

Growing Together

Impact
Report
2025



Living Word
Encountering Jesus Together

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16 As we reflect on 2025, I am grateful for our church’s commitment to **growth**, not just in numbers, but in the **depth** of our pursuit of Jesus.

This year, we embraced the challenge of cutting through the noise of a distracted age to simply behold the Lamb of God. Real change begins when we fix our gaze on Christ, allowing his Spirit to transform us into the likeness of Jesus. As we do this as a church family, we grow together.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to being a people who refuse to hide our light. We will continue to grow in courage, living faithfully so that our lives point others toward the glory of the Father.

Our prayer is that the things of earth would continue to grow strangely dim as we look full into the wonderful face of the One who is making all things new.

Reflect

Deeper Spiritual Practices

2 We are building spiritual muscles through solitude and prayer, learning to sit quietly before God to recognize the way he gazes on us with love. This discipline prepares us for the wilderness moments of life, ensuring we find Jesus as our deep well and helper when our faith is tested.

Seeing More of the Kingdom

0 We are learning to welcome the Kingdom into the ordinary aspects of our daily lives. The Kingdom is breaking in at breakfast tables, in workplaces, and within marriages whenever God’s will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Living as Salt and Light

2 Our members are learning to be flavor enhancers in York and beyond, actively drawing out the goodness God has placed in others. By refusing to be “adjusted” to the callousness and apathy of the world, we are growing in our capacity to be peacemakers and instruments of mercy.

Rooting Identity in the Cross

5 We are witnessing people reclaimed by the truth that they are children of God, bought with the precious blood of Jesus, and defined not by their past or their performance, but by the fullness of grace found in Jesus Christ.

Aaron Anderson
Lead Pastor



“ Brian Wilbur

In January of 2025, I retired after 27 years in law enforcement in the York Community. Wearing that badge every day was my identity. While I was excited for the next chapter of my life, I was feeling a bit anxious about what God had in store for me. I trusted his plan, but admit that waiting for him to reveal it was difficult.

2025 was a tragic year for York County law enforcement. Four officers lost their lives serving our communities. Not being there with the guys I served with every day left me feeling helpless and heartbroken. I wanted so badly to support them through this difficult time.

God’s plan was revealed. Our church served as the host for the funerals for all four of the fallen officers. I was humbled to be part of the team that came together to honor their lives. Living Word opened its doors to hundreds of officers and their families while demonstrating the definition of unreasonable hospitality.

Shortly after the services, I was hired to oversee safety at our church, further revealing God’s plan for this next chapter of my life. He is allowing me to use my skills and experience to serve his Kingdom. It is then that I realized that wearing a badge does not define me; living out God’s purpose for my life does.



“ Lauren Hartman

It’s easy to assume that in a large church you might fall through the cracks as another face in the crowd, but Living Word is different. From the beginning, there has been an open invitation to belong and be part of something meaningful.

I grew up attending Living Word on and off, but after I met my husband, he made it his home church too, and we realized it was time for us to plant roots and fully accept the invitation to grow here. Everything shifted when Pastor Donovan spoke one morning about how serving impacts others, but also helps us grow spiritually in ways we didn’t expect. I didn’t want to simply attend anymore. I wanted to be part of the “seen, named, and known” mission of Living Word.

Joining a small group Bible study was my first step. Soul Care, marriage groups, and the Lingering Prayer Team have continued to impact me. Now more than ever, I feel comfortable and confident inviting others to know Jesus because of my spiritual growth here. What once felt big now feels deeply personal, as Living Word provides the opportunity to belong and be part of the work God has prepared for us.

He said to them,
 “Go into **all the world** and preach
 the gospel to all creation.”

— Mark 16:15

86

In evidence of a profound commitment and a collective **YES** to his Kingdom.

Baptisms

Total baptisms celebrated in 2025 as individuals publicly declared their decision to follow Jesus and begin their rescue from the dominion of darkness.

129

Questions?

Attended Alpha this year, engaging in a safe environment for them to explore questions about their faith and living a life in Christ.

87

New Members

People formally joined our church membership, committing to being “seen, named, and known” in our mission.

1,220

Life Together

Approximate small group community sign-ups – marking a hunger for spaces where people are known, find belonging, and walk out their faith side by side.

23

Next Generation

Children were dedicated to the Lord, representing 18 families committed to raising their children in a home shaped by faith, prayer, and the love of Christ.



SAYS
Jesus

Saying **YES** to Jesus is more than a passive noticing, it is a **disruptive call** to fix our gaze on him until it alters the course of our lives.



Be
With

RESISTANCE

265

Discipleship Formation

Participants were deeply engaged in spiritual training through the **Practicing the Way** series, taking part in the Intro, Fasting, Prayer, and Sabbath classes.

134

Rooted in the Word

Attendees gained significant growth in biblical literacy by participating in the Big Picture of the Bible class – while **118** joined The Lord's Prayer class.

4,280

The Counseling Center

Appointments were facilitated in our center. **Of the 389 total referrals, 41% came from the local community** – showing our impact beyond our walls.

160

Communion Team

Approximate number who served on our communion team, facilitating a space for **2,000 people** each communion Sunday, while sharing **432 loaves of bread**.

77%

Beyond Sundays

Members engaged in ministry rhythms beyond Sunday mornings, participating in small groups, and practicing spiritual disciplines to imitate Jesus.

Spiritual Disciplines

Members who **carve out time** for these transformative **practices** have found a sense of **peace and purpose** throughout their daily lives, marriages, and work.

