

Observations from Wednesday Survey

The following is a summary of a survey conducted during the last two weeks of February 2024 at Calvary Lutheran Church. The majority of the respondents were participants in Wednesday evening programming at Calvary.

Surveys completed 157. Approximately 146 families involved on Wednesday nights...includes 19-6th Graders, 56-Confirmation students, 50-High School students...(271 potential participants).

Overall Satisfaction

The first 6 Hospitality, Welcoming Visitors, Outreach, Understanding the Importance of Stewardship, Fellowship Opportunities, Adult Education Opportunities:

- The survey said the first two (Hospitality, Welcoming) are doing well.
- The survey said the last four (Outreach, Understanding the Importance of Stewardship, Fellowship Opportunities, and Adult Education Opportunities) could use more room for improvement.

There are no clear big standouts that scored a 1 or 2 (on the lower end – needs work) on the survey.

Preschool – 5th Education

Everything currently being utilized seems to be doing well in the Pre-5th Grade. They showed that they were not interested in Summer or Sunday learning opportunities for kids, or an adult class during Wednesday school classroom time.

Middle School 6th Grade

Based on the survey, they liked the classroom activities, milestones, and atmosphere. No Sundays/Summers for this group.

Confirmation

The quality and effectiveness of the classroom lesson seems to be appreciated the most. 55% thought the sanctuary pre/post lessons were effective. There were limited opportunities for community service projects. The mission trip/summer camps helped the children grow in their faith.

High School

Relationship building, Environment, Activities outside the classroom, Depth of Christian Learning, and Topics, all looked positive.

Wednesday Evening Meal

Overall, they were satisfied with the menu, traffic flow and cost. Portion size needs to be assessed. Visiting with other people is basically flat.

Wednesday Evening Worship

Nobody thought the Wednesday Evening Worship was too early in the evening. 34% thought it was too late and 66% said the start time was just right.

When talking about the length of the service, over 50% thought it was too long and 40% thought it was just right.

They valued the children's moments and the milestones. Almost ½ of the respondents said that the sermon spiritually filled them. The music responses were evenly distributed.

New Opportunities

Overwhelmingly, people are interested in Family Night and Speakers.

Classes to develop you as a church leader, and how to invite others to church – no interest in these two.

Inconclusive if the adults would attend a Wednesday evening Bible study/forum.

CALVARY WEDNESDAY SURVEY TOPICS ADDRESSED IN OPEN COMMENT SECTION

At the end of each section of the survey, respondents were given a chance to give written comments to the prompt, "Especially for any of the previous that were lower than 5 (Excellent) - please explain what/how we can improve." The following two pages are a summary of topics that need work. Pages 4-6 contain positive comments that were left.

(Over 200 written comments were received)

Preschool-5th Education

*Behavior

More information needed to teach

Crafts

Teachers don't show up

Smaller classes

* shows up 3-6 times

**shows up 7-12 times

Middle School (6th)

*More Activities

Needs a Coordinator

Need improved Curriculum

Behavior

Involve students more in lessons

Communion/Offering Instruction

Earlier time for class

Smaller classes

Confirmation

*Kids should be involved in kitchen/meals/service projects

*Need more parents involved

*Needs improved Curriculum

*Needs a Coordinator

Communication

Smaller classes

Need fun fellowship activities

High School

Behavior (in worship)

Kids should be involved in service work

Need small groups meeting outside of Wed night

Meals

**Need kid-friendly options

**Portions too small

*Theme nights/speakers/topic of interest/Superbowl night

Worship

- **Shorter service needed
- *Earlier service needed
- *Message dissatisfaction
- *Negative puppets
- *Positive puppets
- *Shorter message needed
- Later service needed
- Guest speakers

General comments

- **Christian Education (while kids are watched)
 - *For working parents
 - For ages 30-45
- *Advertise opportunities better
- *More work needed in stewardship
- *Family fellowship opportunities
- *Transparency
- Free meal when you teach
- Need more volunteers
- Calvary community service opportunities
- Small groups for adults
- Clergy led Bible studies
- Dashboard showing meals served, hours of adult education (or teaching hours volunteered?) to improve giving/stewardship

There were many other comments left in the open-ended comment sections expressing gratitude or appreciation for Calvary staff, volunteers, and services. Below are some of those:

Overall Satisfaction:

- “The church is a great group of people that I think are doing a good job serving their community”
- “I love this church from my few weeks here”
- “Everything is great!”
- “The youth activities such as the sports room and group activities is great to get the kids interested and bonding with Christian minded youth”
- “It’s really amazing and I feel very accepted and loved especially by God and the people here!”
- “Tom is a fantastic youth group leader”
- “Tom Martin is excellent at hospitality, welcoming others and providing outreach. Certain others are excellent also, I just do not know all of their names”

Pre-K to 5th Grade:

- “Setup amazing”
- “I think you guys do a great job! When I was looking for a program I wanted a place for my children to build relationships with kids their age in a Christian setting. I appreciate all you do!!”
- “Love the format. Hard to do alone with a big group but I like only having to do 1 month Maybe teachers get a meal free the month they teach”
- “I love the milestones”

