

# Technological Tools for Small Churches (with Descriptions)

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## Church Management / Membership / Donor Tools (ChMS / CRM)

- Realm – A church management system (ChMS) widely used in PC(USA), integrates membership, giving, and communication.
- Breeze ChMS – Simple, cloud-based church management with focus on ease of use for small churches.
- ChurchTrac – Affordable ChMS including attendance, accounting, giving, and volunteer scheduling.
- ChMeetings – All-in-one ChMS with app integration, good for small congregations.
- Planning Center – Modular ChMS (services, groups, check-in, giving) widely trusted across denominations.
- Churchteams – Combines small group management, giving, and communication.
- Faith Teams – Web-based ChMS including membership, groups, communication, and online giving.
- IconCMO – Flexible ChMS for both small and large churches, membership + finance.
- Pushpay – Church engagement + giving + app + database integration.

## Giving / Donation & Payment Processing

- Pushpay – Streamlined giving platform integrated with church apps.
- Tithe.ly – Popular for online giving, mobile app integration, and ChMS features.
- Givelify – Mobile-friendly giving platform for churches and nonprofits.
- Stripe – Payment processor that can be integrated into church systems.
- PayPal – Widely used online payments tool for donations.
- Square – POS and donation processing system, especially good for events.

## Communication / Outreach / Automation

- Mailchimp – Email marketing and newsletter platform for churches.
- Constant Contact – Email campaigns, surveys, and member communication.
- Twilio – SMS/text messaging platform that can be used for mass notifications.
- ManyChat – Automation tool for messaging and social media engagement.
- SmarterQueue – Schedules and recycles social media posts across platforms.
- Slack – Team communication app, good for church staff and volunteer groups.
- Microsoft Teams – Team collaboration, chat, and video calls, integrates with Microsoft 365.
- Discord – Community building platform, often used with youth/young adults.

## **Worship / Presentation & AV Tools**

- EasyWorship – Presentation software for worship services with media integration.
- ProPresenter – Professional-grade worship presentation software with streaming options.
- OpenLP – Free, open-source worship presentation tool.
- MediaShout – Worship presentation software for churches with customizable slides.
- SongShow Plus – Worship software for lyrics, scripture, and media presentations.

## **Online / Hybrid / Live Streaming**

- BoxCast – Streaming service for houses of worship, reliable and easy to use.
- vMix – Professional live production and streaming software.
- Switcher Studio – Mobile-based multi-camera streaming solution.
- Church Online Platform – Free tool by Life.Church for hosting online worship services.
- Churchstreaming.tv – Streaming provider for churches, integrates with websites.
- StreamSpot – Streaming platform tailored to churches.
- StreamShark – Enterprise-level streaming with analytics.
- DaCast – Streaming solution with monetization options.
- Worship Channels – Streaming built specifically for churches.
- ChurchSpring – Church website and live streaming combined platform.

## **Project Management / Task / Workflow Tools**

- Trello – Visual board and card-based task manager, simple to use.
- Asana – Task and project management with timelines and assignments.
- Notion – Flexible workspace combining notes, tasks, and collaboration.
- Monday.com – Structured project management and workflows.
- ClickUp – All-in-one task, doc, and project management tool.

## **Content Creation & Marketing Tools**

- Canva – Graphic design tool with templates for social, print, and worship slides.
- Adobe Creative Cloud – Suite of professional design and video editing software.
- Descript – Video and podcast editing platform with transcription.
- CapCut – Free, easy-to-use mobile video editor.
- InShot – Mobile app for quick video editing and social content.
- Church.tech – AI-powered tools for sermon prep, content repurposing.
- Envato Elements – Library of stock video, music, graphics, and templates.
- CreationSwap – Marketplace of church graphics, sermon series art, and media.
- Church Media Drop – Free graphics and media shared by churches.
- Church Motion Graphics (CMG) – Motion backgrounds, titles, and worship graphics.
- Shift Worship – Loops, stills, mini-movies for worship.

- Igniter Media – High-quality sermon illustration videos and worship media.
- WorshipHouse Media – Large media marketplace for churches.
- Salt Project – Creative films and liturgical storytelling resources.

## **AI / Automation Tools**

- ChatGPT / OpenAI – AI tools for brainstorming, writing, and creative support.
- Zapier – Automation platform connecting church apps together.
- Make (Integromat) – Automation and workflow integration tool.

## **Drama / Skit Resources**

- The Skit Guys – Skits, videos, and scripts for worship and youth groups.
- Dramatix – Free online collection of Christian drama scripts.
- Lifeway Drama – Scripts and drama resources from Lifeway.
- Christian Drama Scripts – Collection of short sketches and plays for church use.

## **Youth & Children's Ministry Resources**

- Download Youth Ministry (DYM) – Curriculum, games, and media for youth groups.
- Stuff You Can Use (Grow Curriculum) – Youth and kids curriculum with creative extras.
- Orange Curriculum – Family and youth discipleship curriculum.
- Ministry to Youth – Free and paid Bible studies and lessons for youth.
- Children's Ministry Deals – Curriculum and games for children's ministry.
- Seeds Family Worship – Scripture-based kids worship music and videos.
- Life.Church Open Network – Free sermon series and kids curriculum resources.
- Ministry Pass – Sermon series and worship planning resources.
- RightNow Media – Streaming platform for Bible study and discipleship.

