

ReUnited States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Calvary Lutheran Church

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 3901 Chicago Avenue

City or town: Minneapolis State: MN County: Hennepin

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

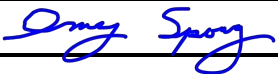
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D

	02/25/2022
Signature of certifying official/Title: Amy Spong, Deputy SHPO, MN Dept. of Admin	
Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	
Date	
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE/Limestone

Walls: BRICK

Roof: STONE/Slate

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

See attached continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See attached continuation sheets.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1930-1953

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Lang and Raugland

A. E. Rydlun and Company

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

See attached continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See attached continuation sheets.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See attached continuation sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Calvary Lutheran Church archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HE-MPC-04044

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.48 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 479313.44 | Northing: 4975434.04 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots twenty-five (25), twenty-six (26), twenty-seven (27) and twenty-eight (28); Block five (005); Chicago Avenue Park Addition; City of Minneapolis.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries encompass the city lots on which Calvary Lutheran Church was constructed and occupied during the period of significance.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rachel Peterson, historian
organization: Hess, Roise and Company
street & number: 100 North First Street
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55401
e-mail: rachel@hessroise.com
telephone: 612-338-1987
date: October 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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Summary Paragraph

Calvary Lutheran Church is at the southeast corner of Chicago Avenue South and East Thirty-Ninth Street in Minneapolis. The property comprises a Sanctuary and Education Wing, both constructed in 1930, and a Parish House, built in 1953. The Sanctuary was designed in the English Gothic Revival style expressed through ornate doorways, intricate stone details around the windows, and stonework on the tower. The Education Wing and Parish House used the same architectural vocabulary—such as the quoin details around the window openings, the stylized buttresses, and the Parish House's arched doorway—to create an architecturally unified whole.

The building has a U-shaped footprint with the Sanctuary at the north of the site and the Parish House to the south, connected by the Education Wing on the east side. A small courtyard is between the Sanctuary and Parish House. A surface parking lot is east of the church on a separate parcel. Phelps Field Park is to the west across Chicago Avenue, and single-family homes and small apartment buildings form Calvary Lutheran's setting.

Narrative Description

Exterior

Sanctuary

The Sanctuary has variegated, tan brick walls with limestone details. It has a complex mass formed by the central nave, a narthex at the west end, a tower at the northwest corner, transepts at the east end of the nave, and two secondary entrance ells, one at the west end of the south facade and a second at the northeast corner. The building sections are all different heights. A raised basement is under the entire Sanctuary. Gabled roofs are over the nave, narthex, transepts, and southwest entrance ell. All are clad in historic slate tiles. The remaining roof sections are flat and clad in roofing membrane.

The primary west facade, fronting Chicago Avenue, has three sections: the tower to the north, the west wall of the narthex in the center, and a south ell with a secondary entrance on its south wall facing the courtyard (Photo 2). A band of stone runs across all three sections at the basement. The west facade of the tower is framed by two brick-pier buttresses with stone details. A gothic-arch stained-glass window is on the first floor. It has a stone surround with quoins on each side. Delicate stone tracery fills the arch. Two, thin, rectangular windows are above the arched window. Both have stone surrounds with quoin details. A belfry is at the top of the tower. Each wall of the belfry has two large lancet-arch openings each with a stone surround with quoins on the sides. A band of coping supported by dentils is above the lancet arches. Other decoration on the tower includes a battlemented parapet and stone ridges at each corner and at the center of each facade.

The west facade of the narthex has a front-gabled roofline. A pair of brick-pier buttresses run up the wall and terminate in thin stone ridges that extend above the parapet wall. A historic stone cross is at the peak of the gable and a non-historic metal cross is attached to the top of the facade. Two bands of stone span the gable end with a band of triple basketweave brick between them.

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The main entrance bay projects slightly from the first floor and is flanked by two brick-pier buttresses. An ornate stone surround frames the main entrance and "Calvary Lutheran Church" is engraved in gothic script above the door opening. A second set of stone piers and decorative sconces are on either side of the arched doorway. A pair of historic wood paneled doors are deeply recessed into the surround, creating a gothic porch. The paneled wood doors are historic and have an arched transom above. A set of concrete stairs with brick and stone wing wall and two non-historic metal-tube handrails lead to the main entrance.

The west wall of the secondary southwest entrance ell is set back slightly from the rest of the west facade. It features a narrow gothic-arch window with a stone surround and tracery with quatrefoils. The opening holds a historic stained-glass window. Turning the corner, the south wall of the entrance bay has a gothic-arch doorway at the first floor. A pair of historic paneled wood doors with an arched wood transom are recessed into the stone surround. Three rectangular stained-glass windows with a stone frame and mullions are above the entrance. A square stone medallion with an engraved cross is at the top of the wall.

The south wall of the nave, visible from the courtyard has three large, historic gothic-arch windows, each with decorative stone surrounds and tracery (Photo 3). Brick-pier buttresses with stone details run the height of the wall between the windows. Three pairs of windows are in an area well at the base of the wall. A non-historic metal-tube railing surrounds the well.

The southeast transept is at the east end of the nave. The west wall of the transept is brick with one basement window and the east wall adjoins the Education Wing. The south wall holds a large gothic-arch window with a stone surround and tracery. The historic stained-glass sash is covered with non-historic protective plexiglass. A pair of brick-pier buttresses with stone details flank the window. Three basement windows are at grade.

The Sanctuary's north wall, facing Thirty-Ninth Street East has four main sections: the tower, the nave, the northeast transept, and the east entrance (Photo 4). The north wall of the tower has an entrance at the first floor. A pair of historic paneled wood doors with a gothic-arch wood transom are recessed into the wall and surrounded by a stone frame (Photo 5). A small set of concrete and stone stairs with a non-historic metal-tube handrail leads to the entrance. A pair of rectangular windows is above the entrance. The windows share a stone frame with quoins on either side. The sashes are stained glass. Like the west facade, two thin rectangular windows are just below the belfry. The design of the belfry and the decoration at the top of the tower is the same as the west facade. The east and south walls of the belfry also follow this design.

The north facade of the nave features three, large, gothic-arch windows separated by brick-pier buttresses. Each window opening has an ornate stone surround with delicate tracery and quatrefoils within the arch. The historic stained-glass windows feature religious iconography that is significant to the congregation. A non-historic accessible entrance is below the west window. It has a simple wood

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frame and holds a pair of wood doors, each with a three-by-three light. A non-historic awning shelters the entrance. An area well is at the base of the wall and has four windows and a non-historic metal-tube railing.

The northeast transept has a gable roof and parapet wall. A large, historic gothic-arch window dominates the wall and is flanked by two brick-pier buttresses with stone details. The window is set in a stone surround with quoins on either side. Stone tracery with quatrefoil patterns fills the arch. The historic stained-glass window is protected by a non-historic plexiglass. A small stone medallion is above the window at the peak of the gable. An area well with a non-historic metal railing is at the base of the wall. The east entrance to the Sanctuary is at the east end of the wall and has a pedestrian door at grade. The door location and stone surround are historic, but the metal door is not historic. A pair of historic two-by-four windows is east of entrance. The east wall of the entrance bay has two windows—a single historic two-by-four window and a triple two-by-four sash—both with stone surrounds.

The east wall of the Sanctuary faces the parking lot (Photo 6). It has a gabled roof. Two brick-pier buttresses run up the wall and frame the gothic-arch chancel window. The window is the most ornate on the church and has multiple quatrefoils and dense tracery throughout the opening. The window frame is stone with quoins on the sides. A pair of historic two-by-four windows are below the chancel window. Eight basement windows with non-historic sashes are at grade across the east wall.

Education Wing

The north wall of the Education Wing adjoins the Sanctuary and the south wall abuts the Parish House. The wing has a flat roof with a chimney on its east side. The west facade is tan face-brick matching the Sanctuary and Parish House. It has two bands of stone—one below the first-floor windows and a second above the second-floor windows—and stone coping at the top of the wall. A pedestrian door is at the north end of the first floor. It has a historic stone surround with quoining on the sides. The hollow-core metal door is not historic. A historic two-by-five sash with a stone surround is on the second floor above the door. Two pairs of historic two-by-five windows are on the first and second floors south of the door. All have historic stone surrounds. Three non-historic sashes are in historic openings at the basement.

The east wall of the Education Wing is tan brick with two stone bands, one above the second-story windows and one at the roofline. The wall has five window bays. The north bay holds three two-by-four casement sashes in a stone surround on the first floor and four two-by-five sashes in a stone surround on the second floor. Moving south, the second bay has a non-historic secondary entrance at grade. It holds a pair of non-historic metal doors with a non-historic awning above. A pair of two-by-five sashes with a stone surround are above the door. The remaining three bays each hold a pair of two-by-five casement windows on the first and second floors. Each window opening has a historic stone surround with quoins on the side.

Parish House

Calvary Lutheran's Parish House is at the south end of the property. It is two stories tall and has a flat roof with a gabled parapet wall on the west side. The design of the Parish House uses the same

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architectural vocabulary of the Sanctuary and Education Wing. The walls are variegated tan brick with bands of stone below the first-floor windows and above the second-floor windows.

The Parish House's primary west facade faces Chicago Avenue (Photo 9). A pair of brick-pier buttresses frame the center of the facade. Three window openings are on each floor. The center window holds a pair of historic two-by-four casement sashes. The openings to either side are single two-by-four casement sashes. All windows have historic limestone surrounds with quoin details. A stone cross is set into the wall at the peak of the gabled parapet. Two non-historic flags are attached to the wall on either side of the buttresses.

The north wall of the Parish House, facing the courtyard, is brick with two bands of stone—one below the first-floor windows and a second above the second-floor windows—and stone coping at the top of the wall (Photo 7). A secondary entrance is at the west end of the first floor. The arched opening has a stone surround with an additional brick lintel. The historic wood paneled doors are recessed into the wall. A historic sconce is above the entrance. On the second floor, a historic two-by-five window with a two-by-one transom is in a stone surround with quoin details. East of the entrance, the first floor has six pairs of historic two-by-three windows with two-by-one transoms. Each opening has a stone sill and brick lintel. A pedestrian door is at the east end of the first floor. It has a stone threshold and a brick soldier-course lintel. The metal door is not historic. The second floor has six pairs of the same style windows. An additional historic two-by-three window with a two-by-one transom is at the west end of the floor, and a pair of two-by-four sashes with two-by-one transoms is at the east end of the floor. Six windows are in a basement area well. A non-historic metal-tube handrail surrounds the well.

The south wall of the Parish House is tan variegated face brick (Photo 8). The stone bands and coping return onto the south wall and are continued by courses of soldier bricks. The first and second floors each have eleven window bays. On the first floor, bays 1-2 and 6-11 hold pairs of two-by-three windows with two-by-one transoms. Bays 3-5 have three-by-one windows with a three-by-one transoms. On the second floor, all bays hold two-by-three windows with two-by-one transoms. All openings have stone sills and brick lintels. At the basement, there are two windows, each with their own window well at the west end of the wall. Nine additional basement windows are to the east in an area well with a non-historic metal railing.

The east wall of the Parish House is tan common brick (Photo 6). An engaged chimney is at the south end of the wall. To the north, a pair of historic two-by-three windows with two-by-one transom lights are on each floor. At the north end of the wall are triple two-by-five sashes. All windows have stone sills and brick lintels.