Confirmation:

- “The confirmation teachers do a great job”
- “There is a lot of activities and the students are very involved”
- “I do believe the confirmation teachers put all they can into their work”
- “I am grateful for the parents/leaders that have stepped up for the 2 year commitment for this”
- “Confirmation has been well rounded”
- “Rotating teachers is an asset”
- “Great program. So incredibly thankful for their wonderful leaders”

High School:

- “Tom is amazing”
- “Love it so much!”
- “Connected with God more!”
- “Excellent, well run program”
- “My child enjoys going”
- “Communication of activities and learning is shared and is a strength of this group”
- “My daughter went all four years and felt very welcome”
- “High school group is so welcoming and great safe place for young adults to be comfortable and be able to speak up and learn about Christianity”

- “Excellent programming! Is leading the way for youth programming among other local churches and deacon Tom is an asset and greatly appreciated”
- “Tom makes this group absolutely outstanding! He makes everyone feel right at home and helps us build relationships with our peers that we know can and will last a lifetime!”
- “Tom Martin is incredible. His ability to connect with the students and create an environment in which they are comfortable is unmatched. I have sincere concerns about what will happen to the program when he decides to retire”
- “I am quite pleased with Deacon Tom and his kindness and efforts with our high school kids. I’m not certain of all the topics they discuss, but from what I’ve gleaned is that they are appropriate and helpful. Thanks for supporting our high school kids!”
- “Deacon Tom does an absolute amazing job relating to the youth and communicates weekly topics and events! He has created an atmosphere that the youth want to be at CLC”

Wednesday Evening Meals:

- “Maybe a little more food but some meals are very good”
- “I enjoy the Wednesday meals. They have always been very good with a wide variety of menu. Maybe at some time in the future we can have the meals during the summer with summer meal menu”
- “Great cooking staff and cleanup crews”
- “I love Wednesday meals, Sometimes the food is questionable but usually good!”
- “Generally, very good food and seems to keep flow moving”
- “Thank you for providing meals”
- “Church does a great job on Wednesday meals! The staff and volunteers are much appreciated!”

Wednesday Evening Worship:

- “Worship time and length of service are perfect”
- “Enjoy it a lot!”
- “The children’s program during service is great. Our kids love it and it helps them pay attention. They have short attention spans”
- “Tom is a good preacher”
- “My favorite part is the sermons and children’s lesson. My kids miss the puppets!”
- “Milestone nights are important for the kids who are recognized. It elevates what they are learning to a higher level of importance”
- “It’s all good. Perfect for kids that are not able to and stay focused”
- “Our children really enjoy the children services and hope that they continue”
- “Nice sermon times for the younger kids”

New Opportunities

In addition to the opportunities listed above, the survey team appreciated many creative/innovative suggestions for new programs that were described in the written comments. Some of those ideas were:

- Family Theme Nights/Classes

- “Puppet building class”
- Maybe not a year-round family class, but maybe in November prior to Advent a family gathering after Sunday church for several weeks where families make an advent wreath or peg doll nativity together in preparation for the advent season”
- “I think there are opportunities if done right that may be able to be fun for families. Each week could focus on characters for the bible stories and comparison of the bible scriptures and also what is not in the bible that we seem to believe is the Christmas story (e.g. three wise men). Similarly, during Lent a project like making resurrection eggs or a cross or last dinner representation in crosses project as a family could be fun”
- “For first communion the kids could participate in picking grapes, grape stomping, separating wheat from the chaff”
- “I think for busy families once a month freezer meal prep group and maybe add some bible study to this. Pick two freezer meals to put together as a group and for the families to take home. People could be given recipe ahead and bring ingredients or one person could shop, and everyone pay money toward cost of ingredients. Additionally, maybe this could be a service/outreach project or way to welcome or invite others into the church by making some extra freezer meals and sharing them with others”
- “One church I attended formed groups of 8 for dining in and dining out, they could choose. I was in a dining out group and each month a person in the group picked a restaurant and the group would meet there. It was a great way to get to know others in the church and at the end of the year the groups reset, and you could meet others”
- “Nerf Night has always been a favorite for my kids”

Thank You & Final Thoughts:

- “I appreciate the commitment of Calvary staff members, especially those working in the areas of children’s Christian education and music and the bluegrass group”
- “I love calvary!”
- “The kitchen staff and volunteers are amazing! They make my night serving us. I hope they feel appreciated!!”
- “I love coming it’s so much fun!”
- “Thank you for the kids Wednesday school and meal. Much appreciated!!”
- “Overall weds is good just needs some tweaks! Thanks too all who volunteer their time!!!”
- “Thanks for asking for feedback. Calvary does a really good job , but we can always improve and try new things!”
- “Hayden has done a great job with the Kids Wednesday school program. We really appreciate all her hard work and dedication. She has made the curriculum easy to follow and fun!”
- “You guys are doing a great job!”
- “We love this church and the people who attend. There is always room for growth and change and appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback”