

52 Ways to Make Sunday Special

BY JOHNNY FLASH



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What if people were so excited about what God was doing at your church that they planned their vacations around it?

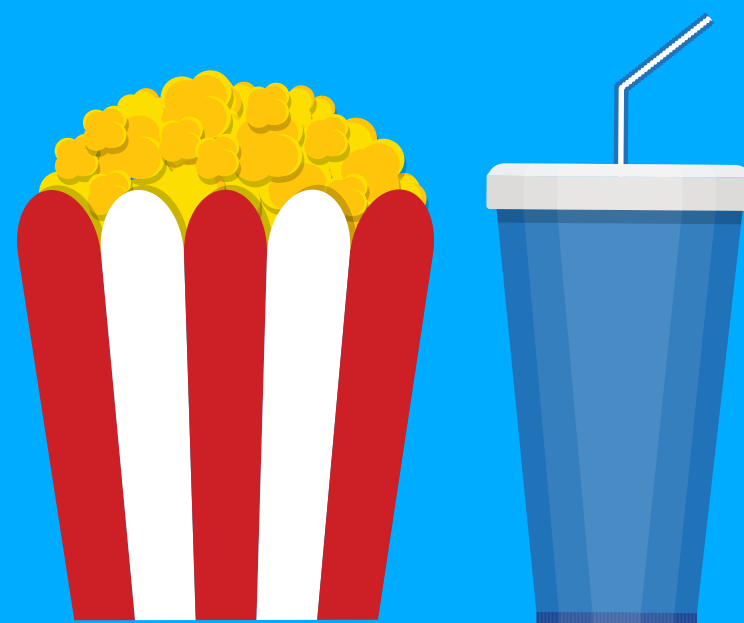
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THIS SUNDAY SPECIAL?

Obviously these special moments cannot take the place of a genuine experience with God or the Holy Spirit's work in our services. However, there is still a valuable place for our Sunday gatherings. Here are 52 ways you can make Sunday special.

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Have a photo booth

Photo booths are a great way to make Sunday special and allow people to share photos on social media.



