



Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church

Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church is situated in Calgary, in Southern Alberta. According to the latest statistics, over 18,000 people of Hungarian descent live in Calgary and the surrounding areas. We provide a home for our fellow Hungarians and members of the Hungarian Reformed Church.

Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church allows Hungarians in Calgary and surrounding area to hear the word of God in the Hungarian language and receive spiritual nourishment. It offers instruction in faith and academic subjects in Hungarian to children growing up in the diaspora, so that they can maintain generational ties with family left behind. Additionally, it offers charitable outreach to the public at large.

Vision and Mission Statement for Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church

VISION

Luke 10:27-28

Loving God and Loving Neighbor

Our mission and ministry are founded on the first and second commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.”

MISSION

John 13: 3-35

Our mission, passed down from our forebears, the founders of the Calgary Hungarian Reformed Church, within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, is to provide our Hungarian Reformed brothers and sisters with an opportunity to hear the Holy Word of God in worship services, Bible study, Sunday School, and community gatherings, and to take an active role in the work of the community, so that members may maintain and cherish their cultural ties with the homeland.

On the foundation of the scriptures and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our purpose is to strengthen our faith in God and to lead people to Christ, in whom they may find answers to their problems, forgiveness of their sins, peace and eternal life.

As the power of the Holy Spirit raised in Jerusalem the first congregation where every people praised God in their own language, so we, too, follow the word of the Holy Spirit in our mother tongue, praising God in the Hungarian language.

This practice is conveyed to all, from the youngest to the oldest, in our worship services and in all our other ministries.

As Christian Education is important for our children, we provide the opportunity to come to know the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus in their mother tongue. We provide a variety of opportunities to draw our children into church ministry.

We connect regularly with our brothers and sisters who are elderly and sick and those suffering in need. As it is needed, we extend help to enable our brothers and sisters to attend church services and by this means grow stronger in faith.

We seek out and strengthen connections with second, third and fourth generation Hungarian families, as well as embrace newly arrived immigrants with love.

As Calgary’s first organized Hungarian community, we honour also ties to our past. The Hungarian Reformed Church has always participated in the life of the Hungarian community, welcoming newcomers, supporting our heritage, language and culture. It is important to us to maintain strong relationships with other communities and to be ready to extend help.

We welcome all Christians and continue to reach out to the greater community.

The Church

On September 11, 1927, twenty Hungarians gathered in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to pray in their native tongue. Services in 1928 and 1929 attracted growing numbers and led to the establishment, in 1930, of Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of Nt. Bela Bucsin. From its inception, the congregation has belonged to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, with which it enjoys a warm relationship. As well as serving God, the congregation has sought also to support Hungarian culture and spirit among the diaspora. March 15 has been celebrated every year since 1932, and a Hungarian flag was consecrated in 1934.

The first church was on 4th Avenue, where the congregation worshipped from 1938 until 1947, when the current site was acquired. Construction began in 1950, and the church was consecrated in March 1951. That building burned to the ground in 1966. The new building, pictured above, in which we continue to worship, was consecrated in 1967. The church has now been serving the needs of Hungarians in Calgary and the surrounding area of Southern Alberta for 95 years. For a more detailed history of our congregation go to [Brief-history-of-the-Calvin-Hungarian-Presbyterian-Church-in-Calgary.pdf \(kmre.ca\)](#).

Congregation and Community

The church is close to the city center and it is easily accessible from all four quadrants, [Bemutakozás - Kálvin Magyar Református Templom \(kmre.ca\)](#). The self-supporting congregation belongs to the Canadian Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbytery of Calgary–Macleod. It currently includes 69 voting members, 90 adherents and 55 children.

Average weekly attendance at Sunday Worship is 35-40 on regular Sundays and 85-120 on special occasions. We have 15 children enrolled into Sunday School, ages 5 - 11. Two teachers take turns teaching, using the curriculum "Bible Stories for Sunday School." Fifteen women belong to the Women's Group and between eight and ten people have been attending the weekly, well established Bible Study.

Two other missions ensure that Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church will continue to grow. Firstly, the congregation reaches out to embrace and provide spiritual and practical support to new arrivals. Secondly, we ensure that Hungarian language and culture thrives in Calgary by providing a home and supporting the Bethlen Gabor Kindergarten and Hungarian Language and Cultural School. This growing Hungarian school provides language instruction for first generation speakers, the children of recent immigrants as well as for second and third generation Hungarians, the Canadian-born children and grandchildren of earlier arrivals. Currently, 46 children are enrolled in the kindergarten and primary classes. In addition, the school provides Hungarian second language instruction to native speakers of English and other languages, who wish to learn Hungarian. We currently have 10 people enrolled in our adult classes.

Our very diverse congregation is made up of people of all ages, from 1 month old to 99 years young. The majority of them are first generation Hungarians and their families. There are diverse households: families with many children, adults without children, multi-generational households and older members living in Seniors' Residences. The congregation lives in all quadrants of the city, so the central location of the Church is very convenient.

Financial Statement for 2022

Available upon request.

