



Smoked pork sausage links and eggs join flavor forces for a delicious pita bread filling that can be made quickly and conveniently in the microwave oven.

Anytime you're in a hurry put goodness in a pocket

Now is surely the busiest time of the year. These days leading up to Christmas are filled with the hustle-bustle of shopping, tree trimming, baking and entertaining, leaving little time to devote to family meals.

One delicious solution to this no-time-to-cook situation is Anytime Pocket Sandwiches. That popular breakfast pair — sausage and eggs — are teamed in a unique way for a pita-bread sandwich that's sure to satisfy as their name implies — anytime, be it lunch, supper or late night snack.

These handy sandwiches fit nicely

into the "quick-and-easy" category thanks to convenient smoked pork sausage links. The flavorful, fully cooked links are cut into pieces, then cooked in the microwave oven or on top of the range along with beaten eggs and sliced green onion. To serve, the sausage-egg combo and tomato slices are tucked into warm pita bread halves. For a tasty variation, you'll also want to try these sandwiches made with bacon as a substitute for the sausage.

ANYTIME POCKET SANDWICHES
6 oz. "fully cooked" smoked pork sausage links*

- 1 tsp. butter or margarine, melted
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 cup sliced green onion
- 2 loaves pita bread, halved
- 1 large tomato, cut into 8 slices

Cut sausage links in half lengthwise; cut each half into 4 pieces. Place sausage pieces in 11 1/2 x 7 1/4-inch microwave-safe dish. Cover with waxed paper and cook at high 2 minutes, stirring once. Add butter. Combine eggs, milk and pepper; add egg mixture and

green onions to sausage pieces and cook, covered, at high 4 to 5 minutes, stirring every 1 minute. Let stand, covered, 2 minutes. Open pockets in pita bread; wrap in paper towels. Cook at high 1 minute. Place 2 tomato slices and one fourth sausage and egg mixture in each pita bread half. 4 servings.

*1 pound bacon may be substituted for sausages. Cut bacon into 1-inch pieces. Place bacon in 11 1/2 x 7 1/4-inch microwave-safe dish. Cover with waxed paper and cook at high 15 to 17 minutes, stirring every 3 minutes. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons drippings; proceed with recipe, omitting 1 teaspoon butter or margarine.

Sauerkraut cake is real surprise

Sauerkraut in desserts? It's been done for decades, and when you consider it, sauerkraut is no more tart or unusual than cranberries or mince meat. Sauerkraut adds moisture and flavor to cake.

Sift together flour, baking soda and baking powder; set aside. Cream sugar and shortening, add eggs, mix well, then add vanilla, salt and cocoa. Mix well. Alternately add flour mixture and water. Add sauerkraut. Bake in greased and floured pan: 8-inch-square pans, 325° for 25-30 minutes. Bundt pan or angel food cake pan, 375° for 45-50 minutes. Makes 2 8" x 8" squares, 1 angel food cake pan.

Toppings. For a spectacular effect, spread 1 can of Cherry Pie Filling over the top of Bundt cake. Or drizzle with confectioner's sugar glaze.

For a copy of The Sauerkraut Book featuring classic and contemporary sauerkraut recipes from around the world, write to Silver Floss, c/o Comstock Foods, P.O. box 141, Newark, N.Y. 14113. Please include \$3.50 for postage and handling and a Silver Floss label.

- CHOCOLATE SAUERKRAUT CAKE
- 2 1/4 cups flour
 - 1 tsp. baking soda
 - 1 tsp. baking powder
 - 1 1/2 cups sugar
 - 1/2 cup shortening*
 - 3 eggs
 - 1 1/4 tsp. vanilla
 - 1/4 tsp. salt
 - 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
 - 1 cup water
 - 1 cup sauerkraut, rinsed, drained and chopped
- *for richer cake, butter may be used.

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Don't forget food as a gift idea

Catalog shopping is at an all-time high. Last year the food category alone accounted for some \$465 million in purchases.

Shopping by mail has become so popular that the average U.S. household receives 40 catalogs a year. Many of them arrive in the fall and are directed toward Christmas sales. Offering everything from pearls to pet collars, the colorful, glossy catalogs offer convenience and variety.

Many food gifts of equal or greater value are available in local communities, but shoppers are unaware of them. For example, many Michigan communities have farm markets that are open the year round. They frequently sell gift packs of apples, pears, jellies, syrups, cheese and other Michigan products. Shoppers can purchase these products gift-packed at the farm market or let the market ship them to the recipients. Some of these markets even offer the option of a gift card that you can sign — a personal touch few mail-order operations include. Farm markets and other producers' sources are often listed under "Foods" in the classified ads.

Gifts of food for Christmas aren't new — people have been giving cheese, jelly and fruit gift packs for years. But how about giving a gift of meat? Almost all supermarkets carry frozen turkeys, turkey rolls, ducks, rabbits and, for the small households, Rock Cornish hens. All of these products, as well as dry sausages and natural cheeses, are readily available in the larger food stores in most communities.

Shoppers looking for gifts less expensive than meats or cheese still have a lot of choices. For family and friends, an assortment of crackers, complete with a homemade cheese ball, is always welcome during the busy holiday season. The cheese ball can be frozen if there is an oversupply.

For neighbors you might make your favorite holiday coffee cake. It is a good idea to have the coffee cake wrapped ready to freeze. To make a gift of homemade food really special, include the recipe if you're willing to share it.

Another gift from the kitchen that requires no cooking is a homemade dry mix, such as pancake mix. (Recipes are available for a variety of mixes in many standard cookbooks.) Package the dry mix in a purchased canister-type jar or in a recycled jar that you have decorated. To mail mixes, package in plastic bags and slip into drawing bags made from fabric scraps. Be sure to include instructions for mixing and baking the product.

Michigan maple syrup and honey are almost non-perishable food products that make especially thoughtful gifts. If you're giving these to several people, it is more economical to buy a large container and repackaging the product in small glass containers that have been thoroughly washed and sealed. The classified ads will provide a list of the most economical sources of honey and maple syrup.

For men and women who like to cook and bake, a variety of low-cost food and food-related items show that special thought went into the selection of the gift. Consider a bottle of real vanilla or a special spice or herb for the gourmet cook.

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