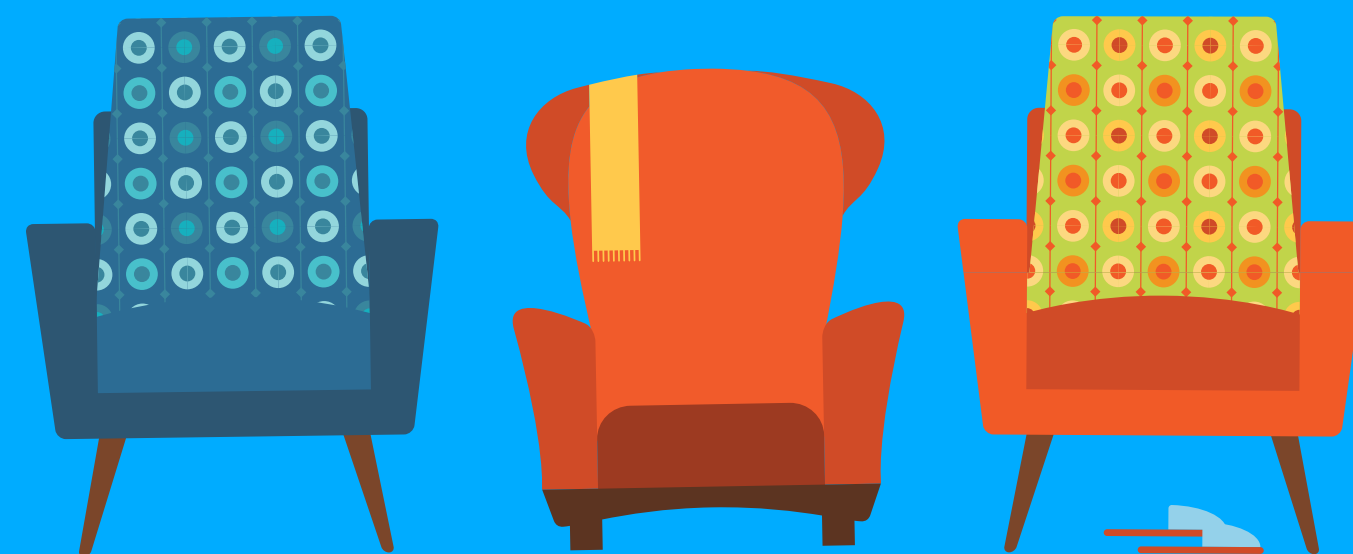
Popcorn for movie series

Use a movie clip that ties into your sermon and serve popcorn. You could even do this several weeks in a row and call it a series.

Tacky Christmas Sweater Day

SEEN AT **EXPECTATION CHURCH**

Choose a Sunday in December and announce several weeks in advance that it is Tacky Christmas Sweater Day and that there will be prizes. Post the winners on social media.



Special seating for fathers on Father's Day

Have special chairs for Father's to sit in on Father's Day. If you want to make it really special have a refreshment area in the lobby and allow them to bring them into the service.

Costumed character in the lobby

Borrow, rent or find a costume that kids will enjoy and announce that the character will be here on a certain date. Create a place for people to take photos that connect to the character.



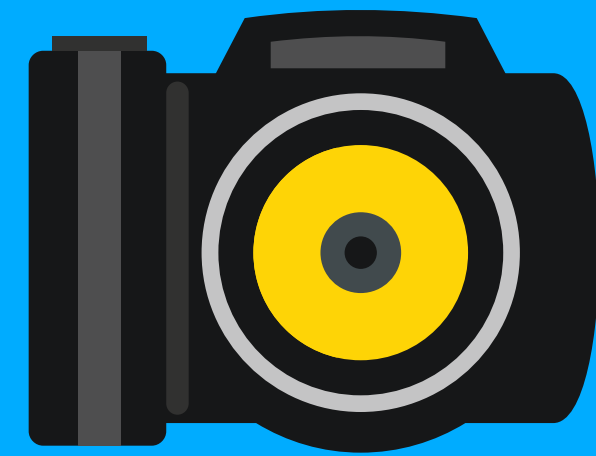
Hot chocolate bar in the winter

SUGGESTED BY **KENDALL CONNER**

Have a hot chocolate bar on a really cold weekend or throughout the winter months to encourage people to get up and come to church. Mention it on social media or in emails.

Play area for kids

Create a play area for kids to utilize before and after service. It could contain crafts or toys and be located in the lobby or a designated room.



Family portrait sessions

Recruit volunteers to take family portraits before and after the service. Have special backdrops with good lighting. You can get their email and send it to them or have printouts available for pick up the next week. This works really well on Mother's Day.

T-shirt Giveaway

Design some cool t-shirts and give them away in the service. Include the church logo somewhere on the shirt.



Coffee mugs with church logo

Give away coffee mugs that have the church logo on them. It's a great way to promote the church and makes people feel special.

Candy station for movie series

Do a movie sermon series where you look at themes in movies and how they connect to the Gospel story. One week surprise people and have a candy station in the lobby where they can get candy for free.



