

March 12 at 2:43 PM – Live-Streaming Advice, Rev. Chad Blake, Shepherd’s Grove Presbyterian Church (Posted to Public Group, Los Ranchos Presbytery)

Hi All, In the midst of such uncertain times of group gatherings I wanted to offer a bit of insight into those considering live-streaming. The following does not really apply to those churches already doing it or even to those who are looking to do it long term. I wanted to offer a cost-effective way to make it happen for those looking to bridge the gap.

I would advise using Facebook Live. While there are a number of ways to livestream, I would imagine a majority of your congregation is already on Facebook and already “friends” with your church page. If you have more technical expertise you can certainly explore other options, but Facebook provides a quick and easy way to deploy a livestream.

In the most simple of setups, you can simply livestream from your iPhone or iPad. The quality won’t be great, but if you set it up at the right distance and have the sound at the right volume it is surprisingly good.

The most important thing to think about in live-streaming is audio. Most people think about this last. However, people can tolerate poor video with good audio more than they can tolerate poor audio with good video.

You’ll also want to check your upload speeds on your campus internet. In some cases, you may actually be better served by uploading from your iPhone. If your uploads speeds can handle video, however, you’ll be better served by doing that. Unless you have a fiber connection, I would suggest starting with a 720p upload before moving on to 1080p. You can check you speeds at [speedtest.net](http://speedtest.net)

Assuming you have a camera, dslr, or video camera available to you from either the church equipment room or a congregant, you simply need a way to capture that video onto a computer for a step up from the iPhone. Elgato and BlackMagic offer the most cost effective solutions for that.

Once it’s in your computer I would recommend using OBS <https://obsproject.com>, which is a free video live-streaming software solution available on all platforms. It will allow you to have a virtual production room of sorts.

Whatever company you are using for song licensing has a live-streaming “add-on” available for a very reasonable fee. It’s almost certainly not included in what you are already paying.

However, if you are not planning on having a worship team you won’t need this. You could include links to an Apple Music or Spotify playlist or even link to other YouTube videos people could use for worship. DO NOT PLAY PRE-RECORDED MUSIC... it will be flagged.

You may also think about simply offering a sermon from your desk rather than filming in an empty sanctuary.

With live-streaming there is no one size fits all approach. As time permits I am happy to answer questions individual churches may have, but please keep in mind my responses may be delayed given all that is transpiring. While I don't think we can do something before this Sunday, if there is interest our team can host a zoom call for next week to address any issues. Jon's post below is also very helpful.

I will make every attempt to try and put together a shopping list for those who are starting from scratch, but for most people I think you can do this with very little out of pocket by borrowing a few devices. Just remember... focus on AUDIO more than video.