

PASTA WITH A PURPOSE

Ideas for Congregational Promotion

Pasta with a purpose is a fun and joyful way for congregations to respond to the growing food insecurity in our communities. The pasta offering should be collected anytime during the months of June, July, and August, as these are typically months when food pantry donations are down. Congregations should report online [here](http://bit.ly/PastawithaPurpose) (bit.ly/PastawithaPurpose).

All food offerings should be weighed and recorded on the registration site. There will be two collection entries: one prior to July 20, and the final on God's Work Our Hands day on September 13th.

Below is a list of fun suggestions; congregations can also create their own ideas! Whatever works.

1. Start with a fun display such as a table set like an Italian restaurant, or a tower of pasta, or samples of collection items, and a colorful poster.
2. Include a way to keep track of progress (possibly toward a goal), such as a scale that goes up as the lbs collected go up. Or the traditional thermometer, perhaps in the shape of a box of spaghetti.
3. Involve various groups in competition: Sunday school, choir, youth group, altar guild etc. Include VBS participants in the pasta meal offering.
4. Designate a group of "bargain hunters" who can alert the rest of the congregation about sales at some of the local grocery stores.
5. Set a goal of 250 lbs to celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S.
6. Serve a pasta dinner or have a homemade pasta workshop as a kick-off fundraiser to purchase items for the pasta offering.
7. Collect enough cans to build a tower as tall as the pastor.
8. Use silly puns to get people's attention: "it's not im-pasta-ble to make a difference" or "we're spa-getting people fed", or "come to the garden of eatin'"
9. Have a special offering, passing large pasta pots to collect food items people bring in.
10. Have your youth group create a skit to share info about hunger and this campaign.
11. Ask your pastor to have a few sermons related to hunger during the collection period.
12. Make sure everyone understands which food pantry will benefit from your offerings. Deliver the items as they are collected and weighed so that they can get into the hands of people who need them.
13. Have fun!

Sponsored by the Virginia Synod Hunger Task Force.
Learn more at: vasynod.org/resources/world-hunger