

# VOICE of LOVE

## The Creator of The Universe Has Your Back

Growing up in East St. Louis, Illinois, was simply the time of my life. It is where I developed lifelong friendships, many of whom I have the honor of pastoring today. I had seeds planted within me pertaining to leadership, and East St. Louis is also where I learned a lifelong lesson on the importance of having a very strong person backing you up. The year was 1987, and the season was spring. I was the captain of the track and field team at my junior high school. We had a track and field meet, and one of my opponents during a race, in an attempt to pass me on the track, began making physical contact with me, hoping that maneuver would slow me down. I zeroed in on his motives and decided to counter his actions by using my elbow to nudge him a little. I just wanted to let him know that bullying me was not an option. Well, I might have put a little too much force on that elbow because he went careening off the track and onto the grassy area. He was disqualified from the race, and I went on to place in the top three.



Once I arrived at my grandmother's house, I decided to go to the corner store, which was approximately fifty yards from my grandmother's house and positioned slightly to the left. It was perfect eye distance. As I was exiting the store, the young man with whom I had the incident during the track and field meet was standing outside the door, waiting to fight me. However, what I did not know was that he had a friend hiding behind me with a baseball bat ready to assault me. But what I really did not know was that my uncle Stanley was inside the store, tucked away, and observing the entire situation. Just as the young man with the baseball bat was about to strike me, my uncle stepped in, grabbed the baseball bat, and told me and my track and field opponent that if we were going to fight each other, the fight was going to be fair and square.

After fighting the young man and winning the fight, I might add, I asked my uncle why he let it get that far before he intervened. He said, "Because I wanted to see if you were going to back down or stand your ground." Then he said something to this effect. He said, "While I saw you were ready to fight that boy, you were a little unsure of yourself until you knew I was out there and had your back. Then you had a lot of confidence."

I didn't forget that day because from that moment on, as I walked the halls during school or walked in my neighborhood, I always knew I could be courageous when confronted because my bodybuilding-looking uncle would always have my back. The reason why I tell this story is because that lesson aided me in my spiritual journey with the Lord, and, of course, with God, I see the principle on an entirely different level. Read carefully the words of Jesus to His disciples and us following His resurrection.

Pastor Monty

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# Welcome!

We are glad you joined us today!  
We pray that you will experience God's presence  
as we share the wisdom found in His Word.

## ORDER OF SERVICE



Praise & Worship  
News and Announcements  
Welcome Guests  
Tithes and Offering  
Prayer  
Sermon  
Invitation to Christ/Join the Church

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

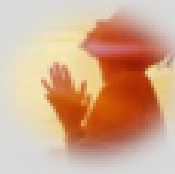
Sunday Morning Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Prayer - 6:30 - 7 p.m.  
(Doors open at 6 p.m.)

## GUEST SERVICES CENTER

Please take your "Welcome Card" and stop by the Guest Services Center  
to receive a special gift for worshipping with us today.  
If you have any question(s) or need directions, a guest services specialist would love to help you.

## PRAYER COUNSELORS

If at any time you desire prayer during or after Sunday service, just let anyone  
of our volunteer staff know and they will connect you with a prayer counselor.  
We'll pray with/for you.



## Stay Connected

Keep informed on current events, e.g., delays,  
cancellations, Text "lovechurch" to 888-700-1510



## SANCTUARY CLEANLINESS

Help us continue to keep our sanctuary clean. Water and beverages with lids are allowed but no food, candy, or gum is allowed at any time. There are no exceptions. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

# The Creator of The Universe Has Your Back

Pastor Monty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

In essence, here Jesus is saying He has [all of](#) the authority in both the heaven and earth realms, and He has authorized us to operate on His behalf. Finally, He says, Remember, I am with you always. Now, why would He say that? Because He knew opposition would be lurking in the shadows, trying to mount attacks on us. He also knew that, although willing, we might be reluctant to fight the good fight of faith unless we absolutely knew He would always be with us all the way to the end. The presence of the Lord gives us the courage to be bold against the forces of evil. His presence guarantees us great victory. I love what He says in the book of Romans, the eighth chapter.

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Romans 8:31 NKJV

Think about that for a moment! Whatever "thing" you encounter. From the king to the killer, there is not one foe who can come against you and succeed. Why? Because God is for you. Listen! The entire company can mount a case against you. Please read the four words in the next sentence very slowly. It will not work! God is for you, and that settles it. He is your protector, your shield, your exceedingly great reward, your help, your provider, and your defender. The title of this article seems to indicate that God has your back. No, sir! No, ma'am! God has your back, your front, your left side, your right side, and He has you covered. Take courage and stand up to any demonic bully. Sickness, disease, financial challenges—it doesn't matter. You are more than a conqueror, and you got this!



# The Reason

Lady Kim

When you walk into Love Kidz, you'll see the color purple. You'll see a lot of it. But there is a reason. Purple is the color associated with royalty. We chose purple as our new Love Kidz color because we want the children and parents of Love Church to know that they are the children of the Most High God and they are the King's Kids. When you come through the doors of Love Kidz, the first thing you'll see is our security check-in area, because the safety of your children is of the utmost importance to us.

