



Accessibility Checklist for Houses of Worship: Serving Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Congregants

Making your sermons and events accessible is more than technology – it's ministry in action.

Verbit, a global provider of verbal intelligence, helps worship centers of all sizes turn spoken audio and video into accessible and actionable text. Powered by AI and enhanced by human expertise, our captioning, transcription, audio description and translation solutions ensure all content is inclusive, engaging and compliant with accessibility regulations.

This checklist can help guide your journey toward full inclusion for everyone in your congregation. Use this to pinpoint areas you'd like to enhance and connect with us when you're ready to get started.

Audio & Visual Clarity

- ▶ Ensure a well-functioning sound system with clear amplification
- ▶ Use wireless or lapel microphones for all speakers (including guest pastors or readers)
- ▶ Reduce background noise during services where possible
- ▶ Provide good lighting and clear sightlines to the speaker

Communication Accessibility

- ▶ Offer live captioning during services (on-screen and/or via mobile devices)
- ▶ Consider ASL interpretation for in-person services when possible
- ▶ Provide captioned recordings of sermons and events online
- ▶ Display song lyrics and scripture in real-time with large, readable fonts
- ▶ Train greeters and volunteers to communicate respectfully with deaf individuals

Technology & Tools

- ▶ Install or ensure strong Wi-Fi connectivity in your sanctuary or streaming space
- ▶ Use a supported audio encoder, such as vMix, OBS or Kiloview, to send clean audio to your captioning provider
- ▶ Provide a dedicated audio feed or output from your soundboard for optimal captioning input
- ▶ Use Verbit or another provider to generate a static RTMP link for regular live captioning use
- ▶ Offer QR codes or links that congregants can scan to view captions on their mobile devices
- ▶ Make sure your livestreaming platform supports caption overlays or external caption links
- ▶ Customize caption display settings (font size, color, background) for visibility and clarity
- ▶ Set up easy access to bookings and scheduling tools for weekly services or events

Planning & Communication

- ▶ Ask congregants about accessibility needs on welcome forms or during event sign-ups
- ▶ Send prep materials (sermon outlines, speaker names, relevant scripture) to your caption provider ahead of time to improve accuracy
- ▶ Clearly communicate that accessibility services are available (in bulletins, on your website, in announcements)
- ▶ Make sure captions can be easily turned on/off depending on the service segment (e.g., worship vs. sermon)

Community & Inclusion

- ▶ Invite deaf/hard-of-hearing congregants to share feedback on what works and what could be improved
- ▶ Offer fellowship opportunities that are inclusive and accessible
- ▶ Consider accessibility in special events, weddings, funerals, and seasonal services
- ▶ Celebrating accessibility wins and use them as opportunities for education and inclusion

Need a Hand with Accessibility?

Whether you're just getting started or ready to take the next step, we're here to help. From choosing the right tools to setting up captions and engaging your community, our team can guide you every step of the way.

Let's talk about how we can support your accessibility journey.

Get started today and learn more at verbit.ai