AI



The future of many churches and congregations is increasingly dependent on technology. Connecting more people, more efficiently and more dynamically enhances fellowship. It can make the difference between a church community thriving or declining. Trinity Klein, a 3,000-member congregation in Houston, Texas is embracing new tools to spread a traditional message.

“After Hurricane Harvey, we got a big influx of Spanish speakers to our community,” said Senior Pastor Chris Singer of Trinity Klein Church. “They wanted to attend worship. I don’t speak Spanish. We were looking for a cross language solution.”

Pastor Singer noted, “We tried or considered various translation technology offerings that required special devices, or worked through our phones, some free apps and such. Nothing was reliable. Everyday words would be missed and specialized words like ‘hymnal’ were never right.”

Trinity Klein has also pioneered “Digital Ministries” streaming religious services and providing chat for fellowship and live prayer requests. Weekly worshippers attend from Africa, Germany, Singapore, and even just across Houston’s sprawling traffic. This was particularly helpful when COVID-19 prompted some worshippers to self-isolate. Any automatic translation solution Trinity Klein used would have to mesh easily with their growing Digital Ministries.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Provide real-time translation of spoken words into Spanish, and other languages, both text transcription and audio
- Prove compatible with live video used to stream weekly services, “Digital Ministries”
- Deliver easy-to-use translation on smartphones and tablets

SOLUTION:

- Wordly for conferences™
- Real time captioning & translation of speech into 16 languages via automated Cloud service
- Both audio & text accessible on attendee’s own device from convenient custom URL
- High-quality audio capture via off-the-shelf mobile devices loaded with Wordly software

BENEFITS:

- Made feasible delivering translation and captioning to any worshipper in 16 languages
- Delivered high accuracy, translating common and religious vocabulary
- Improved accessibility, inclusivity and fellowship for community members with limited or no English proficiency
- Supported Digital Ministries dramatically increasing reachable population

“Wordly offers the only reliable, scalable, easy-to-use translation solution for our traditional and contemporary services.”

--Chris Singer, Senior Pastor, Trinity Klein Lutheran Church, Houston

Trinity Klein's ministry team wanted to know if there was a reliable, practical, and affordable real-time translation solution that could be easily used by their diverse community. Through continued seeking, they found Wordly.ai, and received a prompt demo, followed by a trial.

Wordly leverages natural language processing, machine learning, and several innovative breakthroughs to capture spoken language with unparalleled accuracy. Wordly then transcribes and translates text as desired with low latency. Uniquely, Wordly provides a continuous real-time translation stream in multiple languages simultaneously. Users receive a custom session URL showing all available languages, to view or listen to on their personal phone, tablet, or laptop.

Wordly currently delivers "Language on Demand" in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Tamil.

WHY WORDLY?

Trinity Klein carefully considered alternatives. Pastor Singer explained, "For us, the top three benefits of Wordly were reliability, lots of languages, and letting worshippers use their own devices. Wordly captures very precisely what we're saying. That's of greatest importance to us. Users can self-choose what language they want to hear or read from a big list. That extends our reach. The freedom to use their own device is very practical, very scalable and very efficient. Like almost all churches, we have to be very efficient."

Pastor Singer was also impressed by how easy it was to work with Wordly. "Set up was really quick. Within 20 minutes we had it up and running, and our sound guy was already running an audio test."

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Trinity Klein is a Houston-based Lutheran church and school community founded in 1874 with more than 3,000 members. They offer traditional and contemporary services each week. They provide a wide range of Bible study and support groups, some in Spanish, as well as low-cost English Classes attended by 200 people weekly. They have embraced technology to reach more worshippers, in more geographies, and in more languages.

RESULTS

"Translating church services with Wordly has been a great success so far. Scores of our worshippers use Wordly weekly, and we are still growing it. There's a chance to reach underserved communities this way. With Wordly, we're removing barriers."

Trinity Klein has taken several steps to educate worshippers about Wordly and inspire usage. "Typically in our congregation, you don't see phones out in service. We had to explain with verbal announcements at the start of the service this new option for worship. We printed announcements in our bulletins, so people would know how to log in."

Pastor Singer enthused, "In the Bible there's this great story of Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit descends and equips the disciples to preach in many different languages. Wordly sort of makes that manifest. Real-time translation shortens sermons and saves manpower. We don't have to pause for interpreters to repeat what we're preaching. We don't have to hold separate sermons. This opens our service up to 16 languages. That's huge because Houston is one of the most diverse cities in America. Wordly helps us grow our fellowship."