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2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

Calvin Presbyterian Church

A place for worship. A place for family. A place for you.



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Calvin Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we proclaim the love and good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions. As a reformed church, we rely on the truth and inspiration of Scriptures for God's guidance into the future - a future that we approach with wonder and anticipation, knowing God is with us. As worshipping communities joyfully celebrating the sacraments, we are supported, strengthened and equipped to share the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



CHARLOTTE SMALL AUXILIARY

The Charlotte Small Auxiliary meets the first Wednesday of each month for fellowship, spirituality and event planning. Our team namesake, Charlotte Small, was a woman of faith who served the church with energy and passion. We continue serving God and the church with the same energy and enthusiasm. Last year we provided over \$4700 in support of Calvin projects including paying for the new blinds and the renovation of the women's washroom. We host several fun and fundraising events including our "British High Tea" which expanded our community outreach. We cater and care for families serving funeral luncheons, personalized to meet families' requests. We have also catered other events this year. To Calvin's congregants, we say THANK YOU!! Our team is successful due to your tremendous support for our hosted events.



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OUR PEOPLE

STAFF

Rev. Frances Savill
Pastor
 Julie Bass
Administrative Assitant
 Linda Blahey
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
 Jennifer Levitan
Music Leader
 Bryan Davies
Custodian

SESSION

Kim Winrow
Clerk of Session
 Dennis Laughlin
 Kathryn Newman
 Dick Oudekerk
 Keith Pacey
 Ellen Schmidt
 Holly Williams-Smith
 Ted Thomson

TEAM LEADERS

Mission & Outreach: Kathryn Newman
 Worship & Music: Dennis Laughlin
 Christian Education: Holly Williams-Smith
 Pastoral Care: Linda Blahey
 Congregational Life: Julie Bass
 Communications: Mark Savill
 Finance & Stewardship: Keith Pacey
 Facilities: Nancy Kilgour

REMEMBERING THE YEAR THAT WAS 2018...

When I think back over the year 2018, my first thought is about all the pain I was in at the beginning of the year. I wondered what I was going to do. I couldn't walk up a flight of stairs, I couldn't make it through a whole day, and things were getting steadily worse. Many of you prayed for me in those days, prayed for my healing and prayed for answers. Thank you. As 2019 begins I am much better, though still without answers. Reflecting on what I learned over the year, God taught me the difference between pain and suffering. I lived with intense pain every day. But mostly I didn't suffer – I was upheld by the prayers of many people. I found God's goodness sufficient for that day and the help I needed day by day, and I found that I am not alone. Many of you live with pain, or have experienced, or are experiencing seasons of pain. Pain comes in many forms, and life is often hard. When I did "suffer" and felt overwhelmed, others carried me and were patient with me. In the midst of my

weakness, I saw the power of God at work in the church. Through the year I have experienced less and less pain, and a renewed sense of God's presence and God's work. This journey of faith that we share comes with many difficulties and trials, but also many joys and great blessings. I am thankful for Calvin Church, for the body of Christ, where we share life together. I am grateful for all the people the church cares for, all the people the church reaches out to with the love of Christ, all the hope the church gives in Jesus' name. I praise and give glory to God for all that happened in 2018. I give praise and glory to God for all the church did in Jesus' name in 2018. Enjoy reading the pages of our annual review. They tell the story of God's work in our midst, of people finding healing and hope, encountering the living God, and living lives of faithful discipleship.