Interior

Sanctuary

The first floor of the Sanctuary comprises three main sections: the narthex, nave, and chancel suite. The narthex at the west end of the building has a set of historic terrazzo stairs leading up from the main entrance. A non-historic glass vestibule surrounds the stairs. A semi-circle of historic terrazzo surrounds

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the vestibule and the rest of the narthex is floor is non-historic carpet. The walls and ceiling are historic plaster. A small non-historic kitchenette is south of the vestibule and a non-historic elevator is on the north side of the narthex.

A historic vestibule for the tower entrance is north of the narthex. A second historic vestibule for the south entrance is south of the narthex. Both vestibules have historic terrazzo floors, and historic concrete stairs with iron handrails that lead up to the choir loft (Photo 14). In the tower, a hatch in the second-floor ceiling provides access to a storage area below the belfry.

The narthex is separated from the nave by a historic wood partition wall with three-by-five stained-glass shared-light windows (Photo 10). A pair of historic wood paneled doors is in the center of the wall. The nave is a large open space with a ribbed-arch ceiling (Photo 11). Historic pendant light fixtures and non-historic flags are suspended from the ceiling, which is clad in historic acoustic tiles. The walls are historic plaster with painted quoin details around the door and window openings. The floor slopes down to the east. The aisles have non-historic carpet runners. The pews (made by the Manitowoc Church Furniture Company) at the east end of the nave were removed in the 1980s, and non-historic concrete floors were installed throughout the Sanctuary's first floor. Additional seating is in both transepts. Historic wood railings separate the transepts from the nave; these railings were originally modesty panels in front of the first row of pews (Photo 12).

The chancel is at the east end of the nave. A squared-off gothic arch frames the chancel. A set of wood stairs lead into the chancel. The floors are non-historic carpet, the walls are historic plaster, and the ceiling is clad in historic acoustic tiles. Pairs of large gothic-style wood grates are on the north and south walls of the chancel. Historic wood panels are on the north, south, and east sides of the chancel. A walkway runs behind the east panel. A historic wood railing encircles the altar area.

Gothic-arch doorways are on either side of the chancel and lead to the sacristy and pastor's office. A large gothic-style grate is above east door. The sacristy and office have non-historic carpet floors, historic plaster walls, and non-historic acoustic tile ceilings. The sacristy also has a historic built-in bookcase and both rooms have historic paneled wood doors. An organ made by the Wangerin Organ Company supplied the church's pipe organ, which is housed above the sacristy.¹

A choir loft is on the second floor of the Sanctuary (Photos 13 and 15). It has a sloped floor that is clad in non-historic carpet. The walls are historic plaster, and the arched ceiling is clad in acoustic tiles. Rows of historic pews fill the loft, except for the northeast corner which holds the elevator overrun. A non-historic metal railing separates the elevator equipment from the pews. A historic wood rail is at the east end of the loft facing the nave. The remainder of the floor is open to below.

The basement of the Sanctuary holds a large fellowship hall with a kitchen and offices at the east end and bathrooms and storage rooms at the west end. The fellowship hall has historic asbestos-tile floors,

¹ Lang and Raugland, "Description of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church."

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plaster walls, and a tile ceiling (Photo 16). Two rows of square columns run through the hall and a grid of structural beams are expressed on the ceiling. A small stage area is at the west end of the hall, and a non-historic elevator is at the northwest corner.

A kitchen is at the east end of the fellowship hall. It was rehabilitated in the 1960s and has a non-historic concrete floor, historic plaster walls, and non-historic acoustic-tile ceiling. Doorways and shared-light windows are in the partition wall between the kitchen and fellowship hall. The millwork appears to be historic, but the hollow-core wood doors and textured glass are not historic.

Two bathrooms, two storage rooms, and a corridor are at the west end of the basement. The bathrooms have non-historic tile floors and finishes. The corridor has non-historic concrete floors and historic plaster walls and ceiling.

Education Wing

The Education Wing is two stories tall with a finished basement. The basement holds a boiler room, a vault, and a mechanical room. Throughout this level the floors are non-historic vinyl, the walls are historic plaster, and the ceilings are non-historic acoustic tile. The vault has two layers of historic metal doors.

The first floor has a small foyer and two offices, which were installed when the Parish House was constructed in 1953 (Photo 17). The floors are non-historic vinyl, and the walls and ceilings are plaster. The partition walls for the offices are not historic. On the second floor, the Education Wing holds two classrooms and an office (Photo 18). The floors are historic asbestos tile, the walls are plaster, and the ceilings are non-historic acoustic tile.

Parish House

The Parish House is two stories tall with a basement. Double-loaded corridors run east-west through each floor. The corridors are slightly off-center and the rooms on the south side of the hall are larger than those to the north. In the basement, a utility room is at the east end of the hall, a gymnasium and classrooms are on the south side, and bathrooms and storage rooms are on the north side. The gymnasium has a lower floor level than the rest of the basement (Photo 19). The floors are asbestos tile, the walls are concrete block, and the ceilings are non-historic acoustic tiles. A set of historic concrete stairs are along the north wall. The east storage room has non-historic tile floors, wood paneling on the walls, and a dropped acoustic-tile ceiling. Throughout the rest of the basement, the floors are historic concrete, the walls are concrete-block, and the ceilings are plaster.

On the first floor, a large assembly room with movable partition walls is on the south side of the hall with a small chapel and offices at the southwest corner. A kitchen is at the east end of the hall, and a copy room, bathrooms, and office are on the north side of the hall. Throughout the floor, the floors are historic asbestos tile and the walls and ceiling are historic plaster. A historic brick fireplace is on the east wall of the assembly room and the movable partition walls are wood (Photos 20-21).

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The second floor of the Parish House has three classrooms and offices on the south side of the corridor, and bathrooms, offices, and storage rooms to the north. Throughout the second floor, the floors are historic asbestos tile, and the walls and ceiling are historic plaster.

Circulation

There are five sets of staircases and one elevator in Calvary Lutheran Church. In the Sanctuary, the north stair is in the bell tower and the south stair is in the south entrance bay. Both stairs are historic and run from the basement to the choir loft. Both stairs have concrete structures with decorative iron handrails. A non-historic elevator is on the north wall of the narthex and runs from grade to the choir loft. The Education Wing has one stair that runs from the basement to the second floor. The stairs are concrete and have plaster sidewalls with wood rails. The Parish House has two stairs, one at the east end of the north wall and the second at the northwest corner. Both stairs are historic and have steel structures and handrails.

Integrity

Calvary Lutheran Church retains excellent historic integrity. The Sanctuary, Education Wing, and Parish House have not been moved from their original site and retain integrity of location. The property also retains strong integrity of design. The character-defining arched windows, stone details, and ornate entrances have been preserved. On the exterior, the secondary entrance on the east wall was expanded in 1965 and an accessible entrance was constructed on the north wall for a new elevator in 1999. The circulation and volume of the interior spaces in all three building sections have not been substantially altered since the end of the period of significance. Interior alterations were carried out in 1961 to renovate the kitchen and in 1967 to provide a bathroom, nursery, and office by the gymnasium. An elevator was constructed in 1999. In the Parish Hall, the second-floor corridor was extended to the west end of the floor, slightly changing the dimension of one classroom. A small classroom or storage room on the north side of the hall has been subdivided into two spaces. These changes have not substantially impacted the building's integrity, and it continues to convey its significance under Criterion C.

The building's exceptional integrity of design supports its integrity of workmanship and materials. The property retains its original stained-glass windows, its characteristic tan brick and buff stone walls and English Gothic details that illustrate the skill of the building's mason and contractor A. E. Rydlun and Company. The Sanctuary also retains much of its interior finishes, including stained glass windows and decorative woodwork. The historic terrazzo floors in the narthex and Sanctuary stairs have been retained, as has the historic tile floors in the Sanctuary basement, the Education Wing, and the Parish House. Non-historic carpet and concrete floors have been installed in the Sanctuary. Historic plaster walls are extant throughout all building sections. Historic plaster and tile ceilings are also intact throughout the building.

Calvary Lutheran Church retains its historic integrity of setting. The church was built as a neighborhood church to serve the growing Swedish American community in South Minneapolis during the early twentieth century. It is in a residential neighborhood filled with single-family houses and small-scale apartment buildings that continue to comprise the church's setting. Phelps Field Park, directly west

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across Chicago Avenue was present during the period of significance and continues to contribute to Calvary Lutheran's setting.

The property's strong integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and setting contribute to its integrity of feeling and association. The Sanctuary and Parish House continue to be used for their original purposes and effectively communicate its history as a religious property.

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Summary Paragraph

Calvary Lutheran Church is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a leading example of the work of prominent and prolific Minneapolis architecture firm Lang and Raugland. The property also meets Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties and has been evaluated on its secular, architectural merits.

Lang and Raugland were “one of the most successful architectural practices in Minneapolis.”² Their deep portfolio included private residences, schools, libraries, and dozens of churches for small- to medium-size Protestant congregations. Founded in 1922, the firm worked primarily in the English Gothic Revival style when designing churches, especially during their first three decades of business. Within their body of work, Calvary Lutheran Church is a leading example of Lang and Raugland’s sophistication of design and the property retains excellent historic integrity. Lang and Raugland also excelled in designing auxiliary church buildings such as parish halls, and their 1953 design for the Calvary Lutheran Parish House is a good example of their work in this property type. All building sections used the same palette of materials and ornamentation creating an architecturally unified whole that displays Lang and Raugland’s skill as architects of twentieth-century neighborhood churches.

Calvary Lutheran’s period of significance begins in 1930 with the church’s construction and ends in 1953 with the completion of the Parish House.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Churches in Minneapolis

Minneapolis’s mid-nineteenth-century churches were humble buildings, often one story tall and constructed of wood. Many were designed in the Gothic Revival style, which was experiencing a resurgence in popularity thanks to prominent East Coast architects and pattern books promoting the style. In Minneapolis’s first decades, churches were built alongside residences, commercial buildings, and industrial properties in the compact city core. These early churches were confined to small lots and typically did not include space for the educational and social functions that would later become a necessary part of ecclesiastical architecture.³

As Minneapolis grew, land uses separated into distinct areas and the city physically expanded into new neighborhoods to serve the increasing population. This growth was driven by an influx of new immigrants from Europe who worked at the local mills and manufacturing plants. Over half of the city’s residents were affiliated with a church and the increase in population led to the construction of new churches throughout Minneapolis. By 1880, thirteen denominations had built fifty-nine churches in the city. The location, faith, and demographics of churches mapped the growth of Minneapolis.⁴

² Alan K. Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 180.

³ Thomas Zahn, “Context: Religion, 1850-1950,” in “Preservation Plan for the City of Minneapolis,” 1991, City of Minneapolis.

⁴ Zahn, “Context: Religion, 1850-1950.”

