

## Church Live-stream Setup Options

Due to this document being used as a guide for churches of various sizes and resource levels, these instructions are not specific to every potential setup, and do not address all the pros and cons of the various proposed solutions. Further instruction and help can be found online through streaming service providers, hardware and software websites, and YouTube.

### Online Streaming Options

#### Basic:

The most basic, and free, online streaming setup will come through the use of [Facebook Live](#). Facebook Live can be used most simply with a smartphone, internet, and Facebook account. Facebook Live can be used on Church-accounts, and Individual accounts if your church does not have a Facebook Page.

Please consult the link above for information on how to start a Facebook Live post. Some helpful information to consider when using Facebook Live. Make sure that your phone is well-charged, and plugged in. A stable WiFi connection is ideal, although your cellular network may be sufficient. Please keep in mind that data restrictions may apply through your cellular provider. A cell phone tripod, [like this one](#), would be strongly recommended as well to make the viewing experience as excellent as possible for those watching online.

Also keep in mind that audio quality will be based on the environment you record in, and proximity to the smartphone. You want it to look, and sound, as excellent as possible.

Also, remember to orient your phone in landscape mode for filming so that it provides the best viewing experience for those watching you content.

Cost to implement: <\$50

#### Intermediate Setup:

To move to a slightly more involved set up, you can use one camera, a video encoder and computer, and Facebook Live to broadcast. This is a more complex setup, but provides you with more control with the video and audio depending on your hardware.

Once the camera is connected to the computer via a video encoder, software can help connect your video feed to various broadcast solutions. Two options for this software are (Open Broadcast Software and Livestream). There are no associated costs with [OBS](#) and [Livestream Studio](#) requires a subscription for certain features.

There are online tutorials for both software options to get set up and establish streaming. If you are using Facebook Live, you will want to look for the Stream Key to allow the software and

Facebook to communicate and stream the video. More information about Facebook Live and Streaming Software can be found [here](#).

An example signal chain would be:

Camera > Encoder > Computer > Software > Streaming Service

List of Gear Needed:

Camera with HDMI or SDI Output

Video Encoder - [Example 1](#) [Example 2](#)

Computer

Appropriate Cables

Broadcast Software

### **Advanced Setup:**

The advanced setup mirrors that of the intermediate setup listed above, but allows for additional technology such as multiple cameras, video switchers, computer graphics, audio devices, and other hardware options to increase the production quality of the content produced and for all of those hardware options to be integrated into one stream.

If you wish to include images, video clips, graphics, or multiple camera angles you will need to follow this set up. While this is the most complex setup, the proposed signal chain below is there to illustrate a potential solution. As with all technology, the more hardware and software introduced to the signal chain, the more complex this becomes to cleanly diagram.

Multiple Cameras, Computer Graphics, Audio Devices > Video Switcher > Video Encoder > Computer > Broadcast Software > Streaming Service

This setup will give you the most freedom and flexibility, while generally providing the highest quality production, but has significant issues related to cost and user-friendliness for those with limited resources. If you have specific questions related to more complex setups, consult online tutorials or reach out to other churches and organizations in your area who can help provide more information for your specific set up.

### **Non-Streaming Options**

For those churches limited by resources, other options are available to get content online for their congregation.

You can record a video on any camera, or smartphone, and oftentimes upload directly from the device or a computer to a website (like YouTube or Vimeo) who will host your content for free or limited cost. This is a great option to allow your congregation to still hear from you weekly while limiting the technical aspects necessary for full online streaming. These videos can be uploaded to Social Media sites as well such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram with little additional

software and editing. Here are some [tips for shooting video on a phone](#). Features vary by phone so this may not apply to your device.

You can also oftentimes create an audio only recording from devices already owned by your church, and upload these recordings to websites for people to continue listening to your teaching on Sundays and throughout the week. The easiest way to do this is through the use of a voice memo app on a Smartphone. It can then be uploaded to an online hosting site for playback and distribution. Audio recording is similar to the video recording and streaming options listed above and can become more complex and expensive.

Podcasts are a great way to get audio content to your congregation if many of them use smartphones. You will want to record the audio with whatever means you have available, and then upload the recordings online to a podcast service. For information on how to start a podcast, consult [this article](#). While it is more involved then you may want, there is lots of great information there on ways to get an audio podcast launched.

**Some additional resources related to this:**

[How To Livestream Your Church Service: A Practical Guide](#)

[11 Online Collaboration Tools for Church Leaders](#)

[5 Reasons Your Church Should Do More Facebook Live Videos \(And 16 Tips for Doing Them Well\)](#)

[Streaming to Facebook Live](#)

[4 point Livestreaming Checklist](#)

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