Module 3: Happy New Year! - Whatza Cookin' Learning Centers

Whatza Cookin' Learning Centers will "stir up" God's Spirit within as they feature a menu full of "Chef's Specials" designed to interpret the meaning of each season of the church year. The six crafts and activities are designed to help participants understand and appreciate the significance of walking with Christ through the seasons of the church year. Scan through each learning center and adapt the activities to honor your own schedule and intent. You might also consider using them to enrich other intergenerational or age-specific events throughout the year.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, along with any needed preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating the details and tasks involved. You may wish to display a sign to distinguish between the gathering activities and the learning centers. A "Whatza Cookin'" sign design (PDF file) is provided for this purpose.

The Stirrin' Spoon and the menu card are designed to provide continuity between the theme and the various program offerings. The participants may add a color-coded ribbon or streamer to their Stirrin' Spoons and complete the menu card as they discover whatza cookin' with each season. The party planner provides a description of each season and some ideas for celebrating them at home. The party pack is provided to collect the crafts and other learning materials they receive. The "Please Wait to Be Seated" Gathering Activities introduce and distribute these resources for participant use as they move through the Whatza Cookin' Learning Centers.

You may wish to display signs to distinguish between the gathering activities and the learning centers. A "Whatza Cookin'" sign designs (PDF file) are provided for this purpose.

Whatza Cookin' Centers

Chef Constance's Special on Blue - Participants will make a prayer cardholder and receive several prayers to nurture a sense of intrigue and desire for intimacy with God as they consider some of reasons for the season of Advent.
- "Whatza Cookin'" sign design (PDF file)
- "Prayers for Stirrin' Hearts" sheet (PDF file)
- Reference sheet for Advent (PDF file)

Chef Sven's Special on White - Participants will make ornamental heart bouquets to celebrate God love and gracious activity as they consider some reasons for the seasons of Christmas and Easter.
Resource Support:
- "Whatza Cookin'" sign design (PDF file)
- Heart pattern sheet (PDF file)
- Reference sheet for Advent (PDF file)

Miss Merri Mary's and the Green Grocer's Special on Green - Participants will design a candle holder and table mat to celebrate the privilege to be enlightened by the power of God's presence and activity as they consider some reasons for the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost.
Resource Support:
- "Whatza Cookin'" sign design (PDF file)
- Pattern for Candle Mat (PDF file)
- Reference sheet for Epiphany and Pentecost (PDF file)

Ned the Cook's Special on Purple - Participants will make table reference cards to honor the life and ministry of Christ as they consider some reasons for the season of Lent.
Resource Support:
- "Whatza Cookin'" sign design (PDF file)
- "Who Do You Say that I Am?" identity card A-B (PDF file)
- Reference sheet for Lent   (PDF file)

Bernie's Special on Black - Participants will make personal place cards to reflect upon what Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has done for them as they consider the profound significance of Good Friday.
Resource Support:
- "Whatza Cookin'" sign design   (PDF file)
- "Just to Think of the Cross" personal place cards (PDF file)

Firecracker Fred's Special on Red - Participants will make ceramic coasters or "hot" plates to celebrate the awe and wonder of God's presence as they consider the significance of Pentecost Day.
Resource Support:
- "Whatza Cookin'" sign design   (PDF file)
- Great Commission reference sheet   (PDF file)
- Reference sheet for Pentecost Day (PDF file)