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The Lutheran Church expanded significantly with the increase of Scandinavian and German immigrants after the Civil War, and many new churches were built in the North, Northeast, and South Minneapolis neighborhoods. Minneapolis residents wanted their churches to be within walking distance, which led to the construction of dozens of neighborhood churches across the city. In 1900, there were thirty-three Lutheran churches in Minneapolis with 11,918 members. By 1920, that number had grown to seventy-nine congregations with over 40,000 members.⁵

Lutheran congregations often organized along ethnic lines and most held services, Sunday schools, and social activities in the congregation's native tongue. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, however, there was increasing division in many communities about the use of English in worship. Advocates of retaining native languages, often first-generation Americans, insisted that it was a means of maintaining cultural customs, while younger generations of Lutherans argued for the use of "the language of the land and their everyday lives" in their churches.⁶

Rapid urbanization occurred in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as young Lutherans left Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, or German-speaking rural communities for the Twin Cities, increasing the pressure on Lutheran synods to resolve the linguistic dilemma. Churches recognized that young Lutherans were often moving to other churches that spoke in English or abandoning the church entirely. In the 1880s and 1890s, members of established churches broke off to form new English-speaking congregations, often by starting a mission or a Sunday School.⁷

Calvary Lutheran

At this time in South Minneapolis, Saint Paul's Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was grappling with this question of language. It was the third Scandinavian Lutheran church in the city when it was organized in 1872, and its services were held in Swedish. Pressure from members moved the church to hold two services per month in English in 1898, but a substantial contingent of parishioners was dissatisfied with that limited offering. Those who wanted English services coalesced around Saint Paul's Sunday school, which was organized in 1911. The church purchased a property at Chicago Avenue and Thirty-ninth Street and built a small chapel for the school.⁸

In 1923, the Sunday school separated from its mother church and became an independent congregation called Calvary Lutheran Church. The new church purchased the property and all of its furnishings from Saint Paul's later that year. At the time, Calvary Lutheran had 212 members and 66 children enrolled in the Sunday school. By the end of the decade, the church had grown to 550 members with 500 children in the Sunday school, far outstripping the capacity of its chapel. The congregation decided to build a new, larger, modern church, noting that, "The time had come when it was felt by the Congregation that we

⁵ Zahn, "Context: Religion, 1850-1950."

⁶ Ray F. Kibler III, "The Lutheran Bible Institute and the Augustana Synod," *Lutheran Quarterly* 24 (2010), 101,102.

⁷ Kibler, "The Lutheran Bible Institute and the Augustana Synod," 101, 102; Zahn, "Context: Religion, 1850-1950."

⁸ "Twenty-fifth Anniversary, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota 1923-1948," Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul; "Our History," accessed April 19, 2021, <http://www.stpaulsevlutheran.org/our-history>.

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could no longer wait with our Building Project. The Sunday School situation demanded immediate consideration as did also the crowded condition at the regular public worship.”⁹

The church elected a building committee in 1929 to spearhead the new construction. The committee was authorized to allocate \$40,000 to the new church and the congregation promised another \$80,000 in bonds. The committee selected local architects Lang and Raugland to design the new church with an attached education wing for the Sunday school. To gain the space needed for the project, Calvary Lutheran purchased and demolished the house at 3909 Chicago Avenue South.¹⁰

Lang and Raugland designed the building in early 1930 and presented plans to the building committee on April 16. Before selecting a contractor, the congregation and architects had to decide on an exterior material. Lang and Raugland originally designed the church to have random ashlar limestone walls, but the exterior material was changed to tan brick with stone accents at the request of the committee. Contractor A. E. Rydlun and Company was hired for the project because of their experience with masonry.¹¹

Calvary Lutheran had an accelerated timeline for the construction—it wanted the new church to be open in time for Christmas service in 1930. Demolition of the chapel began on May 21, 1930, and took longer than expected. The *Minneapolis Star* covered the construction and noted that “progress has been delayed by the unexpected long time necessitated to wreck the old edifice.” The congregation held services in the Seventh Ward Community House during construction.¹²

The cornerstone for the new church was laid on July 20, 1930, beginning a very hot summer construction season. A Bible and other sacred texts were placed in the cornerstone during a ceremony that included speeches from the congregation’s new pastor and prominent church members. A. E. Rydlun and Company met the ambitious construction schedule and the new Calvary Lutheran Church opened on December 21, 1930. A short dedication ceremony was part of the inaugural service. The church was designed to suit Calvary Lutheran’s mid-sized congregation. At the time, the largest Minneapolis churches had 1,200-3,000 members and Calvary Lutheran was built to hold 750 in the nave with an additional 50 in the choir loft. The Sanctuary measured 55' wide by 113' long with a 41' long Sunday school wing.¹³

⁹ “St. Paul Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, To the Public,” February 14, 1923, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis; “Twenty-fifth Anniversary, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota 1923-1948”; “The Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dedication Festivities,” 1930, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

¹⁰ “The Calvary Lutheran Church, MinSaint Pauneapolis, Minnesota, Dedication Festivities”; *Insurance Maps of Minneapolis Minnesota, Volume 5* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1930), sheet 516.

¹¹ “The Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dedication Festivities”; Drawings for Calvary Lutheran Church, 1930, Lang and Raugland Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Building Permit Index Card, 3901 Chicago Avenue South, City of Minneapolis.

¹² “Work on Church Will Begin Soon,” *Minneapolis Star*, May 16, 1930.

¹³ Lang and Raugland, “Description of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota,” in “The Calvary Lutheran,” Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

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Lang and Raugland

Lang and Raugland was founded in 1922 by Oscar Lang, Arnold Raugland, and Carroll Lewis. As a firm, they were “one of the most successful architectural practices in Minneapolis,” according to architectural historian Alan Lathrop. Their portfolio shows a deep roster of church designs, including parsonages and parish houses, along with several schools and residences. The majority of their projects were built in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and fewer were constructed in outstate Minnesota or the upper Midwest. Throughout their years of operation from 1922-1996, Lang and Raugland was based in and worked frequently in Minneapolis.¹⁴

The three original partners had individual skills that complemented each other, creating a firm that was a “completely independent operation.” Lang was the chief designer and prepared the architectural plans for the firm’s projects. Arnold Raugland specialized in reinforced concrete and steel, and designed the buildings’ structural systems. Carroll Lewis planned all of the mechanical systems and rounded out the firm’s suite of services. Lewis left the practice in 1929 to work in the air conditioning industry, but after his departure, “Lang and Raugland continued their very successful business for several decades.”¹⁵

The founding partners came from families that were part of Minneapolis’s nineteenth-century wave of Scandinavian immigration. Oscar Lang was born in Minneapolis in 1888, to Swedish immigrant parents. He was educated in Sweden and at the University of Pennsylvania, and earned acclaim early in his career when he won first prize in a Minneapolis Architectural Club competition with his design of a fountain. Lang and his wife Alice were well known and connected among Minneapolis’s Swedish society. Lang worked as a draftsman for Cecil B. Chapman; Hewitt and Brown; Long, Lamoreaux and Long; and the Minneapolis Board of Education before founding his own architectural firm—originally known as Lang, Raugland and Lewis—in 1922 at the age of thirty-four.¹⁶

Arnold Raugland, born in Minneapolis in 1893, earned his engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. Like Lang, Raugland’s family hailed from Scandinavia; his father was a Norwegian immigrant and his mother was a second-generation Norwegian American. Raugland and his wife Dorothy frequently appeared in newspapers’ society pages, and often socialized with other prominent Twin Cities architects. Raugland partnered with Lang to found their new firm when he was twenty-nine, after working for several Minneapolis engineering and architecture offices and serving in a U.S. Army engineering unit during World War I.¹⁷

By the end of their careers, Oscar Lang and Arnold Raugland were well-regarded among their peers. Both partners were elected to leadership positions within the Minneapolis chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Raugland was voted president in 1944. He also won a merit award from the Church Architecture Guild of America in 1960. Lang was elected an officer in 1952 and became a

¹⁴ “Church Projects,” Lang and Raugland Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects*, 180.

¹⁵ “Church Projects,” Lang and Raugland Papers; Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects*, 180.

¹⁶ “Architectural Club Holds Competition for Designs,” *Minneapolis Tribune*, March 14, 1915.

¹⁷ Minnesota Death Certificate 1966-MN-021917 (August 22, 1966), Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul; “Raugland to Speak,” *Minneapolis Tribune*, January 9, 1944; Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects*, 180.

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Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1955. Lang also served as the director of the Minnesota Society of Architects, underscoring the firm's positive reputation among peers. After Lang died in 1960 and Raugland in 1966, their firm was carried on by a second generation of partners until it closed in 1992.¹⁸

Despite decades of skilled designs, Lang and Raugland's work is not well represented on the National Register of Historic Places. Only two properties designed by the firm are listed: the Worthington Armory and Community Building in Worthington, Minnesota, and the Black Building in Fargo, North Dakota. Neither is listed under Criterion C as an example of the firm's work.

A Portfolio of Churches

After opening their architecture and engineering firm, Lang, Raugland, and Lewis won commissions for new church designs straight away. The firm primarily designed Lutheran churches, along with some for other Protestant denominations. Both Lang and Raugland were practicing Lutherans and it was common at the time for architects to design churches for congregations of their same faith.¹⁹

Lang and Raugland favored the English Gothic Revival style for their church designs. Gothic revival styles were popular among Protestant faiths, whereas other denominations favored Romanesque and Greek Revival. Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram was widely influential in boosting the Gothic Revival's popularity across the country. Locally, his design for the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in Saint Paul, and a handful of high-style Gothic Revival churches constructed by other architects between 1905 and 1915, made the style synonymous with ecclesiastical architecture. Gothic revival styles lent themselves well to churches, especially for small and mid-size congregations. It could be well expressed in easily obtained materials and "len[t] itself well to inexpensive building." For smaller and less wealthy congregations, architects such as Lang and Raugland simplified the style onto smaller forms with more modest ornamentation.²⁰

Lang and Raugland's earliest church—First Congregational Church in Hutchinson (31 Fourth Avenue Southwest, 1923)—was a small-scale English Gothic church. The red-brick building had a squat, recessed tower and restrained stone details around its rectangular window openings. With each church design, Lang and Raugland gained confidence with the English Gothic style and included more expressive and intricate ornamentation. Their second church project, Calvary Episcopal Church in Waseca (300 East Elm Avenue, 1925), had more elaborate stone tracery in the chancel window and included a freestanding stone cross at the top of the nave's gabled parapet wall, which would become a hallmark of Lang and Raugland's churches.²¹

¹⁸ *American Architects Directory* (New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1962), 575; "Armstrong Heads Architect Institute," *Minneapolis Star*, May 26, 1952; "Raugland to Speak," *Minneapolis Tribune*, January 9, 1944.

¹⁹ Alan K. Lathrop, *Churches of Minnesota: An Illustrated Guide* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003), xxii.

²⁰ Richard W. E. Perrin, "Pointed Arches and Buttressed Walls: Gothic Stylism in Wisconsin Architecture," *Wisconsin History* 47 no. 3 (Spring 1964): 238-248; Lathrop, *Churches of Minnesota*, xxii; F. Daniel Robb, "The Small Church," *The Brickbuilder* 23 no. 10 (October 1914): 233-238.

²¹ "Church Projects," Lang and Raugland Papers; Google Street View Imagery, accessed April 2021.

