



# 101 OUTREACH IDEAS

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NEVER HEARD OF

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Outreach is definitely one of the most effective ways to achieve your church's mission, and Outreach Events offer creative ways for your church to become known in your community.

While some events can be large – both from a cost and volunteer perspective, many are easily done quickly, inexpensively and with minimal effort. Here are 101 ideas for you to consider, broken down into categories that are easy to scan. The bonus ideas at the end are sure to provide you with enough event ideas to last for months, if not years. Our prayer is that your church becomes known for the fun, inviting and unobtrusive events in your community, and you experience exponential growth as a result.

## Church Outreach Event Ideas You've Probably Never Heard Of

1. *Blacklight / Glow In The Dark Easter Egg Hunt*  
(Do it for Halloween or Christmas to stand out)
2. *Helicopter Candy Drop:*
  - Buy a ridiculous amount of Candy and hire a local helicopter pilot to drop the candy in a field and then let kids go fill up their buckets with candy
  - VARIATION: If you can't do a helicopter, do a Rooftop Candy Drop. Just have your team throw candy off of your roof and watch how much the kids love it. :) ☺
3. Host an *Indoor Paintball Tournament* (or Outdoor):
  - You can usually find companies who will set up an indoor paintball competition at your church for a good price. Don't worry, they use foam paintballs instead of real paintballs, so there's no mess.
  - Some companies will even bring a giant inflatable arena to set up in your parking lot, so you don't even have to host it inside the church
4. *Build A Treehouse:*
  - Build a Treehouse, indoors or outdoors, and let members of the community vote on style, color, name, etc via social media
  - When it's built, invite the kids in your community to come and check it out.
5. *Indoor Slip and Slide:*
  - This one could get messy but the buzz you'll generate (especially among teens) will be worth it!
6. *Giant Nerf War:*
  - You can buy hundreds, or even thousands, of nerf bullets off of Amazon and invite kids in your community to bring their nerf guns (and eye protection) for a giant nerf war at the church
  - **(PRO TIP:** you can get 500 generic nerf bullets for about \$20 and they work exactly the same as the name-brand darts. One father did this for his son's 5-year-old birthday party and his friends still talk about it over a year later!).

7. *Secret Church Event:*

- Host a Secret Church Event
- Create your own event or live stream one from [secretchurch.org](http://secretchurch.org)

8. Host a *Kan Jam Tournament*

- Kan Jam is the popular Discflect sport where teams of two go head-to-head in a fun, exciting competition
- Kan Jam goals are placed 50 (Pro), 35 (Amateur), or 25 (Youth) feet apart and each teammate stands at opposite goals
- Their mission is to throw the disc toward their teammate who tries to deflect the disc into the Kan Jam goal
- Teams take turns throwing and the first to make it to 21 wins
- Invite the whole community
- If you want to make it “official” contact [KanJam World League](http://KanJamWorldLeague.com)

### Celebrate the Arts Church Outreach Events

9. *Battle of the Bands:*

- Host a Battle of the Bands at your church and invite local bands to compete for a prize.
- Bonus points for sponsoring your Youth Worship team or worship team to participate!

10. Host *A Concert For A Band:* Big name or a local band, it doesn't matter, just make it fun

11. *Rooftop Concert:* Have a concert on the roof of your church

12. *Talent Show with a Twist:* Host a talent show but do it like "The Voice" where judges have to pick their favorites without looking at the contestants

13. *Music Workshop:* Have your worship team teach the basics of how to play guitar, drums, bass, piano, sing, etc.

14. *Magic Show:* Hire a magician and host at your church or go out into neighborhoods and perform

15. *Craft Night:* This is great for families; get the supplies and have everything ready for a Craft Night

16. *Open Mic Night:* Host an open mic just like a local bar or coffee shop and let people in the community sign up to play

### Church Outreach Events – For Any Time of Year

17. *Movies on the Lawn* (or just Family Movie Night indoors):

- Set up a projector outside (or inside in the gym or auditorium) and project a Disney movie onto the side of your church or a giant white sheet and invite people to bring their lawn chairs for a family movie night
- Give out free popcorn and drinks
- Let the youth group sell concessions to raise money for missions, youth events, summer camp, etc.