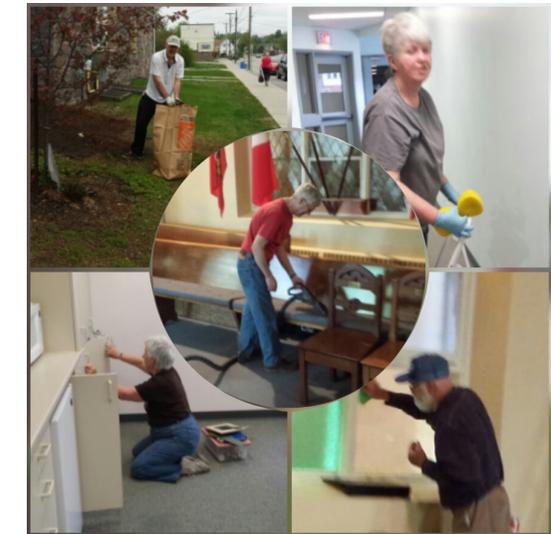
Frances



FACILITIES

Calvin has been blessed with a wonderful facility. It is bright, accessible and centrally-located. Each Sunday, we gather for worship in our beautiful sanctuary, enhanced in the past year with the addition of the incredible ORMTA grand piano. From Sunday afternoon through to Saturday night, every week of the year, dozens of groups meet at Calvin in search of community and hope. Ranging in size from 5 or 6 members to more than fifty, groups meet at Calvin to share their love of the arts, for wellness, for support and for recovery. Recovery groups with names like "Together We Can, Came to Believe, Miracles Happen and New Horizons" speak to the power of believing that change is possible and that the future is hopeful. Many people over the past year have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to meet in a safe, warm and welcoming building. One woman on her way to the upper hall remarked, "That is such a lovely room you have up there for the meeting. The first time I came to a meeting, I walked in and just went 'Ahhhhhhh'. And I always sit where I can see the sign 'Believing is just the beginning'."

Through your generous support this past year, the Facilities Team was able to update several more areas of the building with new flooring, renovated washrooms, fresh paint, new windows and blinds, and a new roof. By sharing our blessings with the wider community, Calvin is truly letting our light shine and is making a difference in the lives of many.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life program provides opportunities for Calvin's congregants and friends to come together for fellowship, support, worship and praise. Often these are food related!

We welcome our guests with open hearts.

Special Times in 2018:

January 28	Birthday Bash
February 4	Family Breakfast
April 8	Spring Luncheon
September 30	5 th Sunday/ Anniversary Luncheon
December 9	Candy Cane Luncheon



After service fellowship and refreshment is a wonderful time to visit and to welcome new people. Looking forward, monthly birthdays, anniversaries and seasonal events will be celebrated during this time – it will be a “Happy Everything” for each month.

The Men's Breakfast will now come under the umbrella of Congregational Life. Jack Tipler stepped down after years of faithful service, building and growing the program from the start. Thanks to Jack's vision and attention to detail, the breakfast is now “a well-oiled machine”. Thanks to Jim Cluff for assuming the leadership of this ministry. In place of the Men's Breakfast in February, we enjoy a Family Breakfast instead.



**“We were filled with laughter
and we sang for joy”.**
Psalm 126:2 NLT



Calvin Presbyterian Church is taking risks and great things are happening! This congregation is truly blessed with many God given gifts. 2018 was an exciting year of enriched growth in the various ministries and missions of Calvin. The organizational structure of Calvin empowers “Teams” to exercise their respective expertise in implementing creative initiatives to fulfill the broader mandate of the Ministry Plan, while working within approved budgets. By taking a very “hands-on” approach this congregation has accomplished much!

In order to enhance communication and foster inter-team cooperation, all teams continue to meet together. Each team has at least one ruling elder, who serves as a liaison with session. I continue to appreciate how well this approach compliments the goals and objectives of our Ministry Plan.

Session's most in depth project this year has been updating staff job descriptions. The process has taken time as we consulted with staff, teams and personnel. We believe this is a process that will benefit the staff and the congregation.

The Visionary Team, comprised of Team Leaders and Elders of Session, met to review our Ministry Plan in June. Using the Great Commission as our review guide, we reflected upon the current ministries and considered which ones are having the greatest impact. The purpose of each review is to ensure we do things well and don't take on too much. This team believes we are still on the path God is calling us to follow. At the September Teams meeting one of the same questions the above team pondered was posed to the teams' members at large: What are the things we are doing that help us be God's people best? Here are a few responses: variety of music in worship, VBS, Recovery Day, weekday conversations with people using our facility, LOGOS, Cassellholme services, congregational volunteers, and voiced responses to prayer. When you look at this list and read the contents of this Annual Review, you have to know that God is at work and he is good!

We are grateful that God has equipped us to take risks toward living the gospel mandate to GO and make disciples.

