

Fear Not

(I Love You This Much)

By Lana Gibbons

Based on Joshua 1:9 and Isaiah 41:10

*Fear not, all my children, for I will always stay
In all of your tomorrows, and I'm with you today.
Fear not, all my children, I'll always be with you
In ev'ry moment of your life in ev'rything you do.*

*(Chorus) For I love you this much my arms are opened wide,
For I love you this much I bled for you and died.
For I love you this much there's nothing you can do
To take away the love that I have for ev'ry one of you.*

*Fear not, all my children, don't ever be dismayed,
For all your pain and sorrows, the price has all been paid.
Fear not, all my children, courageous ever strong,
For I'll not fail you or forsake you all your whole life long. (Chorus)*

*Fear not, all my children, I won't leave you alone,
I will prepare a mansion, right at my Father's throne.
Fear not, all my children, I'll rise up from the dead,
I am God's Son; the vict'ry's won,
Remember what I've said. (Chorus)*

"Fear Not" Inspiration

Shortly after our third child, Kelly, died of SIDS at seven-and-a-half months old, someone brought me a worship bulletin from Luther North High School in Chicago, where I had gone to school. They wanted me to see that the school had sung a song of mine in chapel, one that I had written for National Lutheran Schools Week.

The front of the bulletin featured a student's artwork: a hand-drawn picture of Jesus on the cross, with His arms extended out wide. Underneath the picture were the words: "He loved you this much He spread out His arms and died."

A melody immediately flooded through my head, along with the first verse. I sat down at the piano, played it, and then wrote the rest of it.

The song has been very comforting on many occasions — a reminder of just how much God loves us. I sang it in church shortly after Kelly died, and my brother-in-law sang it at my mom's funeral.

Jesus ALWAYS has had to remind this little lamb of His that He is with me and, because of that, I need not fear. I'm sure I'm not the only one with the "fear factor" or God wouldn't have repeatedly said "fear not" in the Bible!

I am thankful how the Holy Spirit gave me a song that was therapy to my aching heart, and how He used it to touch others with His powerful and soothing words. His love prevails! He is with us always! Fear not!

Lana Gibbons started playing piano at the age of three and has enjoyed music all her life. A graduate of Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois, Lana shared her love of music as a teacher. Lana is the Song Leader for the LWML Convention in Peoria, June 23–26, 2011.

Sing along with Lana! Go to the [Quarterly](http://www.lwml.org) page at www.lwml.org and download this song to your computer or mp3 player.

btw... btw is the acronym for "by the Way (Jesus)." It sets the tone for the current issue.