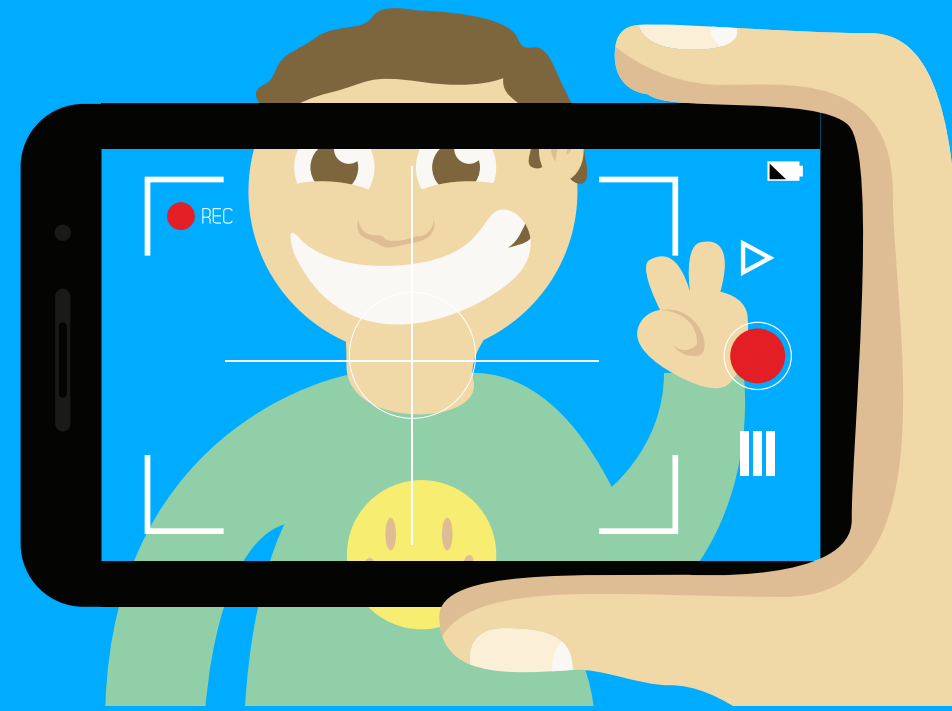
Volunteer T-Shirt Day

Give all of your regular volunteers t-shirts and ask them to wear them on a Sunday where the theme is about serving. You could even have the color of the t-shirt correspond to their area of ministry. Then challenge people who are not serving to talk to someone wearing a shirt about how they can get involved.

Memorable token that connects to sermon

Give everyone a wristband after the service and have it be for some kind of 30 day challenge that was given in the sermon.

It could be as simple as committing to read your Bible everyday for 30 days or helping someone in need each week.



Funny video featuring staff or volunteers

Create a funny video that features staff or volunteers. Everyone will get a good laugh and it will make the people at your church feel more relatable and approachable. Try to avoid being cheesy unless you're going for an over the top cheesy video.

Baptism weekend

Rather than have a baptism here and a baptism there, have them all of them on one weekend and make it a big deal. In 4 weeks it's going to be baptism weekend, and it's going to be a huge celebration. Invite your family and friends.



Bomb Pops near July 4th

SUGGESTED BY **KENDALL CONNER**

Give out Bomb Pops on the Sunday closest to
4th of July right after the service.

Trunk or treat on Sunday morning

Instead of doing a trunk or treat event in the evening, do it on the Sunday morning just before or after church and encourage church members to invite their friends to come trunk or treat and attend church.



Ice Cream Sandwich on National Ice Cream Day

Give out ice cream sandwiches on the Sunday closest to National Ice Cream Day, usually in late July or early August. Tell them you couldn't wait any longer and had to indulge. People won't mind you're a few days early.

Pumpkin spice lattes in the fall

When the leaves are changing color and it's starting to get cooler, serve pumpkin spice lattes after the service.



Facebook page like contest

During announcements have a Facebook like contest and give a prize to the first X people that can like the church's page.

Food Drive Sunday

Have a food drive Sunday where you collect food for a location organization or ministry that is in need. Be sure to take photos and video and celebrate the generosity the following weekend.



Christmas songs played live in the lobby

Before and after your Christmas services or sometime in December, have someone playing Christmas songs live in the lobby. No singing needed, just have them play the popular tunes.

Cupcakes on church's anniversary

Celebrate the Church's anniversary by having cupcakes after the service. Take the opportunity to tell the church's origin story and the miracles God has done to bring the church this far. Talk about the impact the church is having.