On behalf of Session: Kim Winrow

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CALVIN'S FOUR PILLARS

**IT'S WHAT
GOD IS
CALLING US
TO DO.**

1

**WORSHIPPING
TOGETHER**



3

**SERVING
TOGETHER**



2

**GROWING AS
DISCIPLES**



4

**CARING FOR
EACH OTHER**



CALVIN CASSELLHOLME SERVICE/HYMN SING

Whether it be Irene's yodelling, Simone asking for prayers, Sharon's hugs or the smiles and friendliness of the Cassellholme residents, it is heartwarming to be a part of Calvin's monthly Cassellholme worship service. It is a wonderful way to disciple our faith and build relationships with others in our community. During the monthly service, residents enjoy singing, praying and praising God! In addition to worshipping, the residents take the time to socialize with the volunteers. In 2018 we held six services at Cassellholme with average attendance of forty residents. We do not hold services in July and August, and in 2018 there were no services in January, March, May, November and December due to infectious outbreaks at Cassellholme. At Cassellholme's request we held two services in April including an Easter service.

Thank you to Rev. Frances and Jim Cluff for leading services; to Elaine Burrows, Nancy Kilgour and Jennifer Levitan for playing the piano. Rev. Frances served communion to the residents at services she led. Thanks to the many volunteers who graciously gave their time to porter residents to and from the auditorium and assist during the service. We at Calvin are truly blessed to have so many awesome volunteers; an average of eleven Calvin volunteers at each service. The more volunteers, the more residents can enjoy the service.

Services will continue in 2019. If you are interested in helping or leading a service please see Jim Cluff, Coordinator Cassellholme Service.

3rd Sunday of the month

1:30 p.m. Porter residents

2:00 p.m. Service

PASTORAL CARE

Our ministry is to journey with others, professing God's love, by actively showing care, compassion and concern for others as we "continue the caring of Jesus". Calvin is blessed to have such dedicated members on the Pastoral Care Team and a congregation that truly cares for one another. Thank you for being a loving presence..... for making a positive difference in someone's life. May God grant you unwavering faith, constant hope and love that endures forever.

The work of Pastoral Care is endless. Here are a few of the ways that we serve:

Claire Poff and her family were active members of Calvin for many years. With age, she moved to Edmonton to be near family and sadly her eyesight has failed. Pastoral Care sends Claire bulletins and the Informer on a regular basis. Her son reads them to her. He recently wrote to thank us for sending these items. Claire enjoys hearing all about what's happening at Calvin and being kept up-to-date on special friends.

Imagine that you just left your home, a time when you felt quite alone, and your first Christmas away from familiar surroundings was ahead. Then you received a special gift from Calvin. A warm lap blanket knit with loving hands and adorned with a Christmas card made by Calvin's children. Calvin offers this gift of God's love and caring to many seniors. They will have a special blanket to enjoy for the rest of the year reminding them they are cared for by both the old and young at Calvin.

Pastoral Care volunteers go the extra mile. Recently, one of our seniors had to go to the hospital by ambulance. When phone calls from Pastoral Care friends went unanswered the team went into action to find out if she was alright. They tracked her down at the hospital then went to her home to gather a few belongings and make sure that everything was safe and secure.

**Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them
Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.
Romans 12:9-10 NLT**

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER



33% or \$104 K



2018 MINISTRY EXPENSES \$315K

Calvin is a special place full of love and spirit. The facility is attractive and well maintained both inside and out. Rev. Frances and the Teams are strong, creative and dedicated 365 days of the year and you reap the benefits of their efforts and hard work. You reach out to the community and invite them into your home always supporting their needs and endeavours. You've made North Bay aware of Calvin.

There's a deep sense of church family with unlimited hugs, laughter, advice, care and concern. I miss the hugs - something I plan to introduce to my new church family!

Stay strong! Work together! You have created a wonderful place to worship.

P.S. Your music program is the VERY BEST!

I am so ever grateful for having been a "Calvinator"!

Marilynn

GROWING AS DISCIPLES

In the Spring of 2016 our family of four made the move back to North Bay. Our son, Emmet, was just a baby and didn't really understand how a move was going to change things, but our daughter Ava, then almost five certainly did. Although she was excited to move to our new home, she had very happy memories in London. She was being welcomed with open, loving arms by her Nanny and Grandpa, Auntie Stef and cousin Ky, however, she was leaving behind two very treasured people...her grandparents, Nonno and Nonna and she had to say goodbye to some of her best friends and start over.

The first year proved to be challenging and had several adjustments for our family. Ava often asked 'to go home' and we didn't find her settling easy. Her grandmother suggested that Ava join the group of children and youth who attended LOGOS on Friday nights at the church. Ava's dad, Craig, grew up at Calvin and we felt it was one more good connection she could make in North Bay to ground her and make her feel just a little more at home. It turns out it was a great connection.

