

ASSISTIVE LISTENING FOR YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

A GUIDE FOR UNDERSTANDING WHAT TECHNOLOGIES
EXIST AND WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

LISTEN
TECHNOLOGIES 



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HEARING LOSS

AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Hearing loss is often known as the **Invisible Disability**, because those among us who have it, prefer to try to cope with it, live with it, or hide it from others. And yet, this so called invisible disability affects approximately 20% of American adults—one out of five congregants are not hearing the messages and music that inspire them each week in your house of worship.

It can be difficult to recognize hearing loss, whether it is our own, or that of someone we love. Hearing loss often develops gradually and affects people differently. There are certain signs to look for when it comes to determining whether someone is losing their hearing.



Seven Signs of Hearing Loss

- 1- Volume turned up on the TV, car radio, or home stereo
- 2- Difficulty understanding or following group conversations
- 3- Difficulty focusing or hearing when people are speaking in another room
- 4- The need to have things repeated
- 5- Difficulty understanding people in crowded places
- 6- Difficulty hearing phone conversations
- 7- Withdrawal from social situations

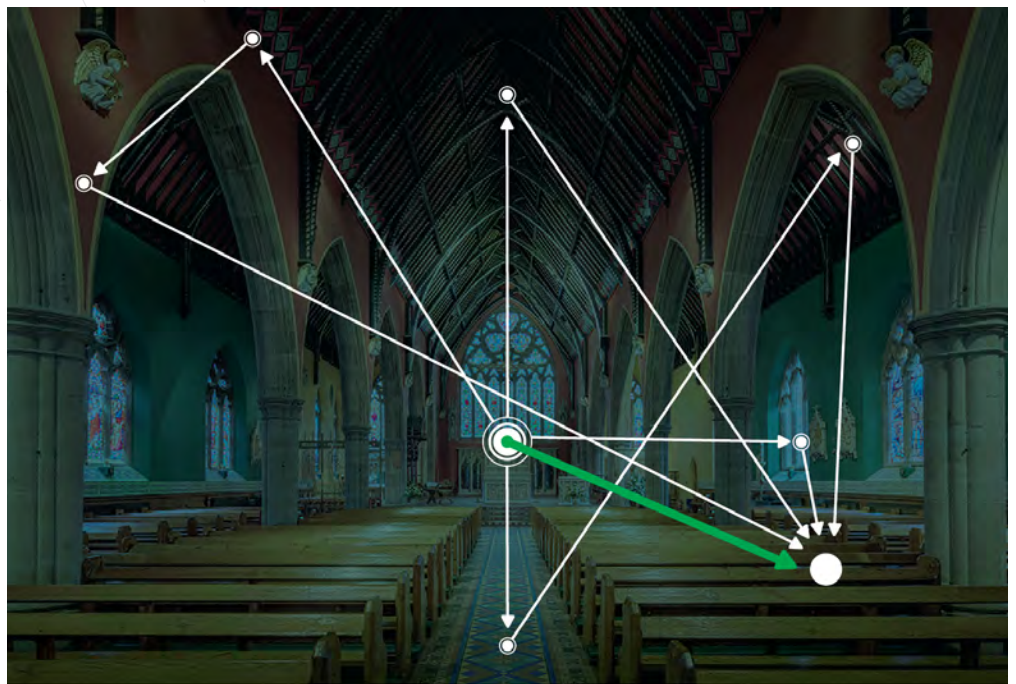


Often, when people develop hearing loss they begin to withdraw from activities and public settings they once enjoyed. They sometimes stop attending worship services because they can no longer hear the messages of strength and encouragement, which leaves them feeling unfulfilled and isolated.

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE LISTENING

Assistive Listening refers to the act of hearing more clearly using a device or technology. Assistive listening devices are different than hearing aids (or hearing instruments), they are typically installed systems that the end-user has access to while they are in the space. Assistive listening refers to a variety of technologies used to help the recipient hear better, assistive listening technology can also be referred to as assistive listening device(s) or ALD' s, or assistive listening systems (ALS).

In a house of worship visitors and congregants are typically located away from the sound sources such as speakers, presenters, musicians, etc. Additionally, houses of worship are reverberant environments where sounds from all around echo or bounce throughout the space.



WHAT IS ASSISTIVE LISTENING



Assistive listening devices can be used to expand the functionality of a hearing aid or cochlear implant by amplifying the sounds you want to hear with limited interference or unwanted noise. In the most basic description, traditional assistive listening devices typically consist of four key components: a microphone or other audio source, a transmitter, a receiver and an attachment to deliver the sound (headphone, headset, earbuds).



EXPLANATION OF THE ADA AND COMPLIANCE



Houses of Worship generally fall outside of the current ADA requirements; however, you can still benefit from understanding the intentions of the law. The Americans with Disabilities Act took effect in 1990, it prohibits discrimination against individuals with various disabilities by making accommodations to increase accessibility.

The ADA establishes requirements for new construction, alterations, or renovations to buildings and facilities, and for improving access to existing private facilities where goods or services are provided to the public. The law states that, facilities must remove barriers and impediments to full access or service and must provide accommodations equal to, or similar to, those available to the general public. This includes having assistive listening devices (ALD's) available for individuals with hearing loss.