18. Host *A Kite-Flying Day:*

- Invite families to come to your church on a Saturday to fly kites
- Buy a bunch of extra kites in case kids show up without a kite

- Give out candy to everyone who attends

### Seasonal Church Outreach Ideas

#### 19. Halloween Haunted House:

- Turn part of your church (or an old building on your church property) into a haunted house and charge admission or not, your choice
- Invite attendees to church afterward
- If you have a lot of property you could always do a Haunted Hayride or Haunted Woods instead

#### 20. Trick Or Treat For Canned Goods:

- Go door to door on Halloween and collect canned goods for the local food pantry
- Invite the media to attend the can drop off at the local pantry

#### 21. Trunk or Treat Event:

- Have members of your church park their cars in the parking lot and decorate their trunks, and hand out candy
- Then invite kids and families to go trick or treating in each car
- Give out prizes for Best Trunk Design and Best Costume

#### 22. Pumpkin Chucking Contest:

- Contestants build pumpkin-throwing inventions
- Give a Grand Prize for the invention that launches a pumpkin the farthest
- Can partner with local science teachers or Destination Imagination Coaches and promote problem-solving skills

#### 23. Pumpkin Palooza:

- Kids decorate/carve pumpkins and get to then take them home afterward

#### 24. Christmas In July:

- Throw a giant Christmas Party, complete with Santa Claus and presents, in the middle of July
- Have your worship team supply the Christmas music to set the mood
- Use fake snow or confetti to complete the atmosphere

#### 25. Ugly Sweater Contest:

- Giveaways and prizes for whoever has the ugliest Christmas sweater
- Do this during one of your Sunday morning services

#### 26. Fireworks Show:

- Buy some fireworks and do it yourself or hire a company to do it professionally.
- Bonus points if you do it when it's not expected or common

#### 27. Host a Winterfest Event:

- Decorate your campus in a million Christmas lights (it doesn't have to be a million but that's a great marketing tactic)
- Let people come check it out for free
- You can even sell hot chocolate and concessions to raise money for the youth group

#### 28. New Year's Eve Lock-In: More of a youth thing, but these are very effective at bringing unchurched families into the church with a low barrier-of-entry event

29. *Holiday Potluck:*

- Put a twist on Potluck dinners and have one on a holiday, but make everyone bring food related to that holiday
- Ex: Irish Food (or green food) on St. Paddy's Day, Mexican Food on Cinco De Mayo, and "Freedom Food" on the Fourth of July

30. *Election Day:*

- Purchase a bible, have it personalized, highlight favorite scriptures, and hand-deliver it to elected officials on their first day in office
- Include a note promising to pray for that leader, mayor, sheriff, or city official for the entirety of their term

### **Community-Focused Church Outreach Ideas – Events With A Purpose**

31. *Host A Special Needs Olympics* with games, inflatables, snow cones, face-painting, etc, and invite local special needs kids

32. *Host a Fun Run:*

- Pick a theme and a cause
- Host a community Fun Run to raise money and awareness for your cause
- Millennials love this...

33. *Free Oil Change Saturday:*

- Have some auto-savvy members from your church do free oil changes on a Saturday for Single Moms in your city.
- If you don't have anyone in your church that can do it hire a local mechanic for the entire day to do the oil changes for you

34. *Interview / Fireside Chat* with local heroes, and community leaders

35. *Appreciation Night:*

- Invite local law enforcement, firefighters, first responders, etc -
- Honor them and their families

36. *Blood Drive:* Partner with the Red Cross and host a blood drive

37. *Car Care Clinic:* Find a mechanic and offer free auto repair for small fixes, free diagnosis, tire rotation, etc.