Ava consistently looks forward to her Friday night program. She is welcomed by friends of all ages and skips happily to the front doors of the church. She has been able to participate in two Christmas productions and has loved all the themes and activities planned on Fridays.

Not only does she feel a closer connection to her community and has made friends, she has also gained a greater appreciation of the church community and God. One evening early on in Ava's participation in LOGOS I had asked her "What's your favourite part about the program"? I had expected her to say something along the lines of "I love seeing my friends" or "The meals are so delicious", however, she replied with this: "I love bible study and learning about God".

Friday evenings have become a cherished event. For our son Emmett, who is now 4, he feels special to have one on one time with mom and dad while Ava goes to LOGOS, but he is already asking when he can start attending! We have thoroughly enjoyed our experience and are so grateful for the volunteers who help the kids attending deepen their connection to their community and their faith. Knowing that Ava is having fun, is in a safe place, making new friends, building relationships within the parish and deepening her understanding of spirituality is one of the best ways to end the week!

Nicole and Craig



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

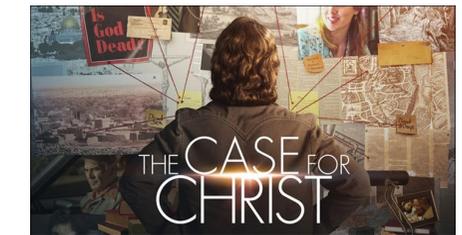
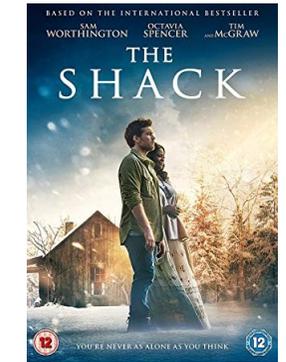
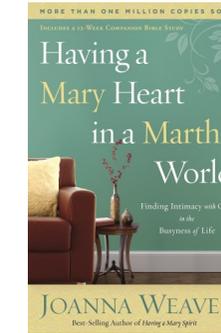
The Christian Education Team helps support the ministry objective of growing together as disciples in Christ. On Sunday mornings our youngest children explore Bible stories in a more active environment and learn about God's love through story and play while developing relationships with older youth and adults in the child care room. Activities are available for the older children who are encouraged to remain in the sanctuary and be participants in Sunday worship.

In 2018, adults had opportunities to grow and deepen their faith through a Book Study entitled "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World". Together we learned how to draw closer to God in the busyness of our lives, deepening our devotion and strengthening our service. Watching and discussing the movies "The Shack" and "The Case for Christ" provided other opportunities for growth. Materials for personal self-study, "Rediscover Jesus", were made available during Lent.

The Library, currently located in the foyer and available to all, "grew" in audio Bibles. There are copies of "The Message" and NRSV Bible available as well as CD player if necessary.

The Christian Education Team oversees the excellent VBS and LOGOS programs. Children, youth and adult leaders

learn Bible stories and faith development. Please read about these exciting ministries in separate reports.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Providing a joyful, meaningful worship experience each week is a pleasure because of the talented, inspiring disciples of Christ who lead us: Rev. Frances Savill, Cathy Love, Jennifer Levitan, the choir, band and A/V crew. The words and music of the service are enhanced by seasonal decorations and children's artwork. We pray that worshipers return to their daily lives empowered to carry out God's plan.

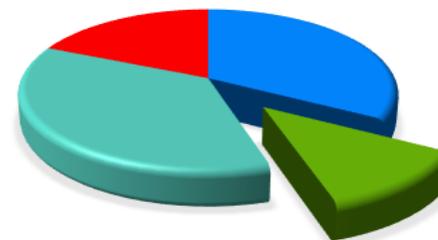
JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: allowed participants to physically follow and experience Christ's journey from The Last Supper to his burial, preparing them to more fully appreciate the joy of the resurrection at Easter.

FIFTH SUNDAY SEVICES: On a sunny spring day, we partnered with Recovery House friends and others, to clean up neighbourhood streets. In July, we worshipped outdoors at the waterfront on a beautiful day, which was also Kolton's baptism. In September, we invited our friends who use the building to join us for our Anniversary Lunch.

RECOVERY DAY: Worship & Music helped Mission & Outreach on this day at the waterfront, meeting people, telling about Calvin and distributing twenty-four Bibles.



