



A.I. & AMEN



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Is there anything that God can't use for good? I'm no theologian, but if there is, I've yet to see it. I include artificial intelligence (AI) in that notion. This article isn't about the global power of advanced AI that is dawning, it's about the beginner programs that might make your work just that bit easier. Baby-AI, if you will, doesn't have to be scary. And I have a few suggestions for how to put this technology to work for good in your congregation.

My best advice to work well with AI and mitigate risk is to treat it like a 20-year-old intern. All interns need supervisors. You would not publicize an intern's work without reviewing and approving it first. Interns need clear instructions for what you want done, and you ask for revisions if the results are not what you wanted. Do the same with AI.

GRAPHICS

The image you want doesn't need to already exist anymore. If you can describe it, you can create it. I recently needed a photo of a stained glass window with bicycle imagery: welcome to the world! **Canva** has a great image generator and is free to nonprofits. Your children's ministry can generate custom coloring pages with **GenerAit**.

SUMMARIES

Your congregation secretary might appreciate help taking minutes, let **Otter.Ai** transcribe your meetings. Our Assembly minutes regularly rely on transcripts generated by Zoom's auto-captioning. Try pasting your sermon into **ChatGPT** and ask it to create

a summary to use as a video description or blog posts. You could also ask it to create study questions based on your sermon or Sunday school lesson.

BRAINSTORMING

Asking ChatGPT to write your sermons might not be a faithful execution of Ministry of the Word, but you can toss around ideas with anyone... or anything. ChatGPT can help you overcome writer's block for any kind of content, like wording social media posts. ChatGPT wrote the title of this article. Heck, I've used it to draft menus and packing lists.

EDITING

Grammarly is a popular proofreading software that will find written errors. **Hemingway** will not only find mistakes, but will offer suggestions to improve complex sentences, excessive adverbs, and passive voice. Hemingway told me that several of the sentences in this article were overly complex, and I have chosen to ignore its help. Because I am in charge of my own voice, and AI is just my intern. 