38. *Friday Groceries Outreach:*

- Give out free food, groceries, and produce to families in need
- You can even get local chiropractors, doctors, dentists, lawyers, and barbers to donate their time and expertise to make a get healthy day
- Do it every Friday, once a month, or as a stand-alone outreach event

39. *Back To School Giveaway:*

- Buy a bunch of backpacks and school supplies and host a large giveaway event for families that need help purchasing school supplies
- Do it right before school begins

40. *Move-In Day at the local college:*

- Show up at a college in your town and offer to help incoming freshman and returning students move their stuff into the dorms
- Give out snacks and water

- Invite them to church after you help them move in
- 41. *Teacher Appreciation*: Bake cookies, order pizza, and/or buy gift cards for teachers in your local schools
- 42. *Perfect Attendance Carnival*: For kids who have perfect attendance at a local elementary school
- 43. *Stuffed Animal Drive* for kids in local Children's Hospitals
- 44. *First Day Parents Pray*:
  - Host a prayer event for parents on the morning after they drop kids off on the first day of school
  - Have breakfast and coffee for parents, and invite them to church afterward
- 45. *International Outreach*
  - Adopt some international Students at a local college and bring them groceries
  - Invite them to Thanksgiving, Christmas, Birthday gifts, etc.
  - Become their home away from home
- 46. *Host a Community Dance*:
  - Father/Daughter, High School Prom, Sadie Hawkins, etc.
  - Prom for senior citizens
  - Prom for special needs kids

### Games/Sports-Focused Church Outreach Ideas

- 47. *Casino Night*:
  - Rent or build some casino tables (poker, blackjack, etc) and give out poker chips to the winners
  - Give away prizes for whoever has the most chips at the end of the night
  - Could do as a fundraiser for a community cause – another pull for nonattenders
- 48. *Motorcycle Rally*:
  - Host a motorcycle rally and promote it at local bars and motorcycle shops
  - It helps if you bring in a good band too
- 49. *Poker Run*:
  - Just like the motorcycle rally, only you have 5 stops along the route and each biker gets one card at each stop
  - Whoever has the best 5-card Poker hand at the end of the Run gets a prize
- 50. *Texas Hold 'Em Tournament*:
  - Rent some circular tables and a bunch of Poker chips and have a giant Texas Hold 'Em Tournament
  - Have prizes for the Top 5 finishers but don't use real money
  - Let everyone play for free, or charge a \$5 entry fee and give the money to a local charity, non-profit, or overseas Missions organization
- 51. *Host a Video Game Tournament*:
  - Pick a game that is hot and invite the gamer community to a tournament
  - If you don't have a lot of video game knowledge, partner with a local video game store and let them run the techie stuff



- Could also do a “vintage” video game night – ask your Baby Boomers if they still have their original video games and set up in church – the teenagers will love it!

52. *Family Fun Night:*

- Get a bunch of inflatables, carnival games, and snow cones
- Give out tons of candy for prizes

53. *Mud Bowl:*

- Set up a volleyball net, football field, dodgeball, kickball, etc, and have the local fire department hose everything down
- Invite people (especially teens) to come to your First Annual Mud Bowl
- Bonus points for having Mud Ball throwing contest for community leaders

54. *Treasure Hunt:*

- Bury (or hide) treasure around the church property
- Give kids a treasure map

55. *Host a Kickball Tournament*

56. *Host a Beer Pong Tournament:* But use Root Beer instead

57. *Host An Awards Ceremony* for local high school sports

58. *Indoor Mini Golf Night:*

- Have departments in the church each create a few holes using whatever they can (trash cans, coffee cups, office supplies, etc.)
- Bonus Points if you include a shot from the roof

59. *Game Show Night:* Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Family Feud

60. *Doubles Ping Pong Tournament:* Way more fun than just playing singles, and a TON more fun to watch

61. *Card Tournaments:* It can be Spades, Hearts, UNO, Euchre, etc. People LOVE to play cards and it can be a lower barrier to entry than inviting them to church

62. *Skate Night:* Host it at your church or rent out a local skate rink for roller skating, or ice skating

63. *Board Game Night:*

- Get some board games, Monopoly, Life, Parcheesi, etc.
- Invite local families to come and play

64. *Capture The Flag:* Have a giant Capture The Flag game at your church or at a local park

65. *Rent A Movie Theater/Bowling Alley/Skating Rink:* Then open it up to the public for free

66. *Lego Night:* Buy 10,000 legos and let kids have a blast

67. *Tailgate Party:* Go to a High School Football parking lot and grill out burgers and dogs and hand them out for free

68. *Super Bowl Party:* Throw the game up on your big screen at church and have plenty of game food (Buffalo wings, chips and dip, queso, burgers, hot dogs, Doritos, etc.)