Currently, houses of worship in Texas and California are required to provide ALD's for their congregation, we suspect in the coming years many other states will follow suit. If you elect to provide assistive listening to ensure your members have a better worship experience or if you are required to provide assistive listening it is important for you to fully understand what must be provided to ensure the best listening experience.

ADA
Americans with
Disabilities Act

TECHNOLOGY: SOLUTIONS AND PRODUCTS

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SOLUTIONS FOR A HOUSE OF WORSHIP



LISTENRF

Radio frequency technology works like a radio to deliver sound to a congregant's receiver and is typically the least expensive assistive listening system to install. Listen RF is perfect in sanctuaries and classrooms where an installed system is needed.



Infrared technology uses light, like a TV remote control, to transmit sound to a congregant's receiver and is great for houses of worship that want to use it for simultaneous broadcasts, like assistive listening and language interpretation.



LISTENLOOP

Hearing loop technology provides congregants with discreet and personal listening experiences because they can use their own hearing aids (if they are equipped with t-coils) as a receiver. Hearing loops can also be used with other types of receivers, for people who do not have t-coil equipped hearing aids.



AUDIO EVERYWHERE

Wi-Fi audio distribution transmits audio directly to smartphones using the venue's existing network. Guest may listen via a free app and their own earbuds, or stream to Bluetooth enabled hearing aids and cochlear implants. Wi-Fi is ideal for houses of worship that want to increase inclusion among its various membership demographics, or stream audio to overflow seating and cry rooms.

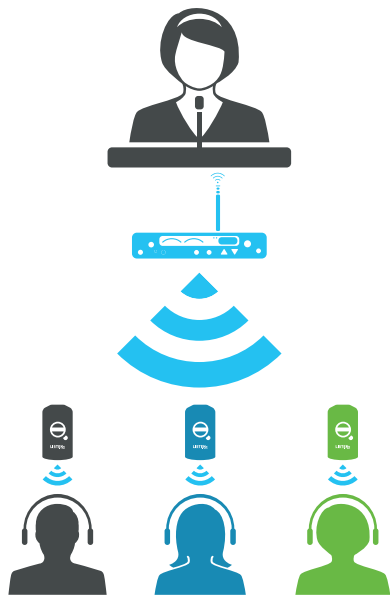


LISTENTALK

Wireless one-way or two-way technology allows for flexibility in addressing assistive listening and interpretation needs among a congregation. Ideal for classrooms and off campus events where installation is not an option.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS

LISTEN**RF** *Stationary*

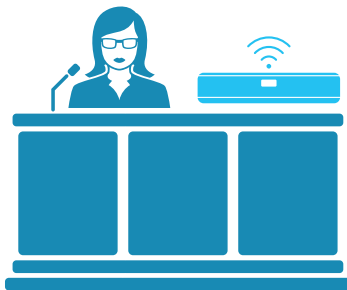


LISTEN**LOOP**

LISTEN**TALK** *Portable, Two-way*



LISTEN**IR**

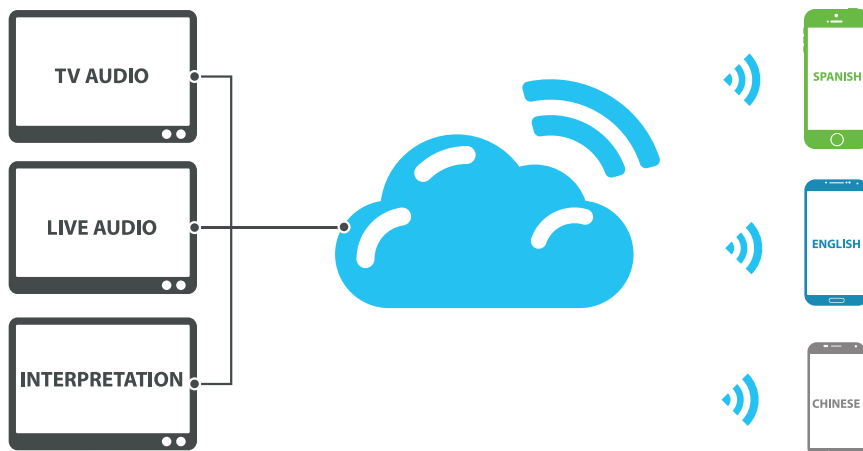


ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS (CONTINUED)

LISTENLOOP



AUDIOEVERYWHERE





Hearing loss affects all of us, whether it is our own, one of our loved one's, or someone with whom we attend weekly worship services. One of the most important things to remember when considering hearing loss is that it is invisible and it can be very isolating. This isolation can lead people to stop enjoying the activities they love, including attending church each week. Reaching out and making people with hearing loss feel welcome is important, making sure that they can hear the words and music that inspire them with an assistive listening system is even more so.

Contact Listen Technologies to discuss how Assistive Listening can help you re-engage with your members and provide an inspirational experience.

www.audioeverywhere.com/assistive-church/

www.listentech.com/shop-listen/