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By the end of the 1920s, Lang and Raugland were designing large and elaborate English Gothic churches and had settled on a form and architectural vocabulary that they would use for nearly all of their designs in this style. Minnehaha Lutheran Church (4101 Thirty-seventh Avenue South, 1925) and Church of the Redeemer (1800 Glenwood Avenue, 1928), both in Minneapolis, featured prominent anchor towers. Bethlehem Lutheran Church (4100 Lyndale Avenue South, 1928) and Saint John's Lutheran Church (4842 Nicollet Avenue South, 1929) were the largest the firm had designed to date and included more complex rooflines and elaborate gothic-arch windows along the nave. Lang and Raugland also completed the first out-of-state commission during this period, the First Presbyterian Church in Fargo, North Dakota (1929).²²

Each successful design raised the firm's profile and bolstered their reputation as skilled ecclesiastical architects. Their work frequently appeared in architectural publications such as *Western Architect*. Several of the firm's designs were featured in a guide called *Planning and Financing the New Church*, and their churches were praised for providing space for the social and educational needs of the membership. The firm was lauded for their ability to provide "a maximum of facilities for a minimum cost," which was a key reason why many neighborhood congregations hired them.²³

Calvary Lutheran's Place in the Portfolio

Calvary Lutheran Church was one of the last churches Lang and Raugland designed before the Great Depression sidelined building projects across the country. When the new edifice opened in 1930, it demonstrated Lang and Raugland's dexterity with the English Gothic style. The church had a cruciform plan with a prominent anchor tower at the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Thirty-ninth Street. A freestanding stone cross was at the peak of the gable parapet wall on the west facade. The dominant decorative feature on Calvary Lutheran Church was its large Gothic-arch windows on each facade. Quoining along the sides of the openings added another layer of decoration. Each window held stained-glass panels designed by local firm Weston and Leighton with iconography specific to the congregation. In the chancel, an antique mosaic stained-glass window with three crosses symbolizing a calvary was installed facing the congregation. The window contained over 6,000 pieces of glass tinted with "varying hues, depths and textures" to create a dynamic composition.²⁴

On the interior, the church was decorated with stained oak panels in the chancel, including an ornate reredos behind the altar. The walls were plaster with travertine stone surrounding the windows (extant, but painted) and the arched ceiling was treated with Acousti-Celotex to improve the church's acoustics. The floors were clad in brown and tan Tile-tex, an asphalt-asbestos product. Rows of pews from the Manitowoc Church Furniture Company flanked the center aisle. The Wangerin Organ Company supplied a pipe organ, which was housed above the sacristy.²⁵

The growing Sunday school was one of the primary reasons why Calvary Lutheran embarked upon the new building project. The new education wing provided classroom space for the school, meeting space

²² "Church Projects," Lang and Raugland Papers; Google Street View Imagery, accessed April 2021.

²³ Martin Anderson, *Planning and Financing the New Church*, 4th Ed. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1949), 112.

²⁴ "The Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dedication Festivities."

²⁵ Lang and Raugland, "Description of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church."

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for the church board, and utility and storage space for the church. The basement held mechanical rooms and equipment, along with a vault for safe storage. The first floor was left open to serve as a “Cradle Roll Room”—a classroom and nursery for the youngest Sunday school attendees. The second floor held a board room north of the stairwell for the church’s administration, and a Sunday school classroom was south of the stair.²⁶

To the congregation, Lang and Raugland’s design represented “the mighty strength with Battlements that call to mind the battle cry of the Church of the Reformation, ‘A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.’” Pairs of lancet arches were on each face of the tower for the belfry. Buff-stone details decorated the tower, including corbeling and dentils at its top.²⁷

Contemporary Church Architects

Lang and Raugland were one of a small set of architecture firms that designed churches for the Minneapolis’s small and mid-sized congregations. Several firms dabbled in ecclesiastical architecture, but church designs did not comprise a significant portion of their work. The largest and most high-style churches in Minneapolis were designed by architects, both out-of-state and Minnesota-based, that had national reputations. Neighborhood churches, however, were designed by local mainstay firms who made church designs a substantial part of their portfolio.²⁸

Along with Lang and Raugland, three other architecture firms were designing neighborhood churches at a similar rate: Liebenberg and Kaplan, Bard and Vanderbilt, and Thorshov and Cerny. Liebenberg and Kaplan opened a year ahead of Lang and Raugland in 1921. The company was founded by Jack Liebenberg and Seeman Kaplan and was active until Liebenberg’s retirement in 1973. The firm designed approximately two dozen Protestant churches and Jewish temples across Minneapolis but is primarily known for its Art Deco theaters constructed across Minnesota. Their church designs dabbled in several different styles including Classical Revival, Romanesque, and Modern.²⁹

Bard and Vanderbilt was founded in 1929 by Joseph V. Vanderbilt and Carl Bard. The firm designed scores of churches, residences, and libraries during the 1930s and 1940s. For their churches, Bard and Vanderbilt pulled frequently from the Mission and Spanish Revival styles. They experimented with forms to design churches such as Saint Austin Catholic Church (3800 Washburn Avenue North, Minneapolis, razed), which was called “the most peculiar church ever built in the Twin Cities.” Like Lang and Raugland, they also used traditional and revival styles for several of their ecclesiastical designs.³⁰

²⁶ Drawings for Calvary Lutheran Church, 1930; Building Permit Index Card, 3901 Chicago Avenue South, City of Minneapolis.

²⁷ Lang and Raugland, “Description of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church.”

²⁸ “Context: Religion, 1850-1950,” City of Minneapolis.

²⁹ Liebenberg and Kaplan Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Larry Millet, *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2007), 303.

³⁰ Joseph V. Vanderbilt Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Millet, *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities*, 303.

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In the post-war era, Thorshov and Cerny designed several neighborhood churches. The firm succeeded Long, Lamoreaux, and Long after Olaf Thorshov joined in 1920. His son, Roy Thorshov, became a partner in 1942 followed by Robert Cerny in 1951. Most of the firm's church designs were completed in the 1950s and 1960s before Thorshov and Cerny dissolved their partnership. The firm worked in a wide variety of styles, including Classical Revival, Gothic Revival, and Modern. Cerny continued to design churches with his later firm, Cerny and Associates, including the Modern Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel at Macalester College (1967-1968).³¹

The Modern Church

After World War II, church architecture moved into Modern styles and the "near demise of Gothic and Renaissance motifs." In Minneapolis, Eliel Saarinen's design for Christ Church Lutheran in 1949 was heavily influential in moving local church architecture away from traditional and revival styles. Lang and Raugland had initially been hired to design Christ Church Lutheran, but rapidly rising construction costs during the war pushed the project out of budget and their design was not built. Saarinen's later design was distinctly Modern and featured a streamlined tower with a stylized belfry. Saarinen felt that architecture had "become the business of crowding obsolete and meaningless stylistic decoration onto a building's surface," and he deliberately avoided the applied ornamentation seen in traditional architectural styles, including English Gothic Revival. His design eschewed traditional ornamentation in favor of simple forms and low massing for the nave and attached parish hall.³²

After 1948, Lang and Raugland designed churches in Modern styles and adopted forms and features similar to Christ Church Lutheran. Emmaus Lutheran Church (1074 Idaho Avenue West, 1948) in Saint Paul used mansard and folded-plate roofs and eliminated windows along the nave. Their designs for Trinity Lutheran Church (315 East Mill, 1953) in Pelican Rapids and Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church (4150 Dupont Avenue North, 1954) in Minneapolis borrowed their stylized towers directly from Christ Church Lutheran.³³

The firm occasionally returned to the English Gothic style for post-war churches including Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian (3501 Aldrich Avenue South, 1952) in Minneapolis and Zion Lutheran Church (241 Fifth Avenue North, 1950) in Hopkins. These designs were less ornate than their earlier work from the 1920s and 1930s. They had simplified shapes, particularly at the windows and tracery, and minimal ornamentation at the windows, doors, and towers. In general, Lang and Raugland's designs from this period were less sophisticated than their earlier work and did not fully represent the firm's skill in religious architecture.³⁴

³¹ Thorshov and Cerny, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Millet, *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities*, 34.

³² Rolf. T. Anderson, "Christ Church Lutheran," National Register Nomination, 2001, at Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Saint Paul; "Context: Religion, 1850-1950," City of Minneapolis.

³³ "Church Projects," Lang and Raugland Papers; Google Street View Imagery, accessed April 2021.

³⁴ "Church Projects," Lang and Raugland Papers; Google Street View Imagery, accessed April 2021.

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Expanding into Parish Halls

Lang and Raugland continued to use traditional and revival architectural styles for parish halls and additions, which became an increasingly large part of their workload in the 1950s and 1960s. Churches across the country saw increased attendance after World War II and during the following baby boom as American families grew. Many of the neighborhood churches that had been constructed in the early 1900s no longer had adequate space for community and educational programs that were an important part of their programming. Post-war families were also willing to donate more money to their parishes; each year broke the previous year's record for parishioner contributions which were used to fund "massive capital projects and church building campaigns." This was the heyday of the "seven-day-a-week church," and congregations routinely held Bible studies, communal meals, service projects, and other recreational and social activities, all of which required more space.³⁵

Between 1946 and 1963, Lang and Raugland designed thirty-seven parish halls and additions. They were frequently called in to expand the churches they had originally designed. Even more often, Lang and Raugland was brought in to design parish houses and additions for churches designed by other firms. Lang and Raugland was well suited to this type of project. In addition to churches, the firm routinely designed schools and was deft in planning educational spaces. They frequently used the Collegiate Gothic style for these projects. Gullixson Hall at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul is among the most high-style examples of their work in this property type.³⁶

While often unassuming and secondary to the sanctuary buildings, parish halls needed to be carefully laid out to meet the needs of the congregation. *Planning and Financing the New Church* released a new edition after requests for more guidance on parish halls. Their second piece of advice, only behind identifying the needs for the space, was to "select a competent architect. . . . If an unfortunate choice is made, nothing can save the project from distressing results"³⁷

Calvary Lutheran began planning for a new parish hall in the late 1940s. The church needed more space for its Sunday school, meetings, and community fellowship. Calvary Lutheran's Sunday school was organized into primary, intermediate, junior, and senior "departments," and had confirmed over 800 children since the new church was built in 1930. The limited classroom space in the Education Wing no longer met the congregation's needs. The fellowship hall in the basement of the Sanctuary had a low ceiling height, was subdivided by rows of columns, and was not well suited to large gatherings or activities. Calvary Lutheran also had a variety of ministries and administrative boards that met regularly at the church and had to share the one boardroom on the second floor of the Education Wing.³⁸

³⁵ Benjamin E. Zeller, "American Postwar 'Big Religion': Reconceptualizing Twentieth-Century American Religion Using Big Science as a Model," *Church History* 80, no. 2 (June 2011): 330; Gretchen Buggeln, *The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in Postwar America* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015), xiii.

³⁶ "Church Projects," Lang and Raugland Papers; Google Street View Imagery, accessed April 2021; "Gullixson Hall," Minnesota History/Architecture Inventory Form No. RA-SPC-0739, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Saint Paul.

³⁷ Anderson, *Planning and Financing the New Church*, 91.

³⁸ "Twenty-fifth Anniversary, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota 1923-1948."