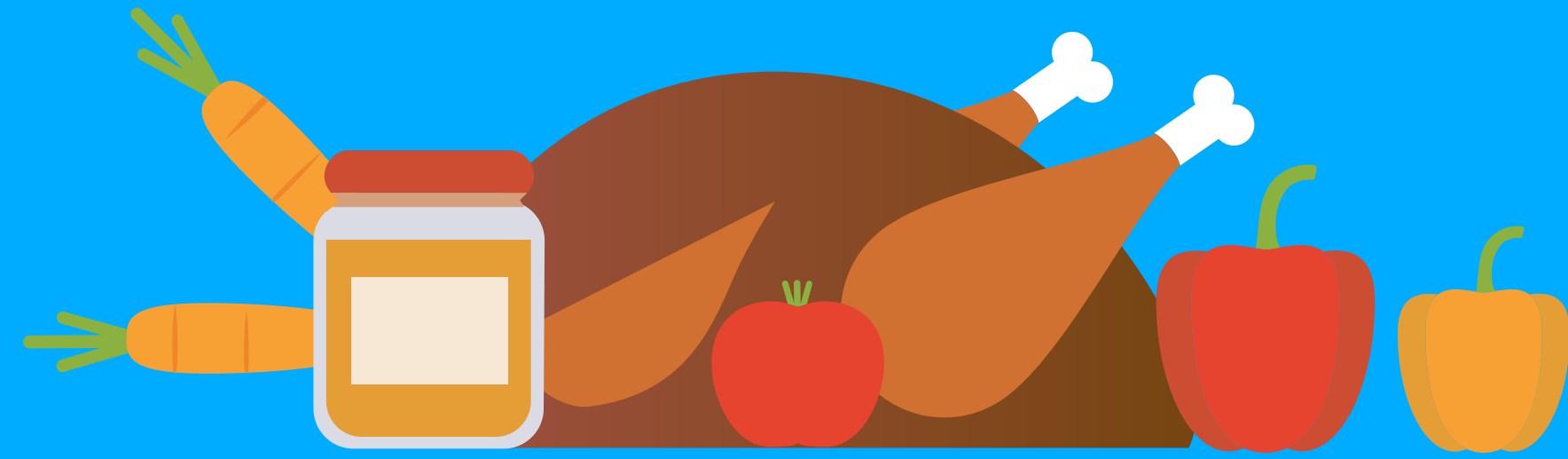


Bounce house day for kids

Have a special day that is focused on kids and have several bounce houses for kids to enjoy. Talk about it several weeks ahead so they can invite their friends. Give a prize to whoever invites the most friends.

Opening special music performance

Start the service with a special music performance. Even if it's your worship team doing the song, make it unique with lights, stage elements, supporting video or special effects. Tell people the week before they don't want to miss the opening next Sunday.



Thanksgiving poll

On Thanksgiving weekend or the weekend before, have a special poll related to people's favorite Thanksgiving food, traditions, dessert, etc.

Lunch provided after church

Provide lunch after church and encourage everyone to stick around to get to know each other and meet someone new. You could even have activities setup to keep people engaged even longer.



Video synced with live song

Have a special song in the service that is synced to a powerful video. If placed and done right it will leave a last impression.

Utilize a DJ

Have a Christian DJ spinning up songs before the service or have a special element during the service that involves a Christian DJ and a spoken word performance.



Movie clips for sermon illustrations

Use a movie clip in the sermon that really
illustrates the big idea of the sermon.

Special Guest Artist

Have a special guest perform during the service. If the guest is well known in the community, then announce ahead of time that they will be there.



Decorate a stocking station

Some weekend in December have a stocking decorating station. Provide free stockings and the decorations.

Candlelight service at Christmas

Include candles near the end of your Christmas service while singing a few Christmas songs. Make sure the lights in the room are reduced as much as possible and let the candles do the rest.



Christmas poll

Before your Christmas service or during the month of December have Christmas polls asking people their favorite Christmas song, movie, food, tradition, etc.

Cookie decorating station

Have a cookie decorating station where people can decorate cookies and then eat them.



