



24

FUNDRAISER IDEAS

CREATED

TO BE

#1

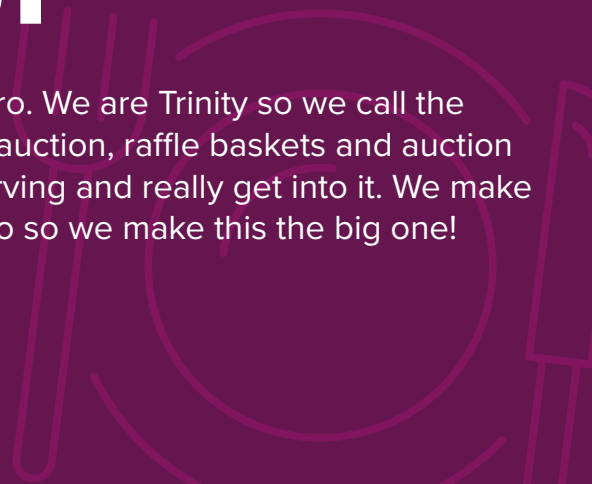
Italian Dinner

We do an Italian dinner night with reservations, candlelit tables, and a choice of preordered lasagna, chicken fettuccini, etc. Youth waited on tables with the stress on service and quality. We did this every spring and did very well.

#2

Valentine's Dinner

We do an annual Valentine's dinner and turn the church into an Italian bistro. We are Trinity so we call the bistro "Trinitino's." We assign different jobs to the parents such as the live auction, raffle baskets and auction of the kids to do service projects for the congregation. The kids do the serving and really get into it. We make about \$3,500 each year. We're limited on how many fundraisers we can do so we make this the big one!



#3

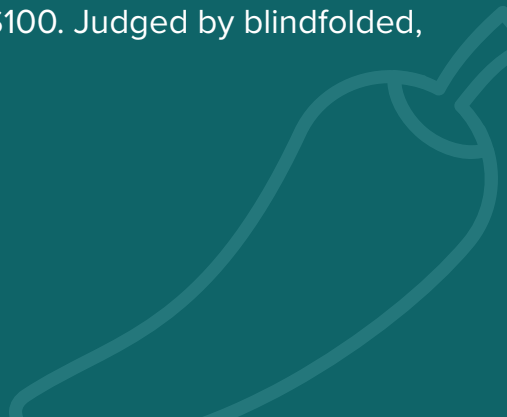
Casseroles for sale!

We do a quarterly casserole sale. We give the youth families a foil pan and lid, they make a casserole (oven-ready) and bring it back next Sunday. We sell them between services for \$15. I love it because it's not a lot of work on the leader's part, it puts more responsibility on the families, and the congregation loves it! We sell out within 10 minutes. Then during the year before the Gathering, we bump it up to monthly. It's a great easy fundraiser in our church.

#4

Chili cook-off

Chili cook-off and chili feed – \$10 per ticket, \$12 at the door. First prize winner = \$100. Judged by blindfolded, experienced chili judges. Additional prize awarded for people's choice.



#5

Let's get mowing

In 2000, we started mowing the church lawn. We figured the church could hire the youth with their families' help instead of an outside service. It really puts some money into the account for each year. After three years, it really adds up and teaches the kids pride and accomplishment.

#6

Need a hand?

Our best money maker year-round is house sitting, pet sitting, getting mail, lawn work, etc. We started with our members and they recommended us to their friends. Families serve together. A check is made out to the church. No rates; customers are always more than generous! Kids love getting to know the pets of our congregation.



#7

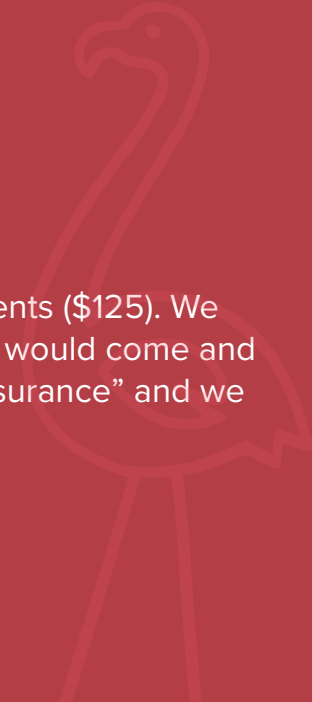
Rummage Sale?

Consider selling your gently used kids clothes, toys and more that you have laying around! We do two a year, fall and spring. We charge \$15 for table rental or two for \$25, \$1 admission at the door and have items at a concession stand. We really cater to the parents by unloading them at their cars and taking everything into their tables. We also help load them up at the end. This alone is a great hit. We had about 107 tables at our last sale.

#8

Flamingo Flocking

Our biggest money maker was flamingo “flocking.” We bought 25 pink flamingo yard ornaments (\$125). We would leave the flock in members’ yards. For \$15 we would come and get them. For \$20 we would come and get them and you could identify the next recipient. For \$25 you could purchase “Flocking Insurance” and we would not come to your house. Super-fun fundraiser.