12% or \$37K



37% or \$116 K



2018 MINISTRY EXPENSES 315K

SERVING TOGETHER

Robert* is a 49 year old who has 32 years of substance abuse and numerous attempts at sobriety. Because of Calvin's support of the ASH** program, Robert and others like him were supported with secure safe and adequate housing. He was able to find employment and has abstained since February 2011. He was able to reconnect with family and is now able to share his experiences with college students. Calvin supports ASH programs with things like warm clothing, household items, Christmas turkeys, and support at the North Bay Recovery Days. Robert, and others like him, have found a new sense of self worth, and hope.

*Robert is not his real name.

**ASH Addictive Supportive Housing Program

"This program gave me back my life, the life I always knew I could have with a little hard work. The general public doesn't realize how important to recovery a safe and comfortable home is. You don't need all the bells and whistles to be happy, all you need is a home and a counsellor that cares."

CARING FOR OTHERS

"For whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me"
Matthew 25:40 (NIV)



18% or \$58K



2018 MINISTRY EXPENSES \$315K

The congregation of Calvin has continued in its giving ways in 2018. Budget targets were set to assist many groups both in our city and abroad. We feel pleased with what we were able to do for each one of these groups. Information about these initiatives are in the financial statement.

The caring did not stop there. The Family Enrichment Program was presented with thirty-five pairs of running shoes for the children in the program. Many pairs of eyeglasses were given to the "I See You" program in Sudbury. Volunteers then took them to fulfill a need in Kenya. Volunteers from Calvin and our Lettuce Reach Out program continue to serve The Gathering Place on a monthly basis. Three different groups in the church have taken on the role of providing perishable food for Hope Awaits Ministry one week each month. Collected toiletries are also shared with Hope Awaits on a regular basis. The first Sunday of each month we collect non-perishable food for the North Bay Food Bank and the second Sunday we provide apples for local schools.

Bags of non-perishable food are packed and made available for hungry people who come to our doors.

We wrapped up the year with our "Reverse Advent" baskets, which provided a truckload of food for each of the Canadore College and Nipissing University Food Banks.

Calvin can be proud of the way it helps in "Continuing the Caring of Jesus".



VBS - SHIPWRECKED!

Well, if the title wasn't already enough to excite my son, the oceanic world we entered into on the first day definitely did the trick. My thoughts were, "There must be a lot of love in this congregation" because such an enormous effort went into the preparation work for the Vacation Bible School week! And a lot of love there is! The volunteers were amazing, even down to consideration of my son's allergies for the snacks.

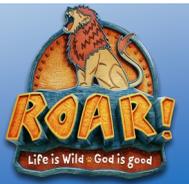
What did my husband and I love most about Calvin's VBS? We loved that it was not only fun for my son, but he learned about God in a loving, caring environment where his faith could grow. Coming from a small congregation with no children, it's great for him to know that there are others his age who love God.

What did Nate love most about Calvin's VBS? "Meeting new friends!" Everyday, he came home excited with many stories to tell! Getting him up and ready to go the next day was easy! What did he like least about Calvin's VBS? "When it was over."

Urs, Rebecca and Nathaniel



We look forward to VBS 2019:
"ROAR" July 15-19



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS ran the week of July 16-20 and was an amazing week where kids ventured onto an uncharted island and learned how to survive and thrive!



Crews rotated through stations together—participating in memorable Bible-learning activities, singing catchy songs, playing teamwork-building games, making and devouring tropical treats, experiencing one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collecting Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God’s love, and testing out Sciency-Fun Gizmos to enjoy the rest of the summer. Each bible point helped anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life’s storms. As they were surrounded by God’s word, the reality of God’s love gained new meaning and relevance to their everyday lives.



A few shared memories: From Cassie: *“Since it was my first VBS at Calvin I enjoyed the energy that went into not only planning but also carrying out VBS. You could sense the amazing energy of all the leaders and kids participating through the songs and activities! It was an amazing time!”*

From Nancy and Keith: *“Our two granddaughters are so excited about VBS 2017 and 2018 that they are already talking about VBS 2019 and have talked their younger cousin into joining them!”*



