Screen Presentation During Worship Services

My name is Rev. Steve Schamber, serving Holy Trinity in Wyoming, Michigan. Jason Petoskey does quite a bit of our setup as well as coordinating the volunteers who run the projector during the service.

We use Proclaim, from Logos Bible Software. One of the advantages is that Proclaim resides in the cloud, so a host of people can work on pieces of the presentation independently. Since as the pastor I choose the sermon text for the week, I also choose a background for our weekly announcements that display on the screen after the service-I choose a background that matches (at least to some degree) the theme of the week or the theme of the sermon.
I let the secretary know when this is chosen, and she plugs in all the announcements.

When the bulletin has been prepared, I send it to Jason (mentioned above) who plugs in the lessons, prayer of the day, hymns, etc. into the service.

BTW, Hymnsoft still exists from NPH (I believe) which has the text of all the hymns in it, no typing necessary. It runs on Windows XP, so if you are running Win 7 or 8 you will need the Pro version so you can run Hymnsoft in a virtual machine. I thought NPH was supposed to be coming out with something superior, but I think this remains the only choice.

Sometime late in the week I have completed the sermon, and I create a PowerPoint show with all the passages I reference as well as any pictures I want to incorporate into the sermon. I do it via PowerPoint because I can import the whole completed project into Proclaim in the appropriate place.

Proclaim imports the entire show, with each slide creating an image.

Finally, Proclaim has an app in both Android and iPhone which allows one who has the appropriate login to see and even control the presentation, provided both the operating computer and the phone have active internet connections.

In practical application, the app works most of the time, especially for viewing. Sometimes control doesn't work so well. Since I (as the pastor) want to control things during the sermon, rather than the person running the rest of the service, I have my phone in the pulpit so I can see the presentation and control it, but also I have a regular clicker to make sure if the app isn't working I can still control things.

This system has been far superior to what we used in the past (Easy Worship, I believe).

There are a couple factors to consider:
- Everyone must be able to access an internet connection.

- If there is no connection in the sanctuary, you must make sure you have turned on the computer and launched Proclaim somewhere there is such a connection to make sure you have received the most up-to-date presentation if many hands are working on it.

- One possible downside-Proclaim has an annual licensing fee, rather than being software you purchase. This was a bit of a factor in our congregation, but when everyone saw how much easier this was to do for everyone involved, approval was not hard to obtain.

If I didn't cover everything you need, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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