



## FUNDRAISING IDEAS

As you think about how fundraising plays a role in your Youth Ministry, consider how these events fit into the larger picture of your congregation's overall ministry, and more specifically your Youth Ministry program. There is no shortage of creative fundraising ideas. Success in fundraising depends far more on identifying the right strategy for your congregation, planning to maximize your efforts, and communicating well.

A few things to consider as you map out your fundraising calendar while you prepare to attend the Gathering in Houston:

- How does your fundraising plan fit into the overall stewardship conversation at your congregation?
- What is your church's philosophy on fundraising and how does your Youth Ministry fundraising fit into that philosophy? Do you consider your fundraising efforts to be ministry or what we do to facilitate ministry?
- Coordinate with other groups in your congregation that are planning to have fundraisers. Get approval from the appropriate boards and staff. Don't exhaust your congregation with too many fundraisers. Plan your fundraising with your ministry in mind.
- Know your budget and how much you need to make. Spreadsheets are your friend! (Check the Gathering Budget Tool resource.) Similarly, carefully manage your funds. Have systems in place for depositing your earnings. Also, know that you cannot give fundraising money directly toward any individuals' accounts (this is an IRS red flag!).
- Use fundraising to foster relationships - among your youth, adult leaders and your congregation. Covet the prayers of your congregation!
- Think outside the box and work to get the most bang for your buck. Work smarter, not harder. Thrivent Action Grants are a great place to secure seed money to cover expenses.

Specific fundraising ideas fall into a few categories:

### Experiences

- Provide an opportunity for your congregation to safely gather and make memories. Many people don't want or need more things. Ideas include 5k races, paint party night, trivia night, dances, adult PE night, cooking classes on Zoom, or a golf tournament.
- A very low-overhead fundraiser is to post envelopes with specific dollar amounts on the front and ask members of your congregation to take one or more home and fill with the amount listed. This is low pressure, as individuals can take the amount they are comfortable with.



## Services

- Anything your youth can do for someone else, and in turn raise funds. Ideas like car washes, Mother's Day out, yard work, babysitting, or painting are great places to start. Silent auctions could be a fun way to "sell" services.

## Food

- Always a popular option! Safely offer curbside dinner pick up in lieu of Advent or Lenten dinners. Sell butter braids, pizzas, sub sandwiches, burritos, fruit, chocolate, or host a bake sale. Know your congregation and what they enjoy! Keep things fresh and don't replicate something another group has done.

## Fundraising Resources

A few excellent resources to tap into:

- [kfu.org/youthministry](http://kfu.org/youthministry): information on LCMS Youth Ministry and links to fundraising resources
- [End Goals](#) podcast (found by searching KFUE Radio, Spotify, and iTunes): [Episode #25](#) (July 3, 2020) is all about fundraising.
- [LCMS Youth Ministry Facebook Group](#): a great place to ask questions and search to find other fundraising ideas from LCMS Youth Ministry leaders across the country.

Blessings to you and your congregation as you prepare to raise the important funds needed to bring your group to Houston!