

The *Lunch and Life* Program: A Christian Outreach to College Students - Spring 2022
Calvary Church – Golden CO

For over 20 years our *Lunch and Life* program has been a major outreach of Calvary-Golden to students of the Colorado School of Mines. In support of this on-going ministry, we are thankful for the support of the Front Range Region who generously provided a grant of \$5,000 for 2022.

After returning to our usual lunch format in the Great Hall in fall 2021, we canceled the first five weeks of the spring 2022 program due to Covid. During the pandemic time, we have used due caution mitigating health risks to students and volunteers by dispersing our guests to other rooms in the building, limiting the number of students around tables, masking and when weather permits, encouraging students to enjoy meals outside on Celebration Plaza. Following the Covid pause, we re-started our lunches for the remaining 8 weeks of the semester. At the time, there was a sense that students and volunteers alike were truly happy to see each other, to reconnect and enjoy a hot, homemade meal as we gathered in fellowship in the Great Hall. From week to week, we've noted low variation in attendance (+/-15%), suggesting that the program is attracting a core of students who regularly attend. Direct student input about the program is received via an on-line questionnaire.

Over the course of the spring semester, Calvary hosted a total of 1,732 students, averaging 217 per week. The average cost per student was \$2.61 per plate. For the abbreviated spring semester our program income was \$5,591; our direct expenses \$7,059 leaving a net income (loss) of -\$1,469. In addition to covering this negative income, Calvary made payments-in-kind for cleaning (~\$1000 per semester) and room set-up (\$300/meal). These costs are not included in the financials above.

To diversify our sources of funding, we are reaching out to CSM alumni by advertising in the *Mines Magazine* and to the Diocese's *Trusts and Endowments Committee*.

Putting on a large meal for 25 weeks per year, requires many hands from the Calvary Community, including the 12 volunteers who faithfully prepare and serve the meals and a corps of *Table Hosts* who engage and encourage students around the lunch table. Pastor Scott provides weekly messages of inspiration and hope during these difficult pandemic times.

As a new semester approaches, the *Lunch and Life* team looks forward to engaging personally with the students; listening to their life experiences; praying for their struggles both physical and spiritual; and sharing the Good News over a meal in an ambiance of love and acceptance.