69. *Host a City-Wide Zombie Run:*

- Designed to make running fun, create a route in a city park on your church campus, through city streets
- Give runners “flags” they wear on their “belts”
- “Zombies” try to pull off flags and they run the course

- If you lose all your flags you are “infected” at the finish line; if you have one flag left, you receive a “survivor” medal
- If you run as a team and one member has a flag at the end, ***all*** receive a survivor medal
- Fun prizes for various categories

### Good Old Fashioned Fun

70. Throw a Good Old Fashioned *Block Party*:

- Grill out some burgers and hot dogs, soda, carnival games, candy, and prizes
- Invite the whole neighborhood

71. *Have A Bonfire*: Have a giant bonfire at your church and invite local families to come enjoy hot dogs, marshmallows, and s’mores

72. *Photo Scavenger Hunt*:

- Create a list of local attractions and spots that teams have to get pictures in front of.
- Then split up into teams and give prizes for the team that completes the photo scavenger hunt and makes it back to the church first with all the correct photos

73. *Barn Dance*:

- Get some hay bales, country music
- Hire a local dance instructor to lead some line dancing lessons

74. *“New Here” Night*:

- Invite new members/families to come to a dinner where they meet the pastors, staff, and leaders
- Give them info about the church, answer questions, feed them dinner and have plenty of coffee
- Could reach out to community newcomers through Welcome Wagon

75. *Baptism Bash* at a local swimming pool, lake, or beach

- Invite people in the community to be baptized for the first time, or re-dedicate their lives to Christ by getting baptized again.

### Food-Based Church Outreach Events

76. *Chili Cook-Off*: Host a Chili Cook-Off at your church

- Invite members of your community and/or local restaurants and give prizes for the best chili
- You could invite local bands to play at this event as well

77. *Taste of Summer Event*:

- Buy a bunch of ice cream, or hook up with an ice cream truck (or 3)
- Free ice cream, games, and puppet shows
- Get the fire department to open a fire hydrant and shoot water 30 feet in the air for kids to play in

78. *Food Truck Festival*: Get some inflatables and invite as many food trucks as you can to show up at your church or a local park for Food Trucks and Fun

79. *Murder Mystery Dinner Theater*: Host a Murder Mystery at your church and raise money for a local elementary school that needs school supplies



80. *Study Snacks*: Go to a local college and pass out study snacks and energy drinks, especially close to a holiday, mid-terms, finals, etc.
81. *Food Fight*:
- Make a TON of food and then throw it at each other
  - **PRO TIP**: Do this outside so you don't have to clean up the inside of your church!
82. *BBQ Contest*:
- Invite local restaurants to participate in a BBQ Contest
  - Give away prizes for the team with the best BBQ
  - Let the public vote
83. *Holiday Food Baskets*: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July - put together baskets of food for families in need
84. *Drop off burgers*, burritos, and/or cookies to your local firehouse, police headquarters, city hall, chamber of commerce, public schools, etc.
85. Hand out *free candy* with church invites to your church at the local mall
86. Pass out *ice-cold water bottles* at busy intersections on hot days, at local outdoor festivals, or during local marathon events

### Camp Outreach Ideas

87. *Host A Sports Camp*:
- Use people in your church or reach out to some high school or college coaches
  - Have them hold a sports camp on your property
  - Invite neighborhood kids to attend for free
88. Host a *Media Camp*: Teach local kids the basics of web design, graphic design, photography, video editing, coding, etc.
89. Host a *Business Leadership Event*: Invite local business leaders to speak at your church on a weeknight and teach leadership principles