When you take your children to their class, you'll see Love Kidz team members who are excited about sharing the love of Christ in a fun, safe, age-appropriate atmosphere. While your children are in Love Kidz, we strive to help them build a strong foundation in Christ that will make a lasting impression in their lives while making friends and enjoying their youth.

When you return to Love Kidz to pick up your children, we have systems in place to make the pick-up process as orderly as possible so that you and your children are safely reunited and can continue on with your day in a joyful way.

Our children deserve a beautiful place at Love Church to call their own. We thank God for it. Seeing the faces of our children and families light up every time they walk through our doors in Love Kidz is one of the reasons why we do what we do each week, why we invest in our children's ministry.

Our children are the reason we are asking for more volunteers on the Love Kidz Team so that we can better serve the children and families we see while making sure the team members are supported with the help that it takes each week to make it all happen. The reason is simple: for Christ, for our children, for their future, and for our families, there is Love Kidz!

If you are interested in joining The Love Kidz Team, please see Lady Kim, Love Kidz Director, or email her at [kweatherall@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:kweatherall@lovechurchstl.com).



# Premiere Event Center



LOVE Church Premiere Event Center is a multipurpose venue that is committed to providing our guests with memorable experiences.

Our venue is centrally located, a 15-minute drive from most major highways and can host any special occasion including concerts, award galas, family reunions, proms, graduations, weddings, receptions, retirements, military events, conventions, meetings, parties, banquets, and more.



Our venue can provide the atmosphere for your memorable moments and at 50,000 square feet can host any size event large or small. This three-level facility consists of the theater event level, main atrium courtyard level, upper platinum ballroom level and an industrial culinary kitchen.

LOVE Church Premiere Event Center on-site audio/visual services, sound services, staging and an experienced event management team will cater to all the details to ensure the success of your event while providing an impeccable customer experience.



**In addition, we offer several amenities that are included with your rental:**

- ♥ Bride/Grooms Greenroom for Weddings and other special events
- ♥ Audio/Visual Capabilities
- ♥ Kitchen Amenities
- ♥ Ample Onsite Parking
- ♥ Table and Chairs
- ♥ LED lighting

So go beyond the standard hotel conference center and host your next event at LOVE Church Premiere Event Center as we have the perfect setting for you! Our team's "Can-Do" attitude will be evident and consistent from beginning to end. You can fully expect our staff to meet and exceed your needs.

LOVE Church Premiere Event Center is ready to host your next event! Contact us today at 618 900 5150 or you may email us at: [jkjefferson@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:jkjefferson@lovechurchstl.com) to book your event today.



**PREMIERE  
EVENT CENTER**

# You Can Conquer Worry

Faith Walk Ministry

'The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us.' Psalm 115:12 NKJV

How much time do you spend worrying about things that usually never happen? Be honest! And has anything improved as a result of your worrying about it? Of course not!

Paul writes: 'The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' (Philippians 4:5-6 NIV) He then encourages us by saying that when we do this, the peace of God will fill our hearts and minds (see Philippians 4:7). The instant you begin to worry or feel anxious about something, take your concern to God in prayer. Release the weight of it, and totally trust Him to either show you what to do or show you that He will take care of it Himself.

Prayer is powerful against worry. When you're feeling pressure, it's always best to pray about it instead of fretting and talking about it. Will this be easy to do? No, if you've worried all your life, then worry has become a habit. But with commitment, perseverance, and God's help, you can conquer worry. Here are two keys to doing it: (1) Instead of trying to get rid of your negative thoughts, which only keeps you focused on them, fill your mind with positive thoughts. Scriptural ones! (See Philippians 4:8).

(2) **Take action quickly.** As soon as you begin to worry, say, 'No, I'm not going to worry about this because it does no good.' You may wonder, 'But who's going to take care of the problem?' God!

His Word says, 'The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us.'

## Give Your Worries to God

'The peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds.' Philippians 4:7 NIV

When you feel anxious and afraid, here are two things you should do:

1) Find a 'faith friend'. When anxiety grabs your mind, one of the most powerful ways to break the worry spiral is to disclose it to a 'faith friend'. When Israel went out to occupy the promised land, here is what God said to them: 'Is anyone afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his fellow soldiers will not become disheartened too' (Deuteronomy 20:8 NIV). Pessimism, fright, and discouragement are contagious. And so is courage!

2) Take action and face your fear. Sermons about how God will take care of you aren't, in and of themselves, sufficient to remove anxiety from your life. You must do certain things, like stepping out in trust. The way to get God's peace from your head to the rest of your body is to trust Him to the point where you can confront your fears head-on. So, with that in mind,

- a) Meditate on passages like Psalm 23; imagine yourself being shepherded by the Lord through green pastures and led beside still waters;
- b) Talk to your 'faith friend' before worry gets a foothold in your mind;
- c) Use a 'breath prayer' such as, 'God, I'm casting all my cares on You';
- d) Exercise; physical exercise is one of the best ways to stop excess adrenaline from building up;
- e) Identify your fear and take even one small step towards confronting it; and
- f) Get sufficient rest. David said, 'In peace, I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety' (Psalm 4:8 NIV).