Train ride around church at Christmas

Give a train ride around the church near Christmas. It could be inside or outside depending on your setup.

Community Service Sunday

Have a shorter service (or cancel it all together) and have people serve local ministry partners or people in the community. Organize different options for them so that every can participate (adults, adults with children, etc.) Be sure to take photos and videos and celebrate the next Sunday.

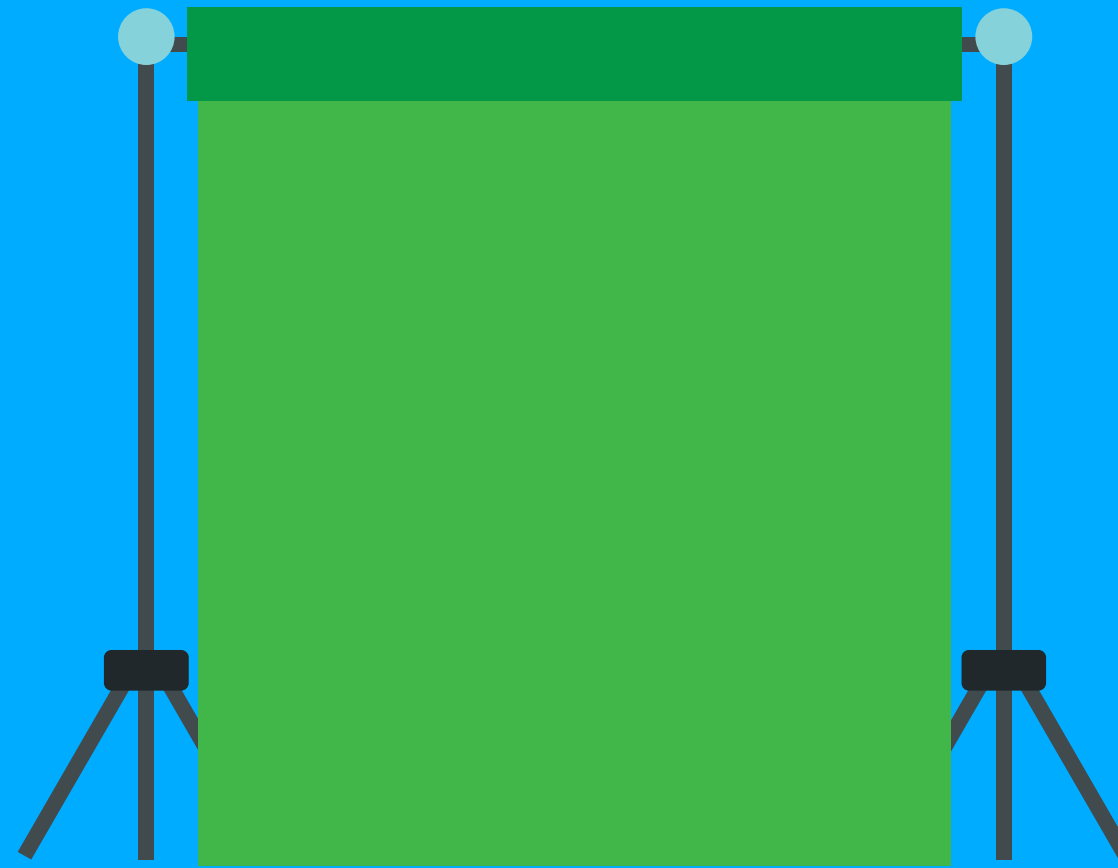


Wear your favorite football team apparel

For opening football Sunday or Super Bowl Sunday or just a pre-selected Sunday in the fall, tell everyone to wear their favorite football team apparel. You could even give a prize to the most decorated fan.

Changing set design with tiles

Create a backdrop or stage set that has tiles that show one picture. Then each week change some of the tiles to be the new picture. It's a great visual when talking about restoration or other concepts.