### Laughter is the Best Medicine Outreach Events

90. *Improv Night*:
- Hook up with a local improv group or just let anyone join in on the fun
  - Search YouTube for some old episodes of "Whose Line Is It Anyway" for ideas
  - Invite local Destination Imagination Coaches/Leaders and teams to participate
91. *Comedy Night*: Hire a comedian to perform at your church and invite families

### Marriage/Parenting Help Church Outreach Events

92. *Marriage Conference*:
- Pick a theme like "I Want A New Marriage" or "Happily Never After", etc. - and host a Marriage Conference
  - Alternatively, be a host site for a Livestream of a Marriage Conference
  - Launch a marriage sermon series the following Sunday and invite attendees to come back for the series
93. *Parenting Conference*: Teach it yourself or bring in a professional

94. *Parent's Night Out:*

- Use your kid's pastor and some volunteers and let parents drop off their kids for a safe night of fun (for the kids) and much-needed Date Night (for the parents).
- Just make sure all of your volunteers have a background check

**Networking Opportunities Community Outreach Events**95. *Networking Event:*

- For Young Professionals
- Have appetizers, drinks, and name tags

96. *Five Dollar Senior Prom:*

- Throw a Prom at your church and invite local high school students
- The only rule is they can only spend \$5 on their outfit
- Alternatively, require outfits to be made out of duct tape

**Health-Based Outreach Events**97. *Biggest Loser Contest:*

- Organize the Biggest Loser contest with prizes for the Top 3 Men and Top 3 Women
- Partner with a local gym and measure BMI instead of just lbs lost

98. *Fitness Night:* Invite local Fitness gurus/gym owners to come and give free workout lessons, and eating tips**Answer Tough Questions About Christ Outreach Events**

## 99. Host an "Ask Me Anything" Night":

- People in your community can come and ask the pastor/panel anything they want without fear of judgment
- Promote on Social Media and give people opportunities to ask questions ahead of time (start a community discussion!)

100. *Brainwashed Event:*

- Host a "Brainwashed Night" where you ask (and answer) the question: "Does God Really Exist Or Are We All Just Brainwashed?"
- Timothy Keller's book, *The Reason For God* is the perfect resource for answering this question – have copies available for "gifts" to attendees
- You can bring in a Christian Apologist to handle the discussion

## 101. Host a "Does God Exist" Debate:

- Invite apologetics speakers to battle local atheists

**Mind if We Over-Deliver? Baker's Dozen Bonus Ideas**

1. Bring Ice Cold Gatorade to local high school football teams during practice (especially during two-a-days).
2. *Summer Box Fan Drive:* Collect box fans and pass them out in low-income neighborhoods.
3. *Beauty Outreach:* Hire local hair stylists, makeup artists, and nail salons, to provide services to a local Women's Shelter.

4. *Door To Door Donuts*: Go door to door and hand out free donuts to the community, and invite them to church.
5. *Paint, Fix, and Clean Up* a local public school.
6. *Provide free coffee, energy drinks, snacks, pizza, and prayer* to families waiting in the emergency room.
7. *Serve healthy snacks* to chemo patients at a local hospital.
8. *Hire clowns, magicians, and balloon artists* to perform for kids at a local children's hospital (but make sure to call ahead and check with the hospital first).
9. *Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt*: Do this at Easter or anytime during the year. Partner with local schools and invite kids with special needs.
10. *Strip Club Outreach*: Have women in your church hand deliver flowers to the dancers at a local strip club, tell them that Jesus loves them, and ask if there is anything you can pray with them about (You can also do this with prostitutes).
11. Give away *free meals for college kids* once a week/month.
12. Host a *Laser Tag Night*: You can buy a bunch of laser tag guns on Amazon, or at Walmart, or you can find a company to bring everything you need and you can rent it from them.
13. *Gingerbread House Contest*: At Christmas time buy a bunch of Gingerbread House kits from Walmart and invite families to come to build, decorate, and create a Gingerbread House. Give away prizes for the most creative.

Want more ideas on how to grow your church and reach more people? Check out our [FULL Resource Library](#).