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The congregation hired Lang and Raugland to prepare plans for the new addition in 1947, and then put construction on hold while it prepared the site. To make room for the Parish House, the church bought the house at 3913 Chicago Avenue and sold it to the highest bidder who would move it off site. After the site was in hand, the church allocated \$100,000 for the Parish House construction—\$75,000 in cash and \$25,000 in pledges. The Parish House was constructed in 1953.³⁹

Lang and Raugland's design for the Calvary Lutheran Parish House drew on the architectural vocabulary of the Sanctuary. It used the same variegated brick for the exterior and the window openings had stone surrounds with quoin details, matching the 1930 building. The secondary entrance at the west end of the north wall also pulled directly from the architecture of the Sanctuary and used similar recessed, paneled wood doors with a stone surround. Lang and Raugland sensitively attached the addition to the south wall of the Education Wing. This created a small courtyard between the Sanctuary and Parish House and prevented the new construction from damaging or visually impacting the original design of the church. Both building sections were fully expressed and illustrated Lang and Raugland's skill in designing churches and their associated parish halls, two of their major project types.⁴⁰

Lang and Raugland's interior layout for the Parish Hall was designed to meet the church's need for more classroom and meeting space with a focus on flexibility. Classrooms on all levels provided ample space for each Sunday school department and the ministries and boards. On the first and second floors, most of the classrooms on the south side of the corridor were divided by folding partition walls, which could be opened to create more space for larger groups and activities. A gymnasium was in the basement and had a higher ceiling height and more open space than the fellowship hall.⁴¹

The interior of the Parish Hall used simple materials—concrete block, plaster, asbestos-tile flooring—to meet the church's budget. The congregation desperately needed more space, but the Board of Administration and the building committee were committed to the project's \$100,000 total budget. Lang and Raugland's ability to meet the programming needs of a congregation without going over budget was one of their strengths and a reason why the firm was hired by so many small and mid-size churches. Their designs were highlighted in *Planning and Financing the New Church* as good examples of providing "a maximum of facilities for a minimum cost."⁴²

Minor changes were made to the Sanctuary and Education Wing when the Parish House was built. New asphalt-tile flooring and acoustic-tile ceilings were installed in the offices around the chancel. The first floor of the Education Wing—originally left open as a nursery and classroom—was subdivided into smaller classrooms/offices. The basement of the Education Wing continued to serve as mechanical and

³⁹ Board of Administration Meeting Minutes, December 5, 1952, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

⁴⁰ Advertisement, *Minneapolis Star*, August 1, 1953; "Cornerstone Laying at Calvary Sunday," *Minneapolis Star*, August 1, 1953; "Calvary Memorial Parish House," Lang and Raugland, 1947-1953, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

⁴¹ "Calvary Memorial Parish House," Lang and Raugland, 1947-1953, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

⁴² "Calvary Memorial Parish House," drawings by Lang and Raugland, 1953, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis; Anderson, *Planning and Financing the New Church*, 112.

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storage space, and the second-floor boardroom and classroom were unaltered, aside from creating new doorways between the Education Wing and Parish House.⁴³

After the Parish Hall was built, few changes were made to Calvary Lutheran Church. A parking lot for the church was built in the 1950s after Calvary Lutheran acquired three houses east of the church. In 1961, the basement kitchen was renovated with modern appliances and finishes. In 1965, the rear entrance was expanded from a single door to double doors, and the basement bathrooms were updated in 1968. Regular maintenance was carried out during the 1980s and included repairing the Sanctuary roof with new slate and replacing the flat roofs over the rest of the building. In 1999, an elevator was installed in the building to provide access between the basement and choir loft. An accessible entrance on the north wall was also constructed at this time.⁴⁴

Analysis of Significance

Calvary Lutheran Church was designed and constructed during Lang and Raugland's first decade of practice. The firm produced the majority of its church designs between 1923 and 1950; twenty-nine of their fifty-two church projects were completed during this period. Nearly all churches from this period were designed in the English Gothic style and used a similar vocabulary of form and ornamentation. Their post-war designs experimented with modern styles and exhibited less sophistication compared to their earlier work.

Of Lang and Raugland's English Gothic churches, Calvary Lutheran is among the largest and most ornate. Much of the firm's work in the Twin Cities and in greater Minnesota were smaller in size and more restrained in ornamentation. Calvary Lutheran is among a select group that best demonstrate the firm's skill in ecclesiastic design. Three other properties—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minnehaha Lutheran Church, and Saint John's Lutheran Church—are of a similar size and level of decoration.

Calvary Lutheran Church also retains a high level of historic integrity, unlike many of Lang and Raugland's extant churches. The property's only addition was designed by Lang and Raugland and contributes to its historic significance as a good example of their work designing parish halls. A secondary entrance on the east wall was expanded in 1965, and an accessible entrance was built on the north wall in 1999 when an interior elevator was installed. The property retains its historic, character-defining features including the stained-glass windows with stone tracery, the ornate historic entrances, and the interior decorative woodwork in the narthex, nave, and chancel.

Comparisons

Bethlehem Lutheran Church was constructed in 1926-1928 at 4100 Lyndale Avenue South in Minneapolis. Like Calvary Lutheran, the church was designed in the English Gothic style. It was built using rough-faced ashlar limestone in shades of gray and tan with large Gothic windows. The congregation had deep resources to invest in the building and hired Lang and Raugland to design

⁴³ Drawings for Calvary Lutheran Church, 1930; "Calvary Memorial Parish House," drawings by Lang and Raugland, 1953.

⁴⁴ Clipping, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis; Drawings by Fasth, Hillstrom and Harty, Inc., 1961, Calvary Lutheran Church, Minneapolis; Permit Nos. B391864 (May 24, 1965), B407229 (January 24, 1968), B560556 (September 7, 1988), B0603819 (November 12, 1993), BLDG65921 (June 23, 1999), City of Minneapolis.

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additions in 1953, 1964, and 1979-1980. The additions have nearly doubled the footprint of the original building and are prominently placed, impacting the church's historic integrity. The 1953 addition is three stories tall and attaches to the full width of the west facade. The 1964 and 1979-1980 additions attach to multiple locations on the south facade and create a courtyard. One addition runs nearly flush to the primary east facade and has a substantial impact on the overall character of the building. Also in the early 1970s, several houses south of the church building were purchased and demolished to create a large surface parking lot, which relocated the church's primary entrance to the south. Bethlehem Lutheran has also undergone substantial interior modifications that have impacted the integrity of its design and removed original materials. These changes have substantially compromised Bethlehem Lutheran's integrity and it is no longer a leading representation of Lang and Raugland's work.

Minnehaha Lutheran Church was built in 1925 at 4101 Thirty-seventh Avenue South in Minneapolis. Lang and Raugland designed the church in the English Gothic style using red brick and following their typical form with an anchor tower at the corner beside the main entrance. In 1958, a two-story classroom addition was constructed on the south side of the building, adjoining the southeast transept. This addition was not designed by Lang and Raugland and is distinctly different from the sanctuary building, diminishing its historic integrity. A second, later addition for an accessible entrance is attached to the west end of the south wall. These changes have diminished the building's integrity and it is no longer a good example of Lang and Raugland's work under Criterion C.

Saint John's Lutheran Church was built in 1927 at 12 West Forty-ninth Street in Minneapolis. Like most of their early churches, Lang and Raugland designed Saint John's Lutheran in the English Gothic Revival style. The church was slightly larger than Calvary Lutheran—its foundation measured 119' by 138' compared to Calvary Lutheran's 116' by 113'—and had many of the same architectural details at the entrances and windows. Lang and Raugland did not however, design an anchor tower for Saint John's Lutheran, which was a typical part of their church designs. The church also had simplified tracery in the windows. Two additions have been constructed at Saint John's Lutheran, one in 1947 and a second in 1955. The 1955 addition was designed by Lang and Raugland. Both additions attached to the northeast corner of the original building, facing Nicollet Avenue. The building appears to retain good historic integrity, but because Saint John's Lutheran does not have a tower it is a less fully realized example of Lang and Raugland's ecclesiastical style.

Calvary Lutheran

In contrast to these examples, Calvary Lutheran retains a high degree of historic integrity. The property originally comprised the Sanctuary and Education Wing. The Parish House was designed by Lang and Raugland in 1953 and was sensitively attached to the south end of the Education Wing so that it was secondary to the Sanctuary. This allows both sections to be fully expressed and read independently. The original design of the church is largely unchanged, and the separation between it and the Parish House allows for Lang and Raugland's skill in designing both buildings to be fully expressed.

Calvary Lutheran Church represents Lang and Raugland's skill as architects of neighborhood churches in the early twentieth century. The firm was "one of the most successful architectural practices in Minneapolis" and designed dozens of English Gothic Revival churches. The firm's heyday of church

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design ran from its opening through the late 1940s. Calvary Lutheran is a leading example of Lang and Raugland's work and exhibits the hallmark features of their church designs: an anchor tower, a complex roofline, prominent Gothic arch windows with stone tracery, and stone details around the windows and doors.

In the post-war era, Lang and Raugland designed dozens of parish halls for many expanding congregations, including Calvary Lutheran. Often overlooked, this property type required equal skill and was a substantial part of Lang and Raugland's portfolio. Their design for the Calvary Lutheran Parish House deftly met the congregation's needs and budget. It provided much needed classroom space for the Sunday school, which doubled as meeting space for the church's administration and ministries. The Parish House used the same architectural vocabulary as the Sanctuary and Education Wing—seen in the building's stone details around the window openings, the stylized buttresses, and the arched entrance—creating a unified property that is a good example of Lang and Raugland's body of work.

Calvary Lutheran Church is an excellent example of Lang and Raugland's body of work and is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The property was evaluated on secular merits and meets Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties. It retains excellent historic integrity to communicate its significance.

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Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0001
Calvary Lutheran Church, looking southeast.

Photo 2 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0002
Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary, looking east.

Photo 3 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0005
Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary, looking northeast.

Photo 4 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0006
Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary, looking southwest.

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Photo 5 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0007

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary secondary entrance, looking southeast.

Photo 6 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0009

Calvary Lutheran Church, looking west.

Photo 7 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0011

Calvary Lutheran Church, Parish House, looking southeast.

Photo 8 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0014

Calvary Lutheran Church, Parish House, looking northeast.

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Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0015

Calvary Lutheran Church, looking northeast.

Photo 10 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0016

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary narthex, looking northeast.

Photo 11 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0017

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary nave and chancel, looking east.

Photo 12 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0018

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary nave and transept, looking northeast.

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Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0020

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary nave and choir loft, looking west.

Photo 14 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0023

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary tower stair, looking north.

Photo 15 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0025

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary choir loft, looking southwest.

Photo 16 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0027

Calvary Lutheran Church, Sanctuary basement, looking west.

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Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
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Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0028

Calvary Lutheran Church, Education Wing, first floor, looking south.

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Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0029

Calvary Lutheran Church, Education Wing, second floor, looking northeast.

Photo 19 of 22

Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
State: Minnesota
Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0030

Calvary Lutheran Church, Parish House, looking southwest.

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Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
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Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0031

Calvary Lutheran Church, Parish House, first floor, looking east.

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Name of Property: Calvary Lutheran Church
City or Vicinity: Minneapolis
County: Hennepin County
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Name of Photographer: Rachel Peterson
Date of Photograph: April 2021

MN_Hennepin County_Calvary Lutheran Church_0032

Calvary Lutheran Church, Parish House, first floor, looking southeast.