Today, give your worries to God!



## Appointment with Pastor Monty

Pastor Monty would love to meet with each member and minister privately, when needed. If that time ever arises, please contact *Sis Carolyn Fennoy* who serves as Pastor Monty's Executive Assistant email [cfennoy@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:cfennoy@lovechurchstl.com)

Has a  
Passed

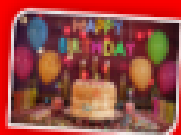


Loved One  
Away

In the unfortunate event that there is a death in your family, please contact our Home Going Ministry Coordinators, *Wendell (618) 671-8561 & Sharon Ellis (618) 407-9335* or email [wellis@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:wellis@lovechurchstl.com) or [sellis@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:sellis@lovechurchstl.com)

## Hospital Visitation

If you or a family member is hospitalized or at home due to illness & desire a visit, please contact *Elder Gerard Pleasant* at [\(618\) 601-2923](tel:(618)601-2923) or email [gpleasant@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:gpleasant@lovechurchstl.com). We will be honored to serve and fulfill the command of Jesus, "to visit the sick."



## Happy Birthday!

If you are celebrating your birthday this week, visit Café Love on Sunday and pick up your gift. You will also have a chance to be blessed with a bigger Birthday Gift Box. See attendant.



## Facility Rental

Please send all request to *Sis Jaki Jefferson* at [jkjefferson@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:jkjefferson@lovechurchstl.com)

## Ministries Operating Very Excellently (MOVE)

Would you like to start serving in a ministry here at Love Church? Well, we would love to have you! The process is easy, contact *Elder Jerald Jenkins*, MOVE Manager, at [jjenkins@lovechurchstl.com](mailto:jjenkins@lovechurchstl.com)

**NEW MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO  
COMPLETE OUR Striving to Edify People  
(STEP) CLASS**

## TITHES and OFFERING

We are pleased to offer electronic giving for our members and friends! You can give your tithes and offering through Realm, PayPal, our website; [www.lovechurchstl.com](http://www.lovechurchstl.com), [Givelify](#) mobile giving app (available for iPhone/Android; downloadable thru your provider's app store) or Text Giving, text [lovechurchstl.com](http://lovechurchstl.com) and dollar amount to the number 73256 (Standard text messaging rates may apply). You can also give via your bank's bill payment option. Thank you for your continued faithfulness. May God bless you!

Follow Love Church

**Facebook – YouTube – Instagram – Twitter**

LIVE Web Stream! Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.

[www.lovechurchstl.com](http://www.lovechurchstl.com)



# MEET OUR MINISTRY LEADERS

*Montonio S. Weatherall – Senior Pastor*

(pastormonty@lovechurchstl.com)

*Carolyn Fennoy – Executive Assistant to Pastor Monty Weatherall*

(cfennoy@lovechurchstl.com)

*Terry Banig – Sr Leadership Team, Finance & Staff Manager (tbanig@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Jerald Jenkins – Sr Leadership Team/Executive Pastor (jjenkins@lovechurchstl.com)*

**Ministries Operating Very Excellently (MOVE) Manager**

*Tabitha Yancey – Sr Leadership Team/Worship Team Lead (tyancey@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Jacqueline Jefferson – Sr Leadership Team/Executive Director/Café Love/Gift Gallery*

**Premier Events & Business Center (jjefferson@lovechurchstl.com)**

*Gerard Pleasant – Pastoral Counseling/Lead Elder/Baptism (gpleasant@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Latrice Brimmage – Assimilation (lbrimmage@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Chris Reese – Audio (creese@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Kimberly Weatherall – Sr Leadership Team/Children (Love Kidz) (kweatherall@lovechurchstl.com)*

**Women (Ladies of Love (LOL))**

*Elisa Carr – Evangelism (ecarr@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Rhonda Patterson – Guest Services (rpatterson@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Stacy Jefferson – Health & Wellness Ministry (sjefferson@lovechurchstl.com)*

*LaMond/Fisher – Helps Ministry – Worship Assistant (lfisher@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Wendell & Sharon Ellis – Homegoing (wellis@lovechurchstl.com or sellis@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Cynthia Jenkins – KINnection Small Group (cjenkins@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Henrietta Person – Intercessory Prayer (hperson@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Princess Brown-Tallie – Love in Action (pbrown-tallie@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Lamond & Dionne Fisher – Marriage Ministry (lfisher@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Kendrick Bell – Men (The Huddle) (kbell@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Marlon Smith – Music (msmith@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Tina Branch-Williams – Online (branchtina@ymail.com)*

*Steve Hoyle – Parking Lot/Singles (shoyle@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Cherise Smith – Praise Dance (csmith@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Marlon Smith – Praise & Worship (msmith@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Larry & Elaina Johnson – Resource Center Ministers*

*Bryant Johnson – Security (bjohnson@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Juanita Smith – Seniors (Golden Saints - jsmith@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Ebony Mattison – Teens (Spot - emattison@lovechurchstl.com)*

*Herb Patterson – Video (hpatterson@lovechurchstl.com)*

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LIVE Web Stream! Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.

