

TABLES FOR ALL

Tables for All is a fun adult fellowship program in which potluck meals are shared with other members of the congregation. The meals are hosted at the homes of members; each guest provides some of the food. The program normally consists of three rounds: Oct-Nov, Jan-Feb, and March-May. The exact dates and times are determined by mutual agreement of the host and guests for each round. The usual host and guest list includes eight people, but can be up to ten.

The coordinator advertises in the bulletins and with a signup sheet at church. Participants are asked to indicate if they are able to host a meal at their home or not. We usually let the signup continue for 6-8 weeks prior to setting the schedule, and remind people who have participated in the past.

The coordinator does the matching of participants in groups (sort of like a big jigsaw puzzle). The goal is to have no one host more than one time, and the groupings are unique each round so that it maximizes the amount of people each participant will dine with and meet. It's also preferred that the participants are assigned to bring a different food item each round.

Once the schedule is set, participants are provided a schedule with all the details on who will be hosting and attending each round. The food assignment is also specified: main dish (host), side dish, salad and bread, or dessert. The hosts for each dinner should initiate communications with the remainder of people listed for that dinner. It usually works to suggest a couple of dates and see what works best for the group. The hosts also choose and prepare the main course, with the others bringing their assigned dish to coordinate with the main course.

A list of alternates is also provided in case there are any last minute cancellations or scheduling conflicts. This is also a good way for new participants to enter the program once the schedule is set at the beginning.

A file containing the email communication to the group and an example of the schedule is attached for clarification.