



# Getting in “The Loop”

The why, what, and how  
of hearing better.

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# Introduction

## Mary Meier, Doctor of Audiology

### Disclaimers:

- ✓ Employed at Olmsted Medical Center
- ✓ Dispense variety of hearing aids and assistive devices through OMC

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# Objectives

- Learn the basics of **HEARING HELP**
- Learn the basics of **LOOPING**
- Learn about **REDEEMER'S LOOP**
- Able to ask **questions** about hearing aids

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# Hearing Loss Numbers

**36 million people have hearing loss – and the number is growing**

You don't have to be "old" to have hearing problems.

Half of all people with hearing loss

are **UNDER 60** years old

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# Basics of Hearing Problems

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- Temporary Causes

- Ear wax
- Ear infections

- Permanent Causes

- Noise damage
- Systemic changes (diabetes, cardio-vascular)
- Genetic (present at birth, but might develop with age)

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# Basics of Hearing Help

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- Communication Tips
- Hearing Aids
- Assistive Listening Products
- Surgery

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# Communication Tips

- Ask for clarification – not repeat
- Ask for the current topic
- Stay close (yard stick rule)
- Be realistic; be patient
- Use hearing aids properly
- Use hearing help devices

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# Assistive Listening Products

- Traditional
  - Cheap over-the-counter products
  - TV ear piece with or without hearing aid
  - FM “radio” signal with special device
  - Landline telephone amplifier
  - Landline telephone caption (voice to text on a screen)

# Assistive Listening Products

- Newer products
  - Cellphone help (linked with hearing aids)
    - Use as remote control
    - Use an extended microphone (Live Listen on iPhone)
    - Use with new “Bose” and iPhone “hearing aid” products (~ \$500 each)
  - **LOOPING!** (OLD - BUT NEW!)

# LOOPING- the BIG picture

- What is Looping?
- How does it work?
- How can it help me?

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# What is “LOOPING”

Simply:

A way to transfer sound  
through a copper wire

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# How does LOOPING work?

# Looping Basics

Looping works with

1. “wire” around the room
2. “wire” connected to a microphone
3. sound sent from the wire to the “air”
4. **Telecoil** (copper wire) in hearing aid to pick up the “signal in air”

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# What can be “looped”?

- **Loop wires can be installed in any room**
  - Worship space
  - Meeting room
  - Public area for announcements (airports)
  - Personal home: living room
- **Loop wires need to be installed correctly**

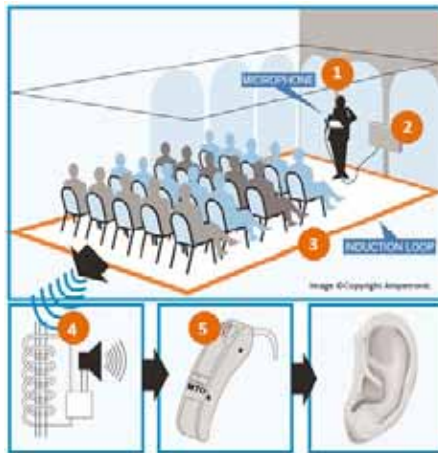
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# Types of loops

## Room Loops



## Personal Loops



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# Look for looping!



## This blue ear sign means a loop is available!

- London: tours; The “Tube” (Subway); taxis; theater; banks; stores
- New York City: all taxis; theater
- Down South: Publix Grocery stores, variety of places
- Midwest: Less common overall – but growing!
  - Wisconsin – Fox Valley area
  - Michigan – Holland area; Michigan State University stadium
  - Minnesota – Airport announcements, theater, churches
- Rochester (see next slide)



# How can looping help me?

- Uses your personal hearing aid
  - No need to borrow an “ear piece”
  - Able to use your personal settings
  - Easy to be discreet and push your t-coil button
- **Removes “echo”**
- **Reduces background noise**

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# Hearing Better with a Loop

In hard listening situations like  
NOISE and ECHO...

Only 13% found their hearing aid helpful  
BUT 86% found the hearing aid + loop helpful

The Hearing Review survey of 866 participants. (Kochkin, et al. 2014)



# Redeemer Loop

- Where is it?
- How do I connect to it?

# Redeemer's Loop

- Sanctuary
- Chapel
- Microphone and system set up
- Where it is NOT:
  - meeting rooms, downstairs

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# CONNECT to Redeemer's Loop

- Be sure system mic is turned on
- Turn on your personal t-coil
- Sit wherever
  - Signal varies a bit (normal)
  - Some places are louder

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# Telecoil (t-coil) basics

- Need T-coil to use a LOOP in hearing aid
- T-coil is built inside the hearing aid
- Not all hearing aids have t-coils
  - Need to be ordered with t-coil
  - Need to have t-coil activated in software by audiologist



# What if I don't have a t-coil?

- If your hearing aid does not have a t-coil...
  - ✓ Borrow a device from church
    - ✓ Use earphones with your hearing aids still in place
    - ✓ Use earphones without a hearing aid
    - ✓ Use one of the older “FM” listener devices from church
  - ✓ Order new T-coil hearing aids from audiologist 😊

# Troubleshooting your T-coil

- For your audiologist:
  - You don't have a t-coil or a push button
  - Sound is way too loud
  - You can't hear the people right by you
- Potential loop system problem:
  - Humming noise (no ground or interference)
  - Others talking (Spill over from loop near by)
  - Dead spots (installation challenge)

# Loops in Rochester Area

- 125 Live meeting room
- ABC meeting room
- Charter House, Edward's Hall, Northwood Meeting Room
- Churches: Bethel, Calvary Episcopal, Christ United Methodist, **REDEEMER**, Zumbro Lutheran,
- Other churches in other communities (Spring Valley Our Savior's Lutheran)

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# MN Looping “Law”

- 2017 MN Legistalation passed
  - “Good Acoustics and Looping Law”
  - If you use State funds for a building, you need to make it “listener friendly”
  - But businesses can still get by the law
- NO loops installed in any State Capital offices or meeting rooms (...yet)

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# Loop Cost Estimates

Place	Estimated Cost of Install
Home Living Room	\$200
Business Countertop	\$500
Business Meeting Room	\$2,000
Worship Area	\$5,000 to \$30,000
Concert Hall	\$30,000 to \$75,000
Stadium	\$100,000 to \$150,000

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# Wrap Up

# QUESTIONS?

# Thank you!

- **Contact your local audiologists:**
  - Amy Swain Hearing Centers
  - Mayo Clinic
  - Olmsted Medical Center
  - ❖ Advanced, specialized degrees in hearing science
  - ❖ Each offers diagnostic testing, objective consultations, competitive pricing, and best of all ...
  - ❖ SCIENTIFIC approach to hearing help

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And Jesus said...

“He who has ears, let him hear..”

Mark 4:9

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