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Calvary Lutheran Church

3901 Chicago Avenue South

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

UTM Coordinates: Zone 15, 479313.44 E, 4975434.04 N



Property location map

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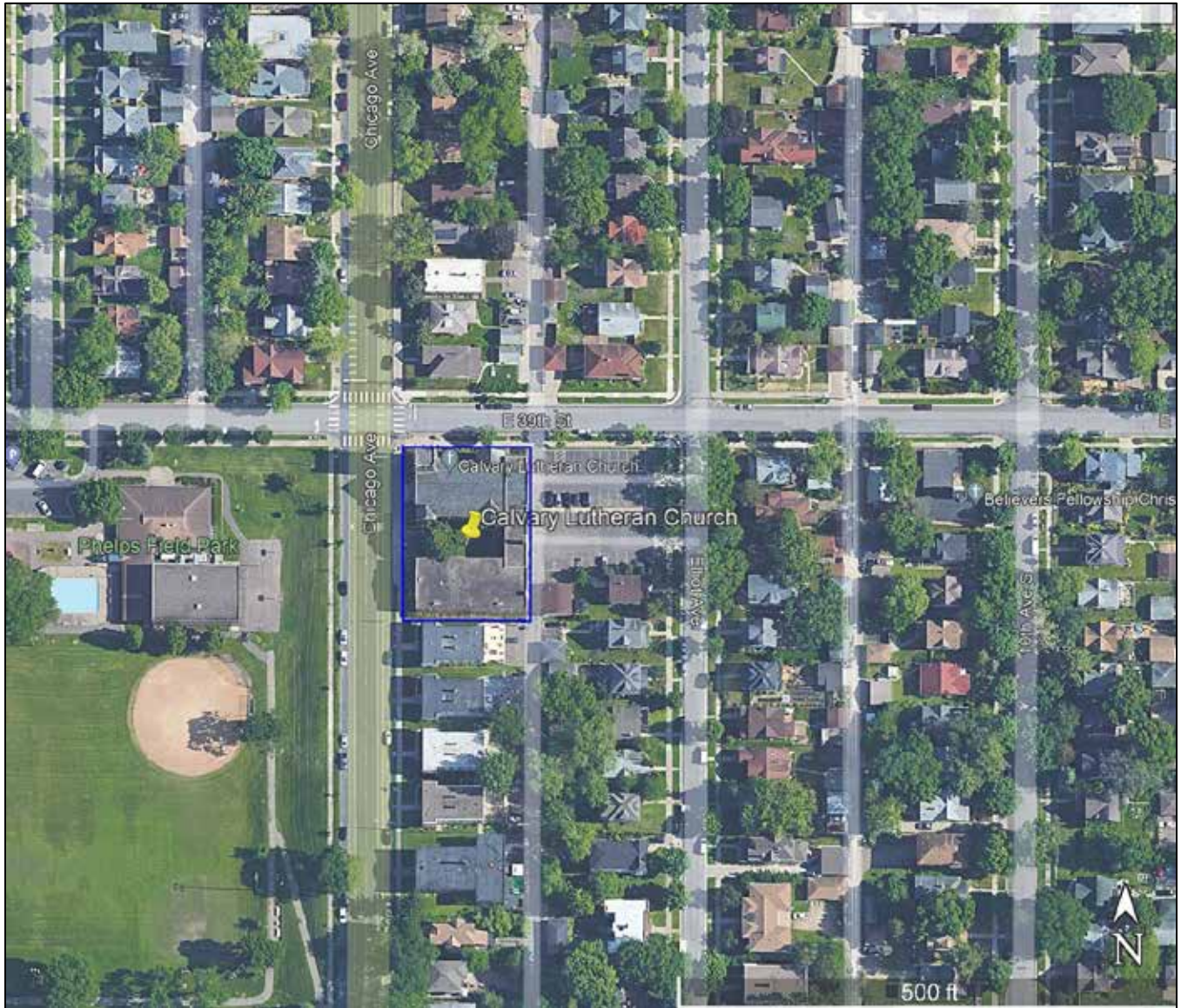
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Map with property boundary highlighted in blue

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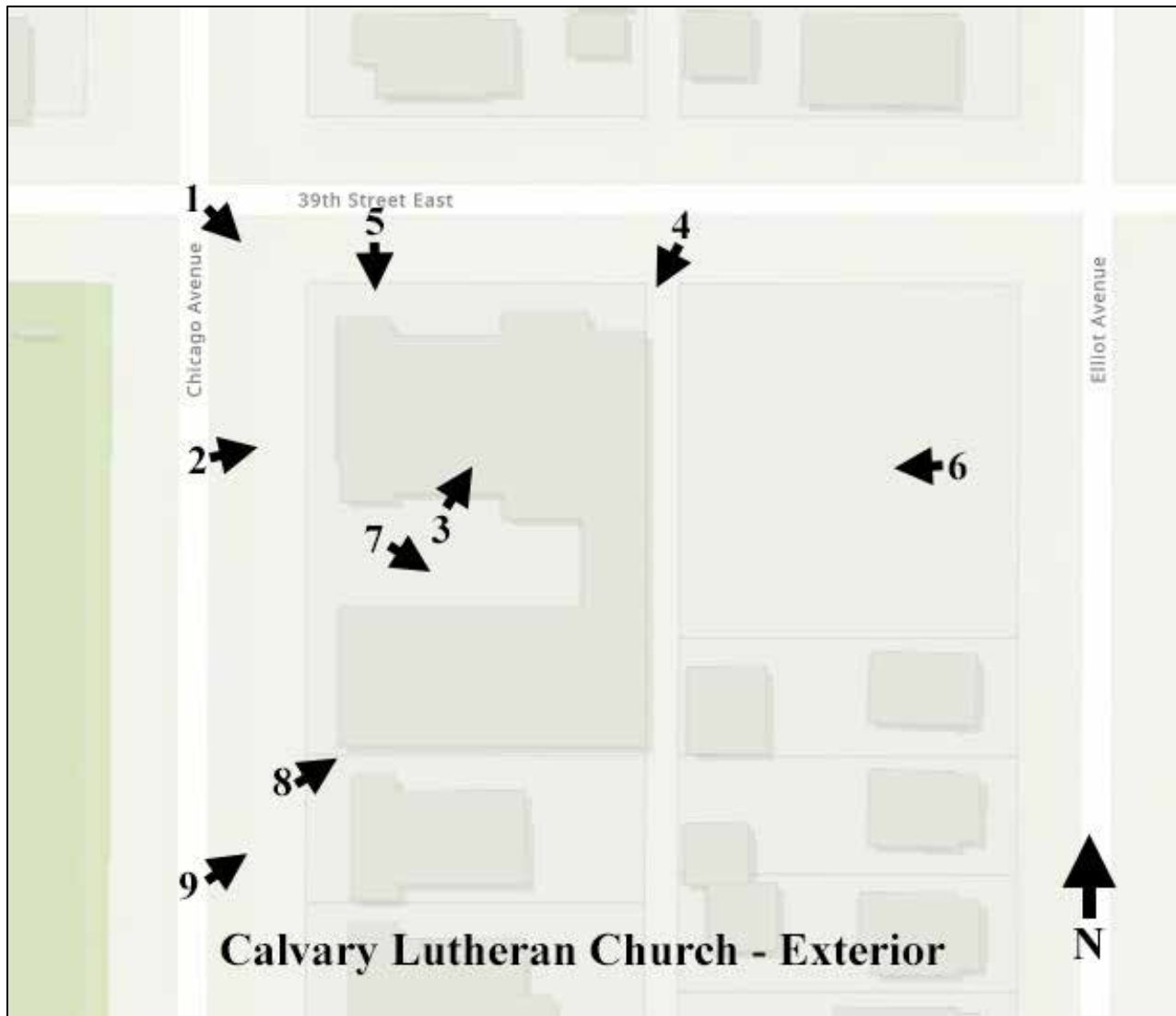
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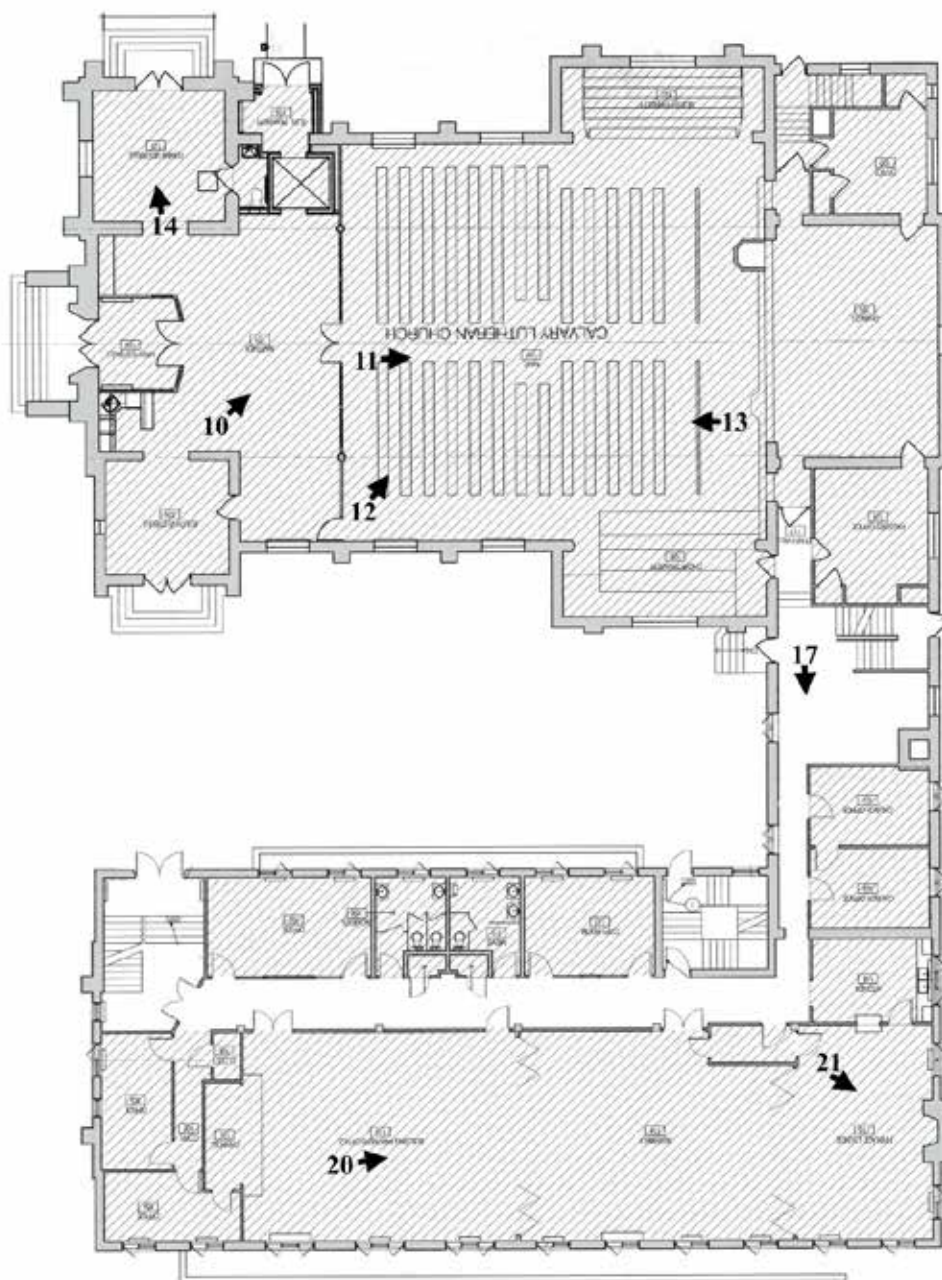
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Calvary Lutheran Church - First Floor