Green screen station

Setup a green screen backdrop in the lobby with the appropriate lights and allow people to take photos in front of it. Provide sample backdrops and have a contest. Or have a video camera hooked up to a computer that is connected to a TV and have it place a backdrop in real-time.

Sticky note prayer requests on the cross

Place a cross in the sanctuary, provide sticky notes, and ask people to write prayer requests on them and put them on the cross. Ask your team or a small group to come in a pray for all of the requests during the week.



Scripture video in the worship set

In the middle of worship, utilize a Scripture video during a transition or instrumental to keep people focused and bring the verses to life.

Hidden message in stage design

FIRST SEEN AT **NATIONAL YOUTH WORKERS CONVENTION**

Create a stage backdrop that utilizes projection or lighting and have a hidden phrase connected to the sermon be revealed at the right moment.



Well known guest speaker

Invite a well known guest speaker to speak on a Sunday.
Advertise that they are coming so others can invite their friends.

Projection panels

Create panels and utilize projectors to display various images or visuals on the panels. You can change the visuals at various points in the service or from week to week or month to month.



Play a popular song

Play a popular song as a service opener or just before the sermon. Make sure the theme of song ties into the message and reference the lyrics that connect.

Winter wonderland theme

Create a winter wonderland theme on the stage. The great thing about this is you can utilize it in December and then keep it up for January and February.

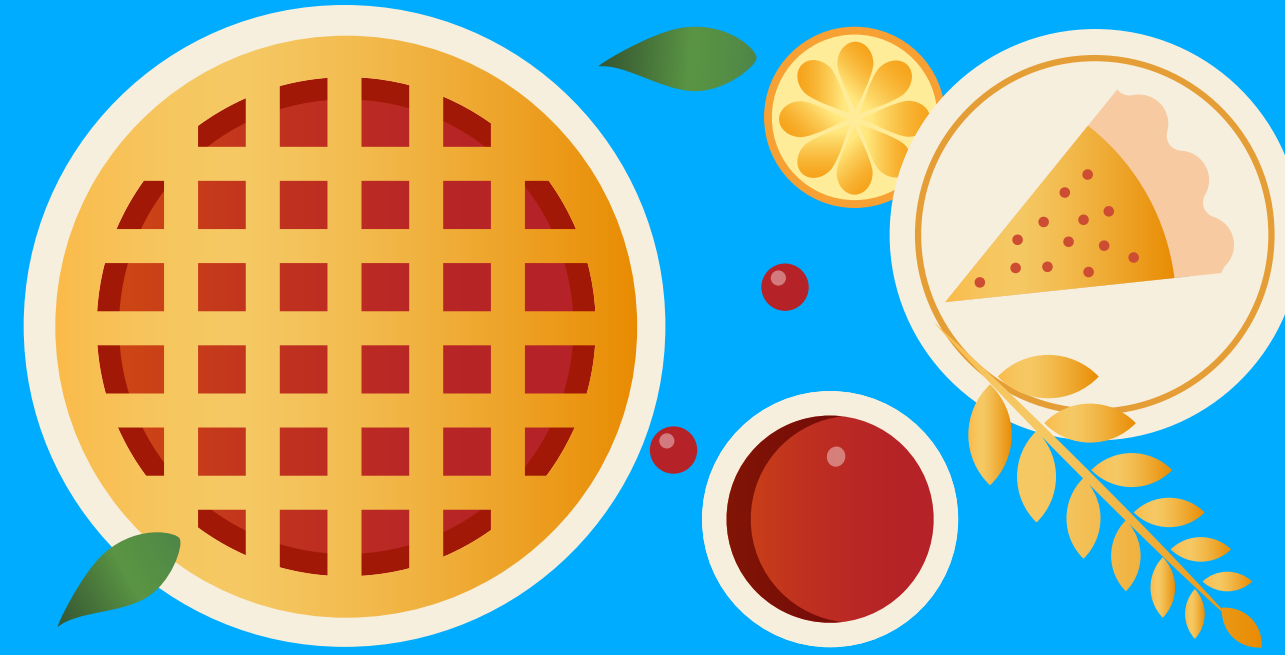


Prizes on Mother's Day

Give prizes on Mother's Day to the mom with the most kids present, the most family present, the grandmother with the most grandkids present, etc.

