

Stirrin' Up A Celebration

This large group celebration is designed to be the entry point for a Happy New Year event. It provides a creative context for exploring the significance of the seasons of the church year. It includes a skit that features The 25 to 30-minute large group presentation and worship celebration includes scripture readings, a litany, songs and a skit titled "Whatza Cookin' Catering: At Your Service!" The electronic files also include a liturgical resource to use during congregational worship or Sunday School Openings throughout the season of Advent.

The outline below includes some song suggestions and a litany. Please feel free to adapt these program offerings to enrich your own schedule and intent.

Time: Approximately 20-25 minutes

Suggested Program Outline:

Opening Song:	Celebrate the Seasons of the Son
Bible Texts:	Psalm 80:2b-3, 17-19
	Hebrews 3:8
Skit:	"What's Cookin' Catering: At Your Service"
Song:	Come, Lord Jesus
Litany:	Reasons for the Seasons
Song:	Celebrate the Seasons of the Son (Chorus, with Instrumental Postlude)

Equipment and Supplies:

- A copy of the [Whatza Cookin' Catering sign design](#) (PDF file)
- Copies of the [Lessons, Songs and Prayers sheets A-D](#) (PDF file)
- Piano or other form of accompaniment
- Copies of the script ["Whatza Cookin' Catering: At Your Service!"](#)
- A sample [Stirrin' Up a Celebration menu card](#) (PDF file)
- A sample ["Reasons for the Seasons" Party Planner](#) (PDF file)
- A sample ["Happy New Year" Party Pack](#) (PDF file)
- A sample [Stirrin' Spoon](#) with color-coded ribbons or crepe paper (PDF file)
- Poster board, newsprint or roll of white gift wrap
- Markers, poster or tempera paints

Leader's Notes:

Photocopy the Church year Wheel pattern and the "Whatza Cookin' Catering" sign design onto transparencies. Use an overhead projector to enlarge the designs for display in the center of your gathering space.

Scan through the script for "Whatza Cookin' Catering: At Your Service!" and recruit upper elementary children, youth and adults who can portray the characters in the most dramatic way. Schedule a time to

rehearse the skit in the space you will use for the actual presentation. Gather the props, costumes and accessories necessary to set the stage.

Become familiar with the songs suggested for the large group celebration or feel free to choose some that are more familiar to your participants. You have permission to reproduce copies of "Celebrate the Seasons of the Son" and "Come, Lord Jesus" along with the litany and Bible texts on the Lessons, Songs and Prayers sheet. You may wish to copy the four pages back-to-back. Or, you may also wish to display the words to the songs in large print with pictures or symbols to prompt young children.

Prepare to display samples of the Stirrin' Spoon, the menu card, the Reasons for the Seasons Party Planner and the Happy New Year Party Pack as you provide a brief introduction to the Chef's Specials featured at the "Whatza Cookin'" Learning Centers. The "Please Wait to Be Seated" Gathering Activities introduce and distribute these resources for participant use as they move through the learning centers. The Stirrin' Spoon and the menu card are designed to provide continuity between the theme and the various program offerings. The participants will 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.