



Sunday Night Suppers Volunteer Opportunities FAQs

What is Sunday Night Suppers?

Sunday Night Suppers is a free community hot meal offered by Park Ridge churches and organizations on Sunday Nights from September through May. It exists to provide a space for our neighbors from the surrounding area who are experiencing food insecurity to come share a meal together, no questions asked. This community-based hunger program originated in 2007 with local Park Ridge faith leaders who believed their congregations had the responsibility and passion to serve the needs of vulnerable people in our community. Find out more [here](#).

Where and when are Sunday Night Suppers held?

This year, Sunday Night Suppers will be held at First United Methodist Church at 418 W. Touhy Avenue, Park Ridge. The meal is served from 4 - 5 pm, and volunteers are asked to arrive at 3 pm and can plan to be finished by 6 pm.

What is St. Luke's commitment as a HOST congregation?

As a host congregation, a St. Luke's team will be the site coordinators/volunteer leads at UMC on nine designated Sundays. The team will be responsible for set-up, clean-up, and overseeing the volunteers from the sponsor team (which may be another St. Luke's team or a team from another church or organization). The host team is responsible for ensuring everything runs smoothly and serves as the point of contact for both volunteers and guests.

What is the time commitment for being a host team member?

St. Luke's is putting together a team of 6 – 8 volunteers for the host team to rotate hosting responsibilities for our nine designated Sundays (3 volunteers are needed each Sunday). Consistency and advanced training is important for this role, so **we are asking all volunteers to be able to commit to 3 – 5 Sundays** during the program year. Host team members are also encouraged to attend a training session on September 29. Available dates are:

Oct 5 | Nov 2 | Nov 30 | Dec 14 | Jan 4 | Feb 1 | Mar 1 | Apr 5 (Easter Sunday) | May 3

If you would like to volunteer but are not able to commit to at least 3 dates, please let us know by signing up as an alternate.

What roles are there on the host team? What would I be doing?

Under the direction of one of St. Luke's host team coordinators, host team members serve in one of three roles:

- **Greeter** - greet guests as they arrive; direct them to the designated waiting areas and to facilities as needed; keep guest count; open doors to the dining area at the designated time; hand out any giveaways (when applicable) as guests leave
- **Dining Lead** - oversee volunteer sponsor teams in setting up tables in the dining room, serving food and drinks, and cleaning up the dining room; call and keep track of table numbers for guests to visit the buffet line
- **Kitchen Lead** - accept the delivery of the catered meal and drinks from the sponsor team and store appropriately in warmers and refrigerators; prepare buffet line and drink carts with food, beverages, and necessary dishware and utensils; replenish food as needed in the serving line; oversee volunteer sponsor teams in kitchen clean up of serving trays and utensils and disposal of trash/compost

You will be trained in advance for these roles, have checklists to follow of what needs to be done, and will have a chance to become familiar with the set-up at UMC before your first volunteer day.



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What is St. Luke's commitment as a SPONSOR congregation?

As a sponsor congregation, a St. Luke's team provides and serves the meal on four designated Sundays. This requires 10 - 12 people, and is in addition to the host team roles on nights where St. Luke's is serving as both host and sponsor.

What roles are there on the sponsor team? What would I be doing?

Sponsor team members will complete the following tasks under the direction of the host team leads. Catered meals are pre-ordered, so the sponsor teams are not responsible for providing or ordering the meal itself.

- Set up dining room (setting tables, preparing tableware packets)
- Serve food to guests from buffet line
- Assist guests who need help carrying food to their table
- Serve drinks and desserts to guests from carts rotating through dining room
- Clean up dining room (remove tablecloths, sanitize tables, sweep)
- Clean up in kitchen (rinse out serving trays for recycling, wash serving utensils, wipe down counters, take out trash)

No training is required, and roles are divided among the volunteers on site based on interest and ability.

What is the time commitment for being a sponsor team member?

Sponsor team members need only to commit to one Sunday, but are welcome to sign up for more than one. Of the four meals St. Luke's is sponsoring, the youth group will be the volunteer team for two of them, while other members of the congregation are invited to sign up to serve for the other two—**December 14 or May 3**.

Can children and/or teenagers volunteer?

Absolutely. Many Confirmation students from St. Luke's as well as teenagers from our partner congregations are regular volunteers and find the experience very meaningful. Children under 13 are also welcome to help alongside a parent/guardian. We ask that only adults fill the host team lead roles, but youth are encouraged to participate on our sponsor days or as extra helpers on our host days.

How do I sign up?

Click [here](#).