“ Eric Barr

It is an amazing opportunity for me to push myself out of my comfort zone for a new experience. Watching others do the same is even better. Being a medical leader for mission trips with Living Word has offered this opportunity to me and I am so grateful for each person on every trip.

These trips take us to faraway places with foreign smells, foreign sounds, and foreign languages. Our love and desire to serve holds us tight as we work. Each trip begins the same, as the team members are a bit shy, quiet, and reserved as often only a few know each other.

Inevitably, the challenges we face and teamwork to overcome these challenges begins to build bonds between teammates. Being willing to adjust our process, do something different than the day before, and open our hearts to be present often creates a life-changing environment for everyone.

I feel so blessed to have found my calling and would encourage anyone with an inkling of curiosity about these trips to come and see for yourself.



“ Brandon & Laura Bair

In 2025, our involvement with the church deeply shaped us, but more importantly, those around us. Leading others through Practicing the Way and incorporating a rhythm of spiritual disciplines into our own lives gave us a daily sense of peace and purpose. Together, we also helped to establish a relationship between LWCC and York Fresh Fruit Farms, connecting faith and service in local missions by bringing healthy food to those in need, and providing serving opportunities for others to do likewise.

By getting involved in these ways, we have forged a community of fellowship with other believers. These connections have been priceless and so delightful to our hearts. We truly have a heart to serve others by helping them to mature in their relationship with Jesus through spiritual disciplines.

As we led small groups and served through local missions, it opened our hearts, transforming how we approach our work, our marriage, and our community, increasing our desire to imitate Jesus. As we mentored others to become more loving and humble by leading them through Practicing the Way, we saw them flourish, which brought us so much joy.

This past year we’ve grown, but even more importantly so have those around us, and it’s been a priceless blessing.

“As we have opportunity,
let us do good to all people.”

— Galatians 6:10

626

1,000+

1,559

17,000

51+

22

The Church in Motion

Volunteers, reflecting the heart of Jesus, served in **Guest Services, Kid Life,** and **Worship & Tech.** Serving others first has transformed our building into a true home and a safe haven where every soul knows they will never be alone.

Love in Action

Volunteer opportunities filled included providing **140 free oil changes** and **806 shoeboxes** donated to Operation Christmas Child (**valued at \$28,210**).

Radical Generosity

Number of giving families at Living Word Community Church collectively contributed a total of **\$5,670,716**.

Hunger Relief

Households fed through the York County Food Bank with a **\$40,235+ special offering** to help residents when SNAP funding was cut in 2025.

Outreach and Missions

Local partners and global initiatives were sent **\$462,222** and **\$725,699**, respectively, for a collective total in outreach support of **\$1,187,921**.

Global Impact

Missionaries across **18 countries.** And, supported **24 Impacting York Week students** and **75 people** on teams to Guatemala, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Cuba.

We are called to be the **“salt of the earth,”** acting as flavor enhancers who draw out the goodness God has placed in our neighbors and the world.

Love Like Jesus



“ Emily Gordon

From July 22 to July 26, teens involved in Fusion went on a local missions trip called Impacting York Week. The week was full of friends, experiences, memories, and most important of all, serving people.

Tuesday, we volunteered at First Fruits Farm, picking and sorting vegetables. That afternoon we helped sort boxes and label cans at the York County Food Bank.

Wednesday, the group did various projects at Life Path including painting, cleaning, and sorting the pantry. Later, we went back to play bingo with the residents.

Thursday, we split up and worked on two Servants house projects – cleaning yards and painting. This experience allowed us to impact people in big ways, share God’s love, and see the world through a new perspective.

Friday, we volunteered at Camp Penwood, a camp for kids with disabilities. We spent the day playing games, doing activities, and playing with water. We ended the week with a fun day at Black Rock Retreat.

Overall, the week allowed us to see the impact we can have in our own community and share the love of God while doing it.



“ Steve & Charlene Adinlewa

We have been faithfully attending Living Word together since 2017, and for us, it was important to grow in our faith and as a community.

We started in little ways, like slowly dipping your toes into a pool. We attended events held at the church throughout the year, and while we were truly blessed by them, we knew God called us for more.

Finally, in 2025 we took the plunge and decided that we were all in. We prayed and trusted God to lead us and started with serving communion. What an incredible feeling that was! Truly humbling and life changing, every time. Practicing the Way and even officially became members in 2025.

To God be the glory!

We feel that our cup has truly overflowed with joy and purpose, and all from saying **YES** to the call to serve.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others...”

– 1 Peter 4:10a

Our Vision



See, name, and know one another



Admit we are all broken



Expect Jesus to make us new



Practice the way of Jesus



Celebrate stories of God's grace



Share generously for missional impact

Our Mission

Encountering

**Reorients
Our Love of:**

God
Neighbors
Self

**Transfers Our
Loyalty to:**

Christ as King
The People
of God
The Extension
of his Kingdom



JesusTogether



This past year,
we have all been
encountering
Jesus together.

In quiet moments.

In shared stories.

In our growth –
and in our need.

As you reflect,
remember, you
can trust God has
absolutely been
present in it all.

Now Pause. Remember. Step Forward.

Now, as you look
ahead, consider
what it means to
center your life
on him alone.

Jesus' invitation is
not just to believe,
but to follow him.

Be with him.

Become like him.

Do as he did.

See his Grace. Practice the Way.

Join us in
Encountering Jesus Together
Sundays at
8:00, 9:30, or 11:00 am

Encountering Jesus Together



Living Word

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