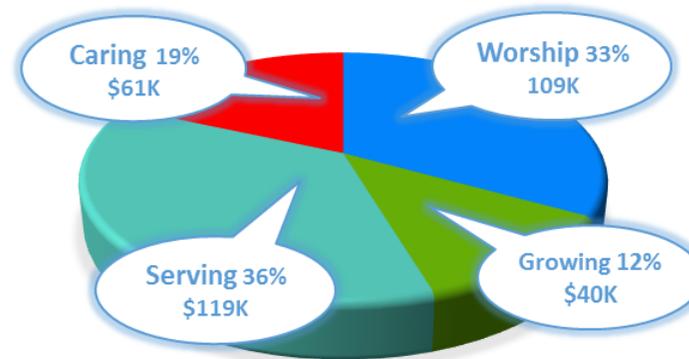
From Fiona: When asked what is her most favourite part of VBS, *“Imagination station because Debbie always has so many fun activities!”*

Gratitude is sincerely expressed to the 32 children (ages 5-11) who participated in this bible adventure—they made it rewarding for the volunteers who brought the program to life. Leaders--thank you for the gift of your time, creativity and energy! Special thanks to the congregation for supporting this endeavour with your prayers, finances and items either lent or donated—all were much appreciated.

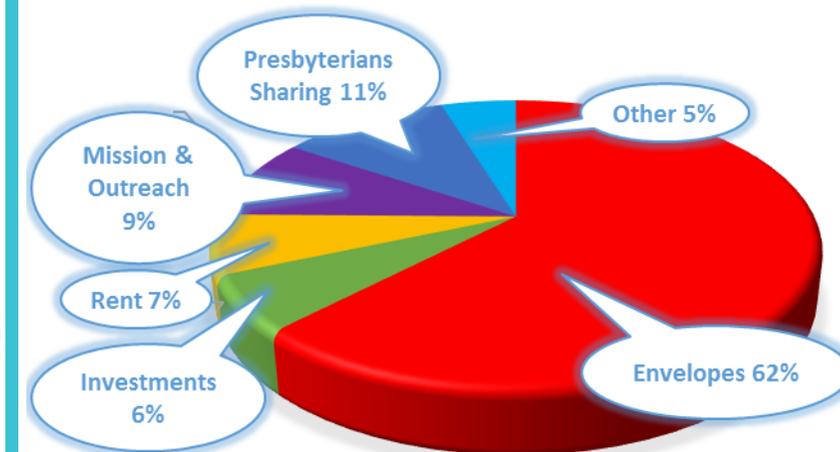


2019 BUDGET

FORECASTED EXPENSES AND REVENUES



2019 FORECAST MINISTRY EXPENSES
\$328K



2019 FORECAST REVENUE
\$328K

THE SMILES! THE LAUGHTER! THE FRIENDSHIPS! LOGOS IS ALL THIS AND SO MUCH

We celebrate two very successful LOGOS sessions in 2018. Each session ran for 10-12 consecutive Friday evenings. Twenty adults have worked in various ways to ensure the young people in our community experienced meaningful times of recreation, worship skills, shared meals and bible study. While not every child attended every week, this ministry had twenty-seven young people actively participating in this program. Relationships that are developing is great to witness. Thank you to all the volunteers and young people for making Friday evenings to memorable!

A highlight activity was based on the scripture reference from Genesis 2: 4-25, and bible study lesson focus "God cares for creation, and I do, too!" During recreation time the children were encouraged to be "Trash Detectives". They travelled the church with a critical eye as to how our Calvin community might, through improved trash management, be better stewards of our creation. They came up with several recommendations that have been shared with the Facilities Team!

An outreach activity that was enjoyed by all participants was making Christmas cards to share with the people receiving lap blankets collected and distributed by the Pastoral Care Team. Working together to enrich the lives of others.

In 2019, we look forward to continued growth in our relationships with God and each other.



LOTS OF FUN!
OUTSTANDING!
GREAT!
ONE IN A MILLION!
SUPERB!

What do you mean that's not what LOGOS stands for?! Our kids were always excited to go to LOGOS Friday nights! They loved the games, the crafts, the bible study, and of course the food! They loved making new friends and seeing old ones! They loved being a part of Calvin's Christmas play. The only thing that they were disappointed about . . . that they didn't get to be servers or serve enough at dinner time! We wish they could be so inspired to do chores at home! The volunteers put their hearts and souls into LOGOS and it is a great place for children to grow faith and friendships! We look forward to the next LOGOS session! Thank you, Calvin Presbyterian!

Urs, Rebecca, Madeline and Nathaniel Riesen

FUN THINGS WE DID:



LOGOS is Greek for "The Word" John 1:1