## **Bible & Teaching Resources**

- The Bible Project – Animated videos and resources explaining biblical themes.
- The Bible Project Classroom – Free seminary-level courses from Bible Project scholars.
- Spoken Gospel – Creative videos connecting each Bible book to Jesus.
- The Gospel Project – Curriculum tracing the story of redemption through Scripture.
- Streetlights Bible – Audio Bible contextualized for younger, diverse audiences.
- Lumo Project – Visual dramatization of the Gospels in multiple languages.
- Global Story Films – Films and resources with a global missional lens.
- Bible Study Media – Lectionary-based curriculum and studies.
- Seedbed / New Room – Wesleyan-rooted devotional and study resources.
- The Gospel Coalition Courses – Free courses on books of the Bible and theology.

## **YouTube Channels (Faith & Discussion)**

- SoulPancake – Videos about meaning, creativity, and human connection.
- The Bible Project – Animated theology and Scripture overview videos.
- The Liturgists – Conversations at the intersection of faith and culture.
- Krista Tippett / On Being – Interviews exploring spirituality and meaning.
- NPR StoryCorps – Animated real-life stories for empathy and discussion.
- Working Preacher – Lectionary reflections from seminary faculty.
- Fuller Studio – Films and interviews on faith and culture.
- Union Theological Seminary – Content on theology, justice, and public life.
- PC(USA) OGA – Official PC(USA) resources and worship events.
- NEXT Church – Resources for leadership and worship renewal.
- Salt Project – Visual storytelling for liturgy and justice.
- The Work of the People – Art films with theologians and activists.
- Busted Halo – Catholic-originated explainer videos, accessible broadly.
- Religion for Breakfast – Academic explorations of religion and culture.
- TED / TEDx Talks – Talks on leadership, meaning, vulnerability, and justice.

## **Church App Platforms**

- Planning Center – ChMS with app features for scheduling, giving, and groups.
- Breeze ChMS – Church management with app access for members.
- ChMeetings – ChMS with strong mobile app integration.
- Tithe.ly (Church App + ChMS) – Mobile-first giving + management + communication.
- Subsplash – Customizable church apps with media and engagement features.
- Aware3 – Mobile church app for giving, communication, and engagement.
- The Church Co – Apps integrated with church websites and databases.
- MinistryOne – Mobile church app for events, giving, media, prayer.
- Called.app – App focusing on discipleship and community building.

## **Worship Design Resources**

- Worship Design Studio – Marcia McFee’s platform for worship series planning and creative arts integration.
- Sanctified Art – Collective of artists creating multimedia worship and preaching resources.
- Salt Project – Creative films, storytelling, and liturgical materials.
- The Text This Week – Curated lectionary art, commentary, and liturgy.
- Calvin Institute of Christian Worship – Research, worship grants, and resources rooted in Reformed traditions.
- Presbyterian Outlook – PC(USA) publication offering liturgy, prayers, and worship planning resources.
- Ministry Matters – Liturgical planning, preaching helps, and media resources.

- Spill the Beans – Reformed/Presbyterian creative worship and preaching ideas.
- Working Preacher – Lectionary commentaries and preaching resources from Luther Seminary.
- NEXT Church – PC(USA)-rooted leadership and worship renewal resources.
- Church Anew – Creative liturgy and commentary with ecumenical scope.

### **Volunteer Sign-Up / Scheduling Tools**

- SignUp Genius – Flexible volunteer/event sign-ups with reminders; free and paid tiers.
- SignUp.com – Clean volunteer sign-ups with automated reminders.
- Shift – Volunteer shift scheduling tool with roles and reminders.
- VolunteerHub – Event and volunteer management with registration and coordination.
- Zelos – Volunteer coordination with team/community features and mobile app.
- Timecounts – Volunteer management platform with scheduling and tracking.
- VolunteerLocal – Simple online sign-up and scheduling system.
- VOMO – Volunteer platform with gamification and community features.

### **Background Check & Volunteer Screening Tools**

- Protect My Ministry – Church-focused background checks, including sexual offender registry searches.
- MinistrySafe – Background checks plus abuse prevention training and policy tools.
- Clear Investigative Advantage (CIA) – Discounted church screening via Lifeway One Source.
- Verified First – Background checks integrated with ChMS tools.
- GoodHire – Nonprofit-friendly background checks with compliance support.
- Shepherd's Watch – Church volunteer background checks with electronic consent.
- Sterling Volunteers – Large-scale volunteer screening service for nonprofits and faith orgs.
- Checkr – Modern background check provider with integration options.
- FellowshipOne Integrated Checks – Background screening built into FellowshipOne ChMS.

### **Demographic & Community Assessment Tools**

- MissionInsite – Church-specific demographic mapping and analysis; integrates congregation and community data.
- ARDA Community Profile Builder – Free tool offering demographic and religious data by area.
- ChurchAnswers Know Your Community – Custom community demographic + psychographic report for churches.

- Free Mapping Tools – Google My Maps, FreeMapTools, and similar tools for radius/drive-time mapping.
- Bless Every Home – Maps households and new movers, designed to support church outreach.