

IDEAS FOR SMALL CHURCHES



"10 FUNDRAISING IDEAS"



1. Envelope fundraiser

An envelope fundraiser is an easy and engaging fundraiser any church can run, and the best part is that it's accessible to all of your church members. All you need is a stack of envelopes, some tape, and an empty wall in a highly trafficked area like your church lobby area.

Simply number your envelopes from one pound to £20 to indicate specific donation amounts and then tape them up to your wall. Your congregants can stop by your fundraising wall before or after your church service and donate the amount written on the envelope of their choice. If you're looking to raise more money, add more envelopes to your wall. This is a great fundraiser in part because it provides your congregants with a visual gauge of how close you are to meeting your goal. Studies show that people are more likely to donate as you get closer to your goal, so when there are only a few more empty envelopes left on your wall, you're sure to find dedicated congregants who will fill those final empty spots.

2. Singing telegrams for birthdays or Christmas

Give your congregants the opportunity to send each other a fun musical gift by holding a singing telegram fundraiser. Set up a table and ask people to pay a small fee to send their friends and family a fun singing telegram. To provide more personalization for the telegrams, offer a selection of songs your choir members can sing that your congregants can choose from when sending a telegram.

This is a great idea around the holidays when your choir can pull out some classic Christmas carols and go door-to-door in festive gear. For a more long-term, ongoing fundraiser, you can set up a box where people can submit telegrams they'd like to send at any time for birthdays or any other occasion

3. Host a Shoes & clothes drive fundraiser

Everyone has shoes & clothes that they no longer wear. Rather than letting them wind up in a landfill, encourage churchgoers to repurpose them by donating them to your church's clothes drive fundraiser. They'll appreciate the opportunity to declutter their homes and support your mission. Plus, this is a great way to instill a philanthropic spirit throughout your congregation.

All you need to do is partner with a shoe & clothes drive fundraiser facilitator. They'll provide you with all the materials you need. Place the collection materials around your church and the community. Then, encourage churchgoers and community members to donate their gently worn, used, and new items that they no longer wear. Watch as the clothes & shoes pile up and your church's funds skyrocket. The organization below buys unwanted shoes and clothes. Click below for more information.

www.wejustrecycle.co.uk We Pay Instant Cash for Clothes and Shoes

Turn your unwanted clothes, paired shoes, belts and handbags into cash, we pay up to 50p per kilo, that's up to £5.00 per bag weighing 10 kilos – cash for clothes on the spot! It's that simple, contact them to [arrange a FREE collection](#).

4. Benefit gala with a concert

Roll out the red carpet for a fun, one-night-only benefit gala and church choir concert. To add some spice to your event, set a fun theme you can plan your concert setlist around and your guests can dress up for. You can also add a silent auction to your gala to raise some extra money and give people the opportunity to return home with a fun gift.

5. Church cookbook

Almost no one returns home after a church potluck without making a few promises to send recipes around once everyone's stomach is full and all the serving plates are empty. Why not make things easier on your congregants by collecting those coveted family recipes for a church cookbook fundraiser? Send out a call to your congregation to submit their most popular potluck recipes or favorite family food traditions to compile into a community cookbook. You can even turn this cookbook into a yearly publication where people can submit new or updated recipes annually. Sell copies of the cookbook to your congregation and include any backstories or fond memories your contributors have about the recipes they've submitted. People will love the opportunity to try something new in their kitchens and in doing so, they'll also get to know their community better.

6. 40 Days of Lent challenge

The 40 days leading up to Easter are dedicated to reflection, fasting, and generosity, so why not give your members an opportunity to practice giving with a "40 Days of Lent" fundraising challenge?

One way to run a "40 Days of Lent" challenge is by providing all of your congregants with jars. If they choose to give up something like coffee or some sort of daily expense, ask them to take that money they would've spent and put it in the jar. When Lent is over, they should bring the jars back to church as a donation.

7. Family photo day

Getting the family all dressed up and looking nice on any day can be a difficult task. Make family photos easy by offering a photo day at church when everyone's already dressed up in their Sunday best. Advertise your photo day for a specific Sunday and set up a simple photo studio where families can stop by before or after a church service to pay to take home a few photos.

Pro tip: Plan your family photo day before the holiday season starts so families can get their Christmas card photos done!

8. A cook-off

Everyone loves a cook-off. There are a thousand different ways to theme a cook-off, too. Chili cook-offs are a classic. Or a baking contest? What about a themed cook-off that emphasizes local agriculture? If your town is famous for its strawberries, for example, you could consider having a contest where cooks' recipes must feature that ingredient.

Contestants in the cook-off can make a donation as an "entry fee," and people who want to sample the entries can buy tasters' tickets. It's even more fun when winners get prizes – you could even recognize the best cooks at an award show like the one we referenced earlier!

9. Buy-a-brick

Your congregants are the foundation of your church, so give them the opportunity to leave their mark with a buy-a-brick fundraiser. If you're building a new addition or need to update an area of your church that has fallen into disrepair, offer your members the opportunity to buy an engraved brick to help fund your renovation. They can use the brick as an opportunity to permanently mark their contributions to your church or to honor a special someone.

10. Team up with local businesses

The best kind of fundraiser is the kind of fundraiser that requires minimal planning, minimal work, and lets church members support you by buying something they already spend money on. Teaming up with local businesses and franchises is a fantastic way to do that.

Chains like Nando's, Target, and other major retailers regularly sponsor "spirit nights" for schools, wherein a percentage of their sales is donated to the featured school. Similar fundraisers are popular with nonprofits, too. Reach out to local businesses and see if you can arrange a similar fundraiser, then make sure your congregants know where to eat or shop!