APPROVED BUDGET for the current year (2022) **\$118,940.**

Calgary

by Eszter Savanya Várkonyi

Calgary, the scene of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games occupies the elegant 4th place on the list of the World's Most Livable Cities. Located in Western Canada, the south-eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, Calgary is actually situated on a plateau at an elevation of 1045m above sea level. This is roughly equivalent to the highest peak in Hungary, Kékestető, therefore, it has alpine mountain climate. The long cold winters, however, are made more clement by the occasional warm Chinook winds, raising temperatures by as much as 15-20 degrees Celsius in an afternoon, which definitely helps the lovers of winter sports. There is plenty of opportunity in the city to skate in outdoor ice rinks, and on the ski hills, to cross country or downhill ski, or just to walk or hike in the fresh mountain air. On the other hand, the relatively short, but warm summer weekends see an exodus of city dwellers into the mountains where a vast wilderness of phenomenal natural beauty awaits.

The young city originates from a longtime ranching heritage, thus the cowboy tradition still defines the lifestyle of Calgary and its surroundings. The yearly cowboy festival, the Calgary Stampede, which is a 10-day celebration of skills needed on the ranch and rodeo, begins on the first weekend in July. This time, young and old alike don their western attire and celebrate in the "Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth". Calgaryans are generally very friendly, interested and accepting.

Today, Calgary is the high-tech, IT brain centre of the oil and gas industry, which is clearly visible by the multitude of office towers downtown. The city is very well laid out, organized, clean and dynamically growing. Since it is the largest city in Canada areawise, transportation relies heavily on private cars and trucks, but the two, soon three LRT lines and the multitude of rapid transit and regular buses help those without

vehicles besides the fleet of taxis, Ubers and the ever more present e-scooters to commute. More and more people work from home, however.

The City of Calgary boasts with a number of universities, colleges, technical institutes, while of course, each subdivision has public and separate elementary, junior high and high schools. Moreover, our city is characterized by a vivid cultural life. Theatres, concert halls and galleries provide prose, opera, ballet performances and exhibitions. Besides the Arts Commons downtown (<https://www.artsccommons.ca>), the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium (<https://jubileeauditorium.com/index.php/calgary>), and the Rózsa Centre, named after the Hungarian couple, Theodore and Lola Rózsa (<https://ucalgary.ca/facilities/buildings-grounds/buildings/rozsa-centre>) there are several other theatres and cultural establishments.

Calgary is a city of festivals. The Chinook Blast, winter festival (<https://www.chinookblast.ca/>) is followed by major monthly summer events like the International Children's Festival, (<https://www.todocanada.ca/city/calgary/event/calgary-international-childrens-festival/>), the Calgary Folk Festival (<https://www.calgaryfolkfest.com/>) or the Calgary Jazz Festival (<https://www.jazzyyc.com/>), the Blues Festival (<https://calgarybluesfest.com/>) and many more.

Hungarians gather in the very well-equipped Hungarian Canadian Cultural Association (Magyar Ház <https://hungarianheritageincanada.ca/en/place/hungarian-canadian-cultural-association-of-calgary-ab-hungarian-hall>) to celebrate our national holidays and commemorate historical events. Besides the main auditorium, a huge library, special interest groups, children's programs host monthly regular activities to all ages and provide rehearsal opportunities to the Nádihegedű Folk Arts Workshop, (Nádihegedű Népművészeti Műhely - <https://www.nadihegedu.com>) and the Vadrózsa Dance Ensemble (Vadrózsa Tánc Együttes <https://www.facebook.com/calgaryvadrozsa>) just to name a couple.

Beyond the regular Sunday worship services, the two churches (Presbyterian and Catholic), are also community gathering places and provide regular activities to families. The Saint Elizabeth Catholic Church houses the Hungarian Scouts, Cserkészzet, whereas Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church operates the Bethlen Gábor Hungarian Daycare, and Hungarian Language School, which facilitate Hungarian language instruction to not only children of various age groups and ability levels, but also adults. (<https://hungarianschoolcalgary.com/adult-school/>) The Arts Poetica series invites interested participants to discuss subjects on art, culture, literature and architecture.

Both the churches and the Magyar Ház regularly organize dinner events and balls. The Bazaar is a good opportunity to stock up on Hungarian sausages twice a year, where volunteers prepare traditional Hungarian food and desserts. Additionally, the Hungarian Deli (<https://www.hungariandelicalgary.ca/>), Polcan Meat Products and European Deli (<https://www.polcanmeatscalgary.ca>) the Italian Centre Shop Ltd. (italiancentre.ca)

and many more fine food stores help find European and Hungarian food items and spices. In the summer, besides the regular grocery stores, produce markets sell fresh fruits, and thanks to the influx of the 1956 Hungarian refugees, even the traditional Hungarian bell peppers can be found.

Naturally, there are an endless number of things that can be written about our city, but we hope that this short description provides a glimpse into our life and helps the aspiring pastor and his/her family to gain an insight into what Calgary can offer. For more information on Calgary and the surrounding area please refer to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calgary> and/or <https://www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com/>.

Welcome to Calgary!

The Kind of Minister We Need

We seek a devoted and committed Christian who leads with enthusiasm and by example, a relatable visionary leader, possessing great people skills. We need a minister with proven pastoral skills and interests to help us in the ministry and mission of Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church. We hope that this minister will become a magnet for the Church.

Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church, Calgary