

Immanuel Youth Meals

Menu & Shopping Guide · Wednesday Youth Nights, 2026–27

- **Who you're feeding:** about 25 hungry students in grades 5–12 (some weeks 30+). Plan generously.
- **Timing:** the meal is served at 6:00 and youth gather at 5:45. You're welcome to arrive as early as 5:00 to set up.
- **Serving:** providers usually serve the meal as youth come through the line — and some of the youth love to help serve, too.
- **The church provides:** drinks, ice, cups, plates, and all paper products. Please just bring a **dessert** (homemade, store-bought, or a cold treat all work).
- **Kitchen:** two griddles are on site and the school kitchen is fully equipped — stove and oven, refrigerator, microwave, ice machine, pots and pans, and more.
- **Where to cook:** cooking at home? Borrow crock pots or roasters. You can also cook on site in the youth center or the school kitchen — just reach out to **Jason Glaskey** (jglaskey@immanueljoplin.com) to arrange it.
- **Costs are estimates** (2026 Walmart/Aldi, feeding ~25). Ground beef, pork, and chicken drive most of the total — Aldi is usually the cheapest for meat. Any week can also be **sponsored for \$100**.
- **Chips:** big party bags are the cheapest; individual bags (from Sam's Club, etc.) are easy and portion-controlled but run a bit more.

Easy Nights

Domino's Pizza Night

EASY · est. \$85–100

The no-cook option — order the large single-topping special.

Shopping list

- ☐ 11–12 large single-topping pizzas (~\$7 each)
- ☐ Mix of cheese, pepperoni, sausage
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Order through Jason — he calls the store manager and applies the church tax exemption.

Walking Tacos (Doritos)

EASY · est. \$70–90

Kid favorite, low prep, almost no cleanup.

Shopping list

- ☐ 36 individual Nacho Cheese Doritos bags
- ☐ 7 lbs ground beef
- ☐ 7 taco seasoning packets (or one 8 oz container)
- ☐ 32 oz shredded cheddar
- ☐ Lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, salsa
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Crush the chips in the bag, add meat and toppings, eat with a fork. Beef is the cost driver — Aldi runs cheaper.

Nacho Bar

EASY · est. \$70–90

Everything sets out; only cheese and meat stay warm.

Shopping list

- ☐ 3 large bags tortilla chips
- ☐ 1 #10 can (106 oz) nacho cheese sauce
- ☐ 7 lbs seasoned ground beef
- ☐ Toppings: chopped onions & tomatoes, sour cream, black olives, jalapeños
- ☐ 32 oz shredded cheese, green onions
- ☐ 2–3 cans black beans (optional)
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Beans are optional — kids don't eat a ton, so go light. Set cold toppings out in bowls.

Sloppy Joes & Chips

EASY · est. \$75–95

Fast, cheap, reliably popular.

Shopping list

- ☐ 8 lbs ground beef
- ☐ 5–6 cans Manwich
- ☐ 48 buns
- ☐ 2–3 party bags of chips (or individual bags — a bit pricier)
- ☐ Pickles
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Brown beef, stir in sauce, hold warm in a roaster.

Baked Potato Bar

EASY · est. \$70–95

Filling, inexpensive, easy to hold warm.

Shopping list

- ☐ 36 large russet potatoes (~30 lbs)
- ☐ Butter, sour cream, cheese, bacon bits
- ☐ A protein: taco meat + cheese sauce, pulled pork, or chili
- ☐ Broccoli, green onions, ranch
- ☐ Rolls or a side salad
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Bake ahead and hold warm wrapped in foil. Add a protein to make it heartier. (Brisket works but runs the cost up.)

Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup

EASY · est. \$35–55

Cozy — great for a cold night.

Shopping list

- ☐ 6 loaves bread
- ☐ ~120 cheese slices (~5 lbs)
- ☐ Butter
- ☐ 2 large (50 oz) cans tomato soup + 1 family can
- ☐ Optional: deli ham slices to make the sandwiches heartier
- ☐ Chips or a veggie tray
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Griddle in batches on the two on-site griddles; soup in cups. Add a slice of deli ham for a heartier sandwich.

Hearty Nights

Burgers & Chips

HEARTY · est. \$85–110

A crowd-pleaser, and one of the pricier nights.

Shopping list

- ☐ 36–40 quarter-pound patties (~10 lbs beef)
- ☐ 40 buns
- ☐ 40 cheese slices
- ☐ Lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles, condiments
- ☐ 2–3 party bags of chips (or individual bags — a bit pricier)
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Cook on the two on-site griddles — best with a helper. A good week to sponsor or buy beef at Aldi.

Spaghetti, Salad & Garlic Bread

HEARTY · est. \$40–60

The inexpensive classic.

