

## **World Communion Sunday**

The first Sunday of October

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

### Highlights:

A parade of nations  
Flags and maps  
Potluck dinner- International zest  
Communion with bread of different colors  
Prayers for world peace  
Hymns from around the world

### **Children and Families**

#### **Invite Friends**

More fun Ideas

Add your Own Inspirations:

Dolls from all over the world

Flags and streamers

Special stationery for flyers

Bring your missionary movies and books to Share -  
*(Inn of the Sixth Happiness, Chariots of Fire, etc.)*

This Sunday event in the fall sizzles with vitality to inspire your congregation to take part in the celebration of the Great Commission. Because this program involves children, families, good food, and drama, it provides an excellent opportunity to invite your friends and unchurched neighbors.

A simple worship bulletin in the next document outlines one possible worship service. It will give you some ideas on where to begin with your celebration.

Below are some additional details that will help you in crafting a joyful worship and fellowship day for your church.

### **A Parade of Nations**

During the worship service on the first Sunday of October, children and their families arrive in costumes from other countries. Midway through the worship service, they march to the chancel area and tell the congregation what country they represent. They may even carry a flag from that country. At the end of the worship service, they line up with the pastor to greet people and to direct them to the international potluck in the fellowship hall.

Around the first of September, ask the congregation who would like to participate in a Parade of Nations for the first Sunday in October. Also ask if anyone has authentic costumes from another land or culture. Your Sunday School director, Program director, or an enthusiastic grandmother will enjoy organizing this event. Have them bring the costumes and start assigning costumes to people. Some may be authentic, but many will be made up using the creative talents of moms and grandmothers.

### **Flags and maps**

Flags and garlands of flags are available on line for very little cost. They really add to the festive mood of the day. Many congregational members have maps and globes that could be used in worship or on the potluck table. Getting inexpensive flags on line add to the international quality of the event, and are educational for the children. You might want to have each person in the Parade carry the flag from his or her nation. For example, a person in a German traditional outfit would carry a flag from Germany. Flags of very usable sizes such as 12" x 18" or smaller are readily available. Some companies will provide a streamer or garland of flags that you can hang in the sanctuary, vestibule, or dining hall. Just Google "Flags of the World" for many options.

### **Potluck dinner with an International flair**

Ask everyone to bring a dish (or a finger food) from another country. Some of

the favorites are Italian pizza, Irish corned beef and cabbage, Swedish meatballs, Chinese egg rolls, and French pastries. Adding to the fun each dish displays a little sign with the name of the dish and its country's origin. American food can be included also. If you Google "flag toothpicks" you can get 50 flags on toothpicks for only \$1.99! You can attach an additional "flag to the toothpick naming the potluck dish, or you can cut out your own flags to attach to toothpicks to label dishes.

### **Communion with bread of different colors**

Someone in the congregation might be able to bake a braided bread with black pumpernickel, brown rye, and bleach wheat bread. Or three differing loaves could be cut in large cubes for communion. This would symbolize the different colors of people around the world. Perhaps the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World" could be included during communion, children's sermon, or as a short concert during the meal.

### **Prayers for world peace**

The worship service can be very rich with prayer for world peace, evangelists in other nations, and missionaries. Perhaps the Sunday school classes could have a project of writing prayers leading up to the event.

### **Hymns from around the world**

There are lots of hymns from other nations that can be sung. For some suggestions, look at the sample worship bulletin in the next document.

The key to this event is to have a lot of fun while emphasizing Jesus' command to "Go ye into all the world and make disciples." As you think about it, you will get more creative ideas than you will be able to use.

Also, isn't it delightful to have children and adults dress in costumes that represent something wholesome and uplifting, rather than the creepy monsters and anti-hero movie figures that we will see at the end of the month.

Remember, when your children participate in events such as this at a young age and have positive results, it really builds their confidence and self esteem. And it gives them a sense of belonging in the church where Jesus loves them.

Be sure to send me photos of your events so that we can post some of them. If you are in Northern Colorado, email me and I might be able to lend you some costumes for your event.

Here are some other ideas that you might want to use:

### **Dolls from all over the world**

As a child, one of my Aunt Maude's friends brought me dolls from all over the world. They are marvelous for display at an event such as this because they are colorful, unique and very educational, exposing the children to different types of dress from around the world. Ask church members for contributions from their collections, attic trunks, or children's toy boxes. What a great display for the lobby, on the dinner table or in a special table.

### **Special stationery for flyers**

Fun theme paper with the whole world is available for flyers and posters. They add such a festive touch, are perfect as invitations for neighbors and unchurched friends, can be used to decorate the bulletin board, or to send home with the children for family scrap books.

### **Take tons of photos**

This is exactly the kind of interesting photo that your local newspaper is looking for. Remember that the papers only have a few reporters, so when you send them photos and news releases, you make their jobs much easier. And the photos are a favorite with the families participating. They make great illustrations for websites and bulletin boards.

### **Bring your missionary movies and books to Share**

There are numerous movies telling the stories of missionaries to foreign lands such as *Inn of the Sixth Happiness* and *Chariots of Fire*. Ask people to lend their movies to the church for a few weeks so that others may share these inspiring stories. Also there are many books written about various missionaries: Scottish-born Mary Slessor, missionary to Nigeria at Calabar, English-born Hudson Taylor, missionary to India, China-born (Scottish heritage) Eric Liddell, missionary to China, Scottish-born David Livingstone, missionary to South Africa, and many others.

### **Highlight your church's missionaries and those who go on mission trips**

Also, many churches support missionaries and this event would be an excellent way to showcase the work that they are currently doing. Perhaps a bulletin board or a slide show would add to the inspiration of the day.

Honor those among you who have gone on mission trips around the world, to Native Americans, to the inner city, to those within your own town.

You most likely will not be able to use all of these ideas at once, but use what you can. And you will find that you will think of a lot of other terrific ideas to add to these. Next year you will already have a start on more features of the day.

Please share your new ideas with me so that I can pass them along to others.

Be creative. Praise God for giving you the gift of inspiration. Think about the ways that the Great Commission has motivated so many people around our country and around the world to share the wondrous good news of Jesus Christ and the hope, redemption, and good life that goes with that.

Rev. Laura L. Schultz  
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