#9

Stocks & Investments

We sell stock in our youth, and Thrivent matched us, so our stock sale made \$3,500 for our trip. We sell stock in our youth because there is no better investment. We make stock certificates in Word and sell them for whatever investment the individual wants to make. Some invested \$5 and some invested \$100. When we get back from the gathering, we hold a brunch after Sunday service for our stockholders to thank them for their support. The kids tell about their experiences and we put together a video montage of their time at the gathering. The congregation loves it!

#10

Let's get rid of that junk!

Annual all-church yard sale. Everyone in church brings in their "junk" and we organize and sell it on one Saturday in May. It's HUGE!

#11

Fish fry for dinner?

We come from a small church but had a fairly large amount of youth going, so we couldn't rely just on our congregation for support. We held a community garage sale and a fish fry take-out dinner that made about one-third of our earnings.

#12

Gift cards

We sell reloadable grocery gift cards. They give us 5 percent of what people load onto the cards. Members can load them at the grocery store. The grocery gift cards covered around 50 percent of our expenses.



#13

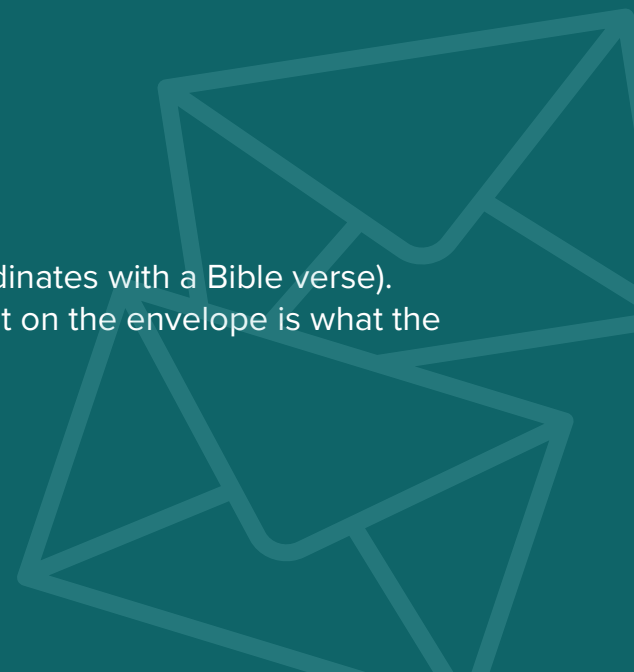
T-shirt billboard

We sold spaces for local businesses to put their logo on the back of our gathering shirts. Made about \$2,000!

#14

Envelopes

We did the 144 envelope fundraiser. Mark each envelope 1-144 (144 coordinates with a Bible verse). People take an envelope (at random or of their choosing) and the amount on the envelope is what the donor contributes. You can raise over \$10,000!



#15

Anyone want pie?

If you have two or more pastors, staff members or adult leaders, one of our favorite out of the box fundraisers was a pie-a-pastor fundraisers. We kept jars out for several weeks and the adult leader with the most amount of money in their jar got a pie in the face. We drew names on pie day to see who would do the pieing. All the adults lined up so it was a surprise to see who'd get the pie.

#16

Parent's night out

On a Friday night in December, parents can drop off their kids at church from about 5:30-8:30. We'll provide fun and games for them and hopefully the parents can enjoy a night out. We'll set a dollar amount per child but also take donations.

#17

Cookies & Canvas

We worked with a local Wine & Canvas to host a "Cookies & Canvas" event. We had about 30 painters and raised almost \$700. The Wine & Canvas gave us their group rate and we added \$10 to the price that it normally costs. Then the Wine & Canvas people gave a donation for 15 percent of the cost of the event. It was great!

#18

Who's got talent?

Charge admission to a talent show featuring your youth group.

#19

Subs & Football

Sell sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday, get the produce donated, and have the kids make them. We sell 15-inch sandwiches for \$12 each.

#20

Newlyweds Game

Invite your mature ministry group to come to a free night of a game show of “The Newlyweds Game” and serve free desserts. Invite well-known couples to increase attendance. Have a straight freewill offering afterward. Put some \$10 or \$20 bills in the bottom of the baskets to inspire people.

#21

Miles to the Gathering

Figure out the mileage for the trip and how much each mile should cost. Have donors pay for the trip by the mile. Another idea is Gas 2 Go. Place a new, empty gas can in the narthex. Encourage folks to drop in their spare change (bills and checks also accepted) after every service. Count and post amount each week. All monies used for transportation. Easy. No up-front costs.

#22

Trivia night

Community Trivia Night! People may purchase individual admission or whole tables.

#23

Game night!

A Bunco (or any easy game!) night fundraiser. Suggested minimum donation of 15 dollars per person to play. Teach the youth how to play so they can all participate, too.

#24

Let's get writing.

I invite all our youth to bring the names and addresses of 10 people (besides) their parents – outside of the congregation – who love them. I give them a draft of a letter that they can then hand write and modify as they see fit. It simply says something like "I know that you love me. I have the opportunity to do this great thing. It costs a lot of money. Here's how you can help me." We include a printed slip of paper the person can complete with name, address, e-mail and amount of gift. It also indicates the church address where they can send their gifts. The youth address their envelopes, and I pay the postage. We always get a great response to this – because these are the people who love our youth the most. They want to help them. And they love getting a handwritten letter from the youth. We follow up with thank-you postcards from the event.