Shopping list

- ☐ 6 lbs spaghetti
- ☐ 5 jars marinara (+ optional meat or meatballs)
- ☐ 3 loaves French bread + garlic butter
- ☐ Salad mix + dressing
- ☐ Parmesan
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Boil on site or bring cooked and hold in sauce.

Chili — Dogs or Frito Pies

HEARTY · est. \$60–85

One big pot, two ways to serve.

Shopping list

- ☐ 3 #10 cans chili (or homemade)
- ☐ 60 hot dogs + 60 buns, OR 36 individual Fritos bags
- ☐ Cheese, onion, sour cream
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Kids don't eat a ton of beans, so many go light.

Oodles of Noodles (Pasta Bar)

HEARTY · est. \$45–65

Three-sauce pasta bar; mix and match.

Shopping list

- ☐ 6 lbs assorted pasta
- ☐ 5–6 jars/containers of sauce (red, Alfredo/white, cheese)
- ☐ Optional chicken, parmesan
- ☐ Garlic bread + salad
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Hold three sauces warm in labeled crockpots.

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

HEARTY · est. \$70–95

Make-ahead and easy to hold warm.

Shopping list

- ☐ 14–16 lbs pork shoulder (raw; cooks down ~40%)
- ☐ BBQ sauce (2–3 bottles)
- ☐ 48 buns
- ☐ Chips (party bags, or individual from Sam's — a bit pricier) + optional coleslaw
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Cook in crockpots or a roaster the morning of. Bone-in butt is cheaper per pound than boneless.

Creamy Chicken Tacos

HEARTY · est. \$55–80

Rich and simple — mostly a crockpot job.

Shopping list

- ☐ 7 lbs cooked chicken
- ☐ 3 blocks cream cheese
- ☐ 3 cans Rotel
- ☐ 72 tortillas
- ☐ 32 oz shredded cheese, lettuce, sour cream, salsa
- ☐ Chopped green onions (garnish)
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Stir chicken, cream cheese, and Rotel until creamy. Rotisserie chickens are an easy shortcut.

Breakfast for Dinner

HEARTY · est. \$50–75

Always a hit; cheap and fun.

Shopping list

- ☐ 90–120 pancakes or waffles
- ☐ 5 lbs sausage
- ☐ Optional scrambled eggs (~5 dozen)
- ☐ Syrup, butter, fruit
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Use the two on-site griddles; bring some pre-cooked.

Mac & Cheese + Chicken Tenders

HEARTY · est. \$70–95

Comfort food for the younger crowd.

Shopping list

- ☐ 3 large trays mac & cheese
- ☐ 10–12 lbs frozen chicken tenders
- ☐ Dipping sauces (ranch, honey mustard, BBQ, ketchup)
- ☐ A veggie or fruit side
- ☐ Rolls
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Needs an oven for the tenders.

Swedish Meatballs & Mashed Potatoes

HEARTY · est. \$45–65

Crockpot comfort food — mostly hands-off.

Shopping list

- ☐ 6–7 lbs frozen meatballs (3–4 bags)
- ☐ 4–5 cans cream of mushroom soup
- ☐ 2–3 brown gravy (packets or jars)
- ☐ ~15 lbs mashed potatoes (fresh or instant equivalent)
- ☐ Rolls or a veggie/salad side
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Stir mushroom soup + brown gravy into the meatballs in a crockpot; serve over the potatoes.

Activity Meals

Build-Your-Own Pizzas

ACTIVITY · est. \$55–80

Part meal, part activity — kids top their own.

Shopping list

- ☐ 36 personal crusts (or flatbreads/English muffins)
- ☐ 3–4 jars sauce
- ☐ 6 lbs mozzarella
- ☐ Pepperoni, sausage, veggies
- ☐ A dessert

Tip: Bake in the school kitchen — coordinate use in advance.

Fire Pit — Hot Dogs & S'mores

ACTIVITY · est. \$55–75

A warm-weather community builder.

Shopping list

- ☐ 60 hot dogs + 60 buns, condiments
- ☐ Graham crackers (2 boxes)
- ☐ Marshmallows (2–3 bags)
- ☐ Chocolate (25–30 bars)
- ☐ Chips (party bags or individual)

Tip: Outdoors, warm months; needs an adult on the fire. The church has fire pits, firewood, and roasting sticks on site — no need to buy those.

Note on the \$5 nights: the first eligible Wednesday of each month is a carry-in "\$5 night" (Chick-fil-A, Orient Express, Gringo's, Qdoba, Texas Roadhouse). Those are arranged separately and are not cook slots — kids bring \$5. Questions? Contact Jason Glaskey, jglaskey@immanueljoplin.com.