



Case Study

How Wordly Brings Church Communities Together Through Real-Time Translation



Challenge: Uniting Worship Through Language and Connection

For those who don't speak English, fully engaging in worship can be a source of comfort, strength, and belonging in a world that often feels unwelcoming. In today's increasingly polarized society, language can become an invisible barrier, creating separation, where there should be a connection.

Timberline Church saw this challenge firsthand and set out to change things.

Established in 1921, Timberline is a multi-campus church. Under the leadership of Senior Pastor Dary Northtop, the congregation has grown substantially over the years and strives to make a positive impact within the congregation and society. They believe that faith is about more than just words, it's about connection, community, and understanding.

Though the surrounding Northern Colorado community is predominantly English-speaking, approximately 16% of the population speaks another language at home, with Spanish being the most common. To ensure that non-English-speaking attendees could fully engage with their sermons, Timberline began using Wordly in 2024 to provide real-time translation during services. Building on this effort, they sought a way to go beyond translation alone, to find a way to not only bridge the language gap, but also foster empathy, deepen relationships, and create a stronger sense of community with their multilingual neighbours.

"It's one thing to know that language barriers exist, but it's another to sit in church and struggle to understand what's being said," offered Pastor John Mehl. *"For many of our non-English-speaking members, this is their weekly reality."*

Solution: Experiencing Worship Through a Different Language

To deepen understanding and encourage empathy, Timberline hosted a special "reverse translation" service designed to put English-speaking members in the position of those who worship in a language they don't fully understand.

During a sermon focused on embracing and accepting those who are different from us, a portion of the message was delivered in Spanish. English-speaking attendees relied on Wordly to follow along, highlighting the importance of language access in the church community.

"It's one thing to acknowledge that language barriers exist, but it's another to experience what it's like to step in another person's shoes," said Pastor Mehl. *"Imagine needing the comfort of scripture, the reassurance of prayer, or the inspiration of a sermon, yet feeling disconnected because the words are unfamiliar. For many of our non-English-speaking attendees, this is unfortunately their daily reality."*

Results: A More Caring and Connected Community

For many, the experience was eye-opening. By stepping into the shoes of those who depend on live translation, Timberline's congregation didn't just gain awareness, they built empathy and relationships.

"I never realized how much I take for granted being able to hear and understand a sermon without effort," said Timberline Church Member Jeff Bitterman. *"For the first few minutes, I felt lost, like I was on the outside looking in."*

This exercise opened new conversations, new connections, and a broader sense of community. One where we strive to understand each other's experiences, rather than just observe them from a distance.

Future: Continuing the Mission of Inclusion

"We believe strongly that faith should have no barriers," continued Pastor Mehl. *"This experience reinforced that ensuring everyone has access to worship, in a language they understand, is more than a service; it's a necessity."*

Timberline Church's commitment to breaking down language barriers doesn't stop here. They continue to expand their use of Wordly's church translation technology, ensuring that worship remains a place of belonging for all by making services accessible to all members each week.

By providing live AI translation in dozens of languages, non-English speakers can now fully participate in services alongside their English-speaking neighbors.

By scanning a QR code with their smartphone, congregants can instantly listen to or read the sermon in their preferred language. This seamless integration means that non-English speakers no longer have to miss out on the message.

"By continuing to use Wordly's real-time translation platform, we are actively breaking down language barriers, ensuring that every person who walks through our doors can fully participate in worship, build relationships, and experience the power of faith together."

About Timberline Church



Timberline Church is a vibrant, multisite Christian community based in Fort Collins, Colorado, dedicated to creating spaces of belonging and spiritual growth for people from all walks of life.

With a mission to let love live, Timberline offers both in-person and online services, outreach programs, and community events that reflect its inclusive and service-oriented culture. The church emphasizes connection, compassion, and accessibility, striving to make every message and experience welcoming to its diverse congregation across Northern Colorado and beyond.



Wordly offers multiple ways to access translation in dozens of languages – on a phone, tablet, or computer. Read transcripts or listen to audio in your preferred language in real-time.



Live Translation + Limitless Integrations

Wordly generates live, translated text and audio for events, webinars, or broadcasts, empowering attendees to engage seamlessly. Integrates with all major meeting platforms. RTMP, iFrame, and APIs available for custom setups.

Multilingual Subtitles

Wordly is known for its best-in-class accuracy and translates English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese, and dozens of other languages to expand accessibility across diverse audiences. Export subtitles, captions, transcripts, and summaries in all relevant formats.

Customizable Display Options

Admins can control font size, text color, and background color for in-room displays, monitors, and third-party caption overlays. Users can control text and background color on their phone, tablet, or computer.

Post-Meeting Support

In addition to real-time features, Wordly helps teams stay compliant with asynchronous support. We offer post-event transcripts, subtitles / caption* files, and summaries – all can be translated and mass exported in seconds.

Wordly's unified solution makes every touchpoint more accessible, engaging, and inclusive across every major language and meeting format. Listen to translated audio; read translated subtitles; read same language captions; access text transcripts and summaries. Wordly does it all for one affordable price.

Whether you're streaming a city council meeting, supporting school events, or having 1-1 customer discussions, Wordly ensures your is accessible to everyone.

In addition to powerful features, high scalability, and ease of use, Wordly has built strong security and privacy protection into our products and processes - including SOC 2 Type II and ISO 27001 compliance - and continuously test and optimize our infrastructure.

Wordly launched in 2019 and is the most trusted **AI translation** and **captioning** tool on the planet

Millions of
Users

60+
Countries

Ready to see Wordly in action?

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