Dramatic scripture reading

Have a dramatic Scripture reading during the service. Even better, have the Scripture memorized and place it in the middle of worship and utilize lighting for more effect.

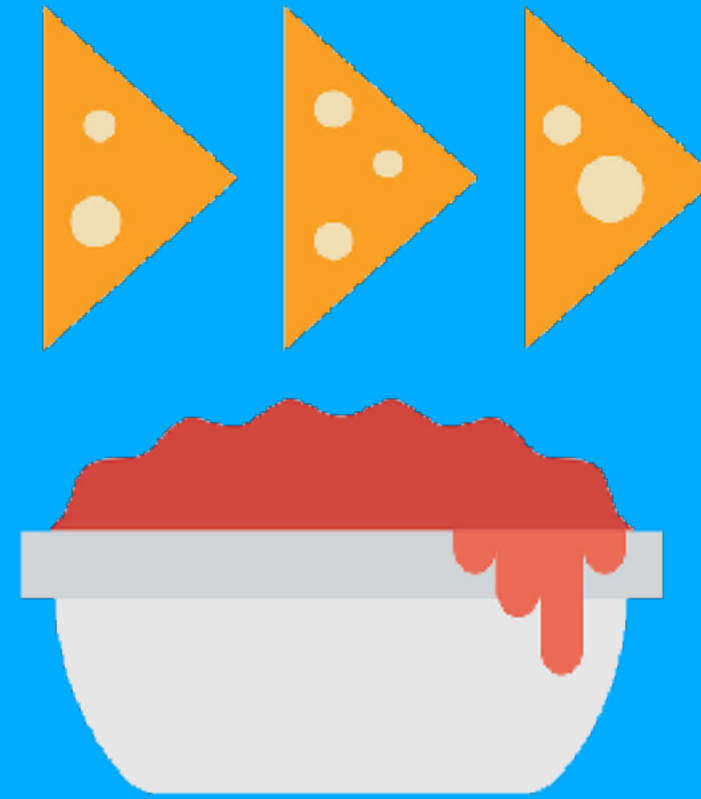


Pie on National Pie Day

Let everyone enjoy pie after the service on or near National Pie Day or National Pi Day. There are several to choose from and people won't mind whichever one you select.

Tweet wall

Utilize a TV or screen and place a tweet wall on it. Encourage people to share tweets related to the sermon or series.



Chili Cook-off

Have a Chili cook-off and encourage people to bring a crock pot with their best chili. Provide labels so everyone can name their chili and include the ingredients for allergies. Decide on a voting system and give prizes to the winners.

I'm a marketer so I had to
throw in a few extra ideas.

ENJOY!

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AT THE MOVIES

Lego theme

Create a Lego theme in the lobby. You could even have a station for kids to play with legos or places to take photos.



Egg Hunt on a Sunday

Have an egg hunt right before or after a service so that visitors can attend the service and do the egg hunt. Encourage members to invite their friends and make sure guests are welcomed and well care for at the service.

Setup refugee living situation in lobby

To help raise awareness of various refugee crisis, setup a sample living situation of a refugee in the lobby. Provide some kind of way people can get involved or help with the crisis.



Your Town's Largest Selfie

Tell everyone that you are going to take your town's largest selfie image next Sunday and they need to invite as many people as they know. Have someone on stage use a selfie stick to capture the widest image possible. Then post it on social media and ask people to share it.

Largest nearest city theme

Decorate the church in honor of the largest nearest city using recognized symbols and icons. Use this opportunity to talk about reaching the community with the Gospel.



Tailgate party in church parking lot

Have a tailgate party in the church parking lot and then have your own sports game or if you have permission show a game at the church. Promote it several weeks in advance and provide guidelines.

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