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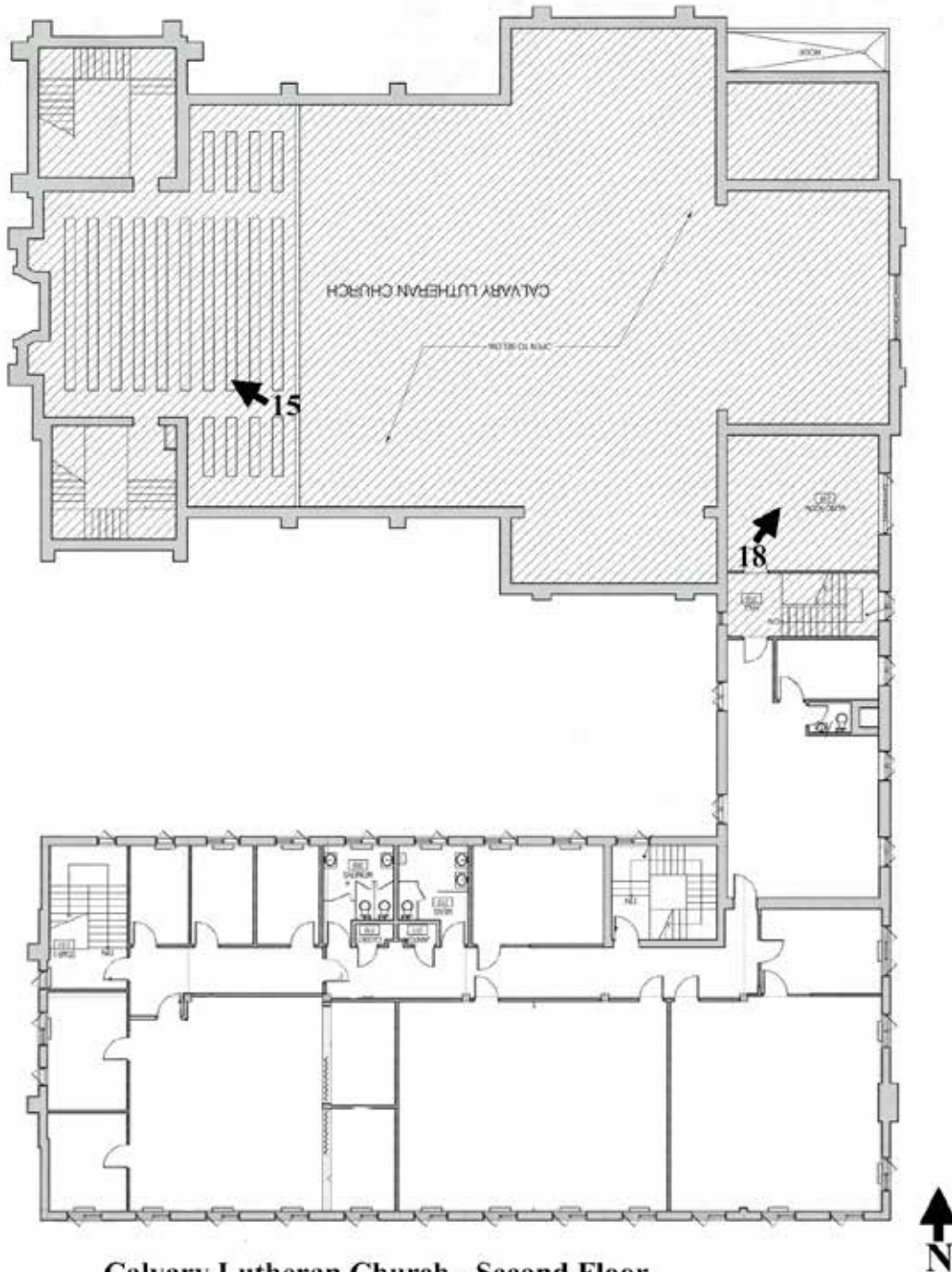
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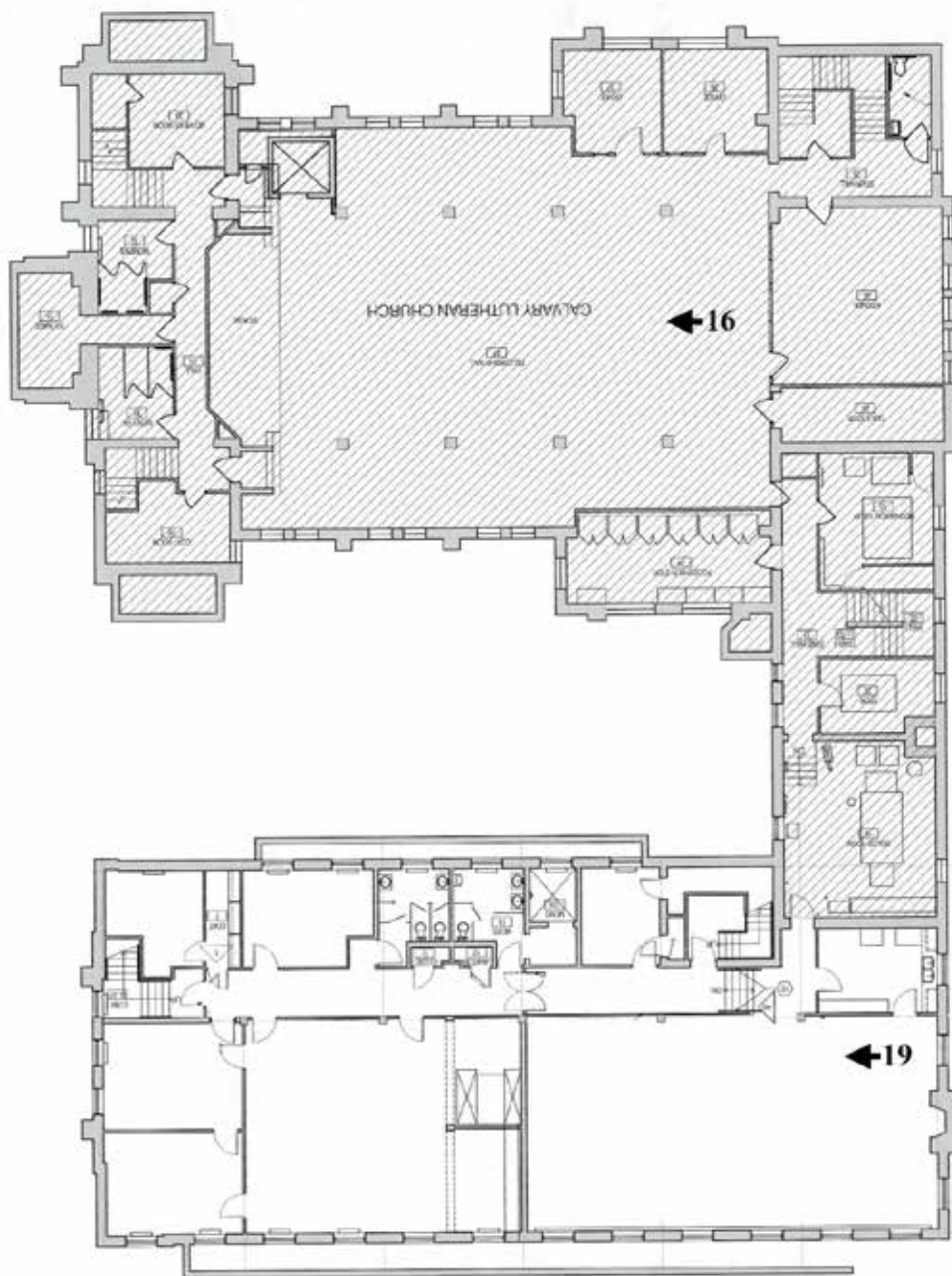
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Calvary Lutheran Church - Basement



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Figure 1: Calvary Lutheran Church, 1930, from Calvary Lutheran Church.

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Figure 2: Interior of Calvary Lutheran Church, 1930, from Calvary Lutheran Church.

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Figure 3: Calvary Lutheran Church, 1936, from Hennepin County Library Special Collections.

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Calvary Lutheran Church

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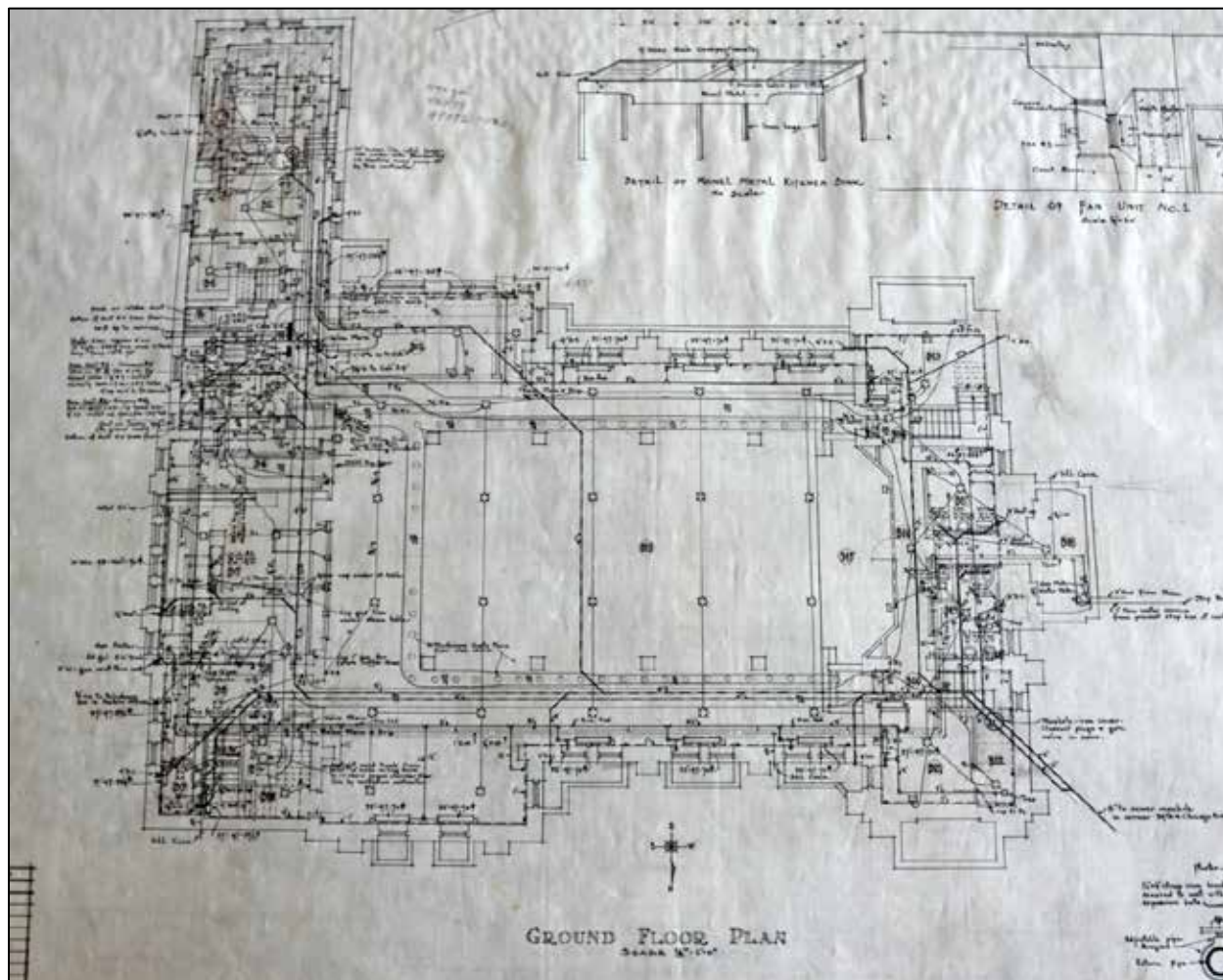


Figure 4: Ground floor plan of Sanctuary and Education Wing, 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota

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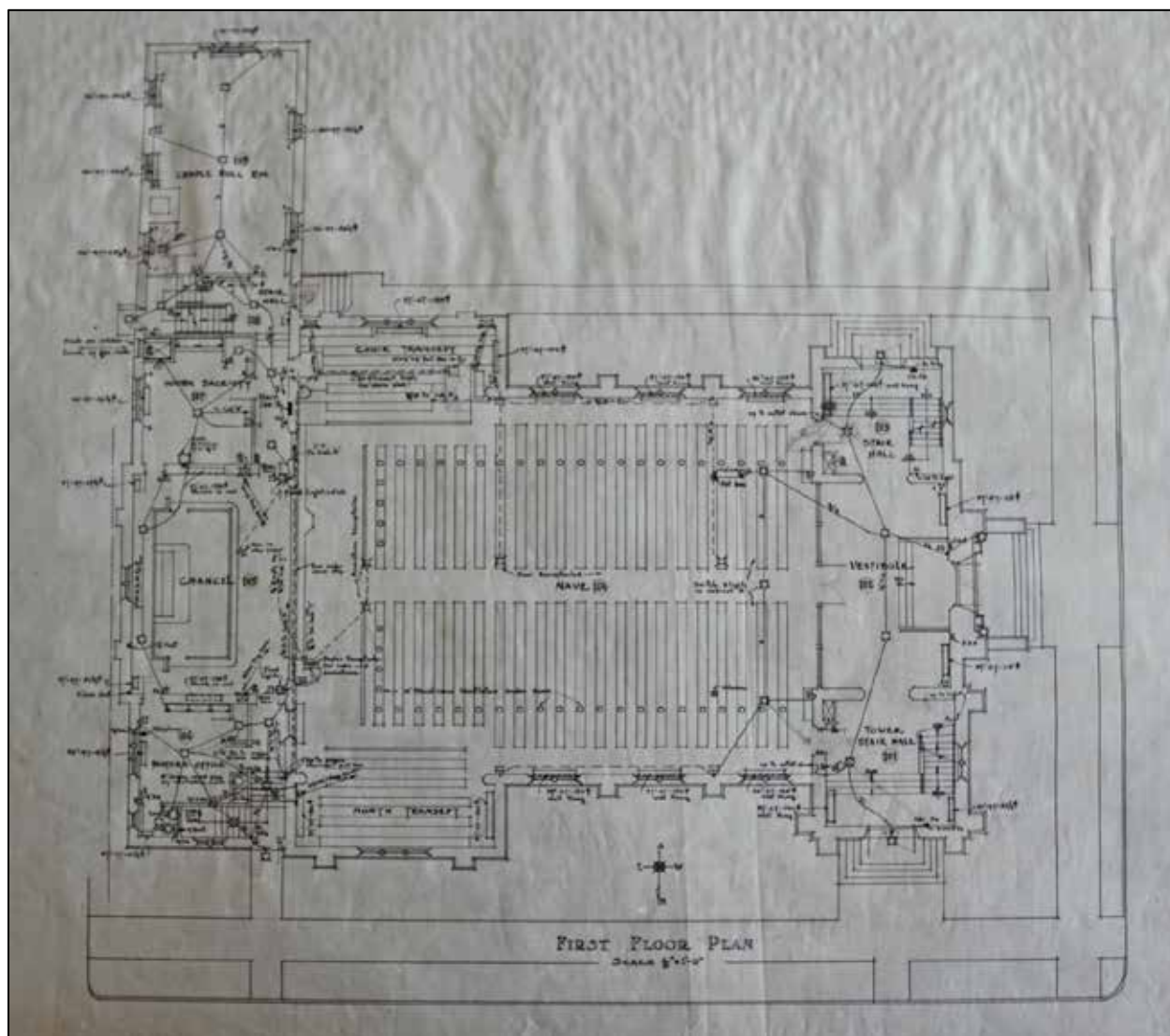


Figure 5: First floor plan of Sanctuary and Education Wing, 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota

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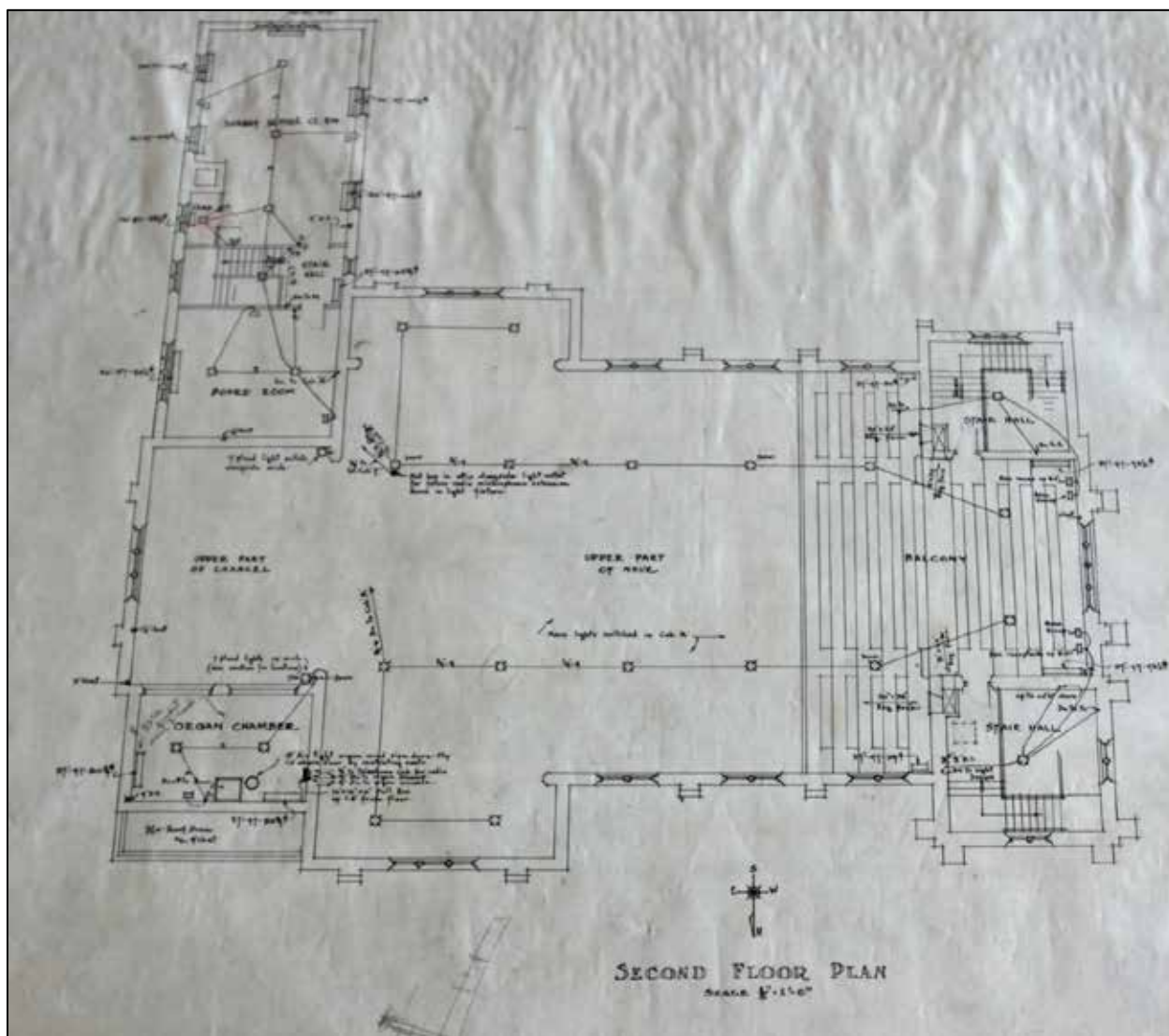


Figure 6: Second floor plan of Sanctuary and Education Wing, 1930, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota

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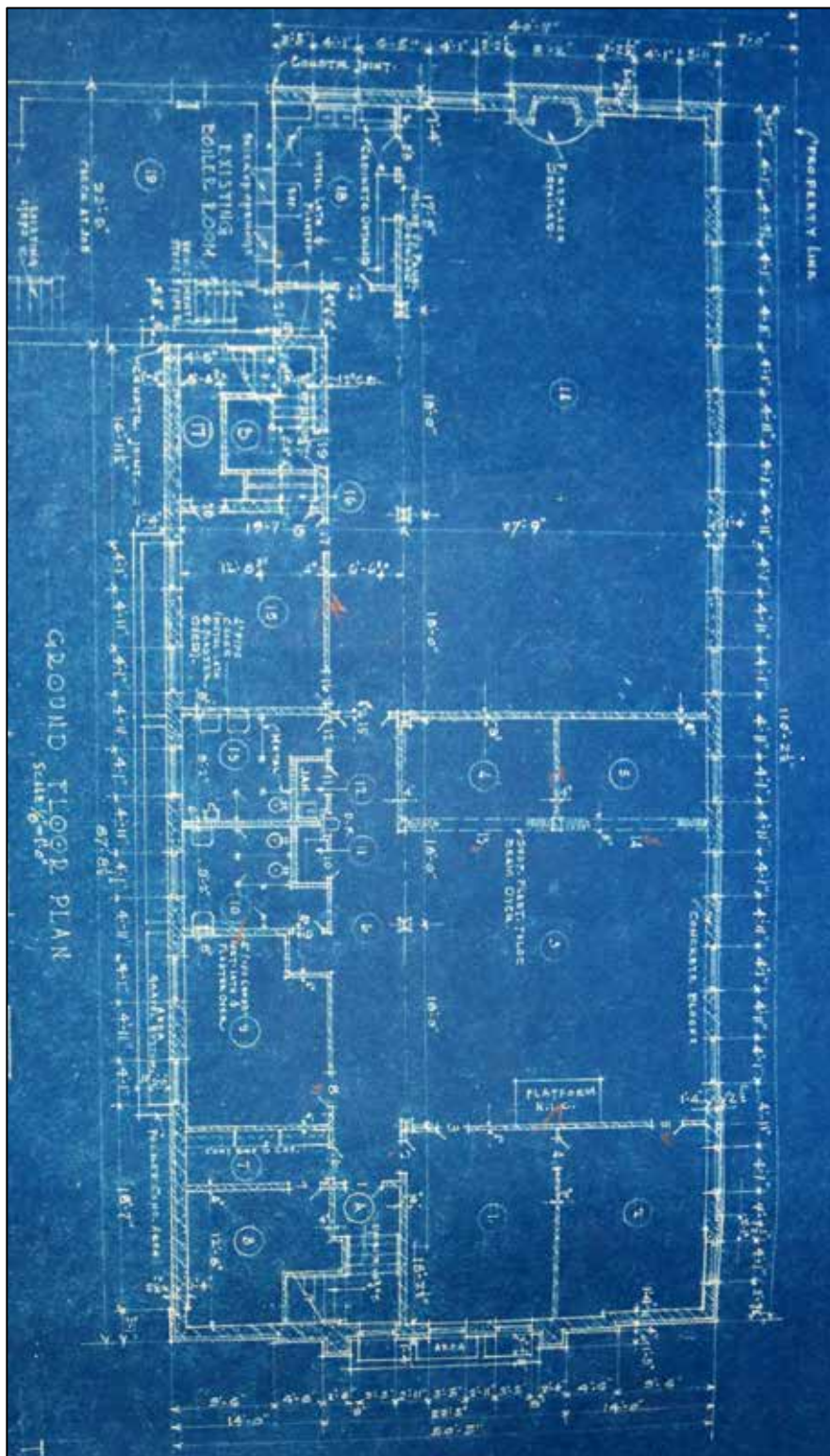


Figure 7: Ground floor plan of
Parish Hall, 1953, Calvary
Lutheran Church

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Photos and Drawings Page 8

Calvary Lutheran Church

Name of Property

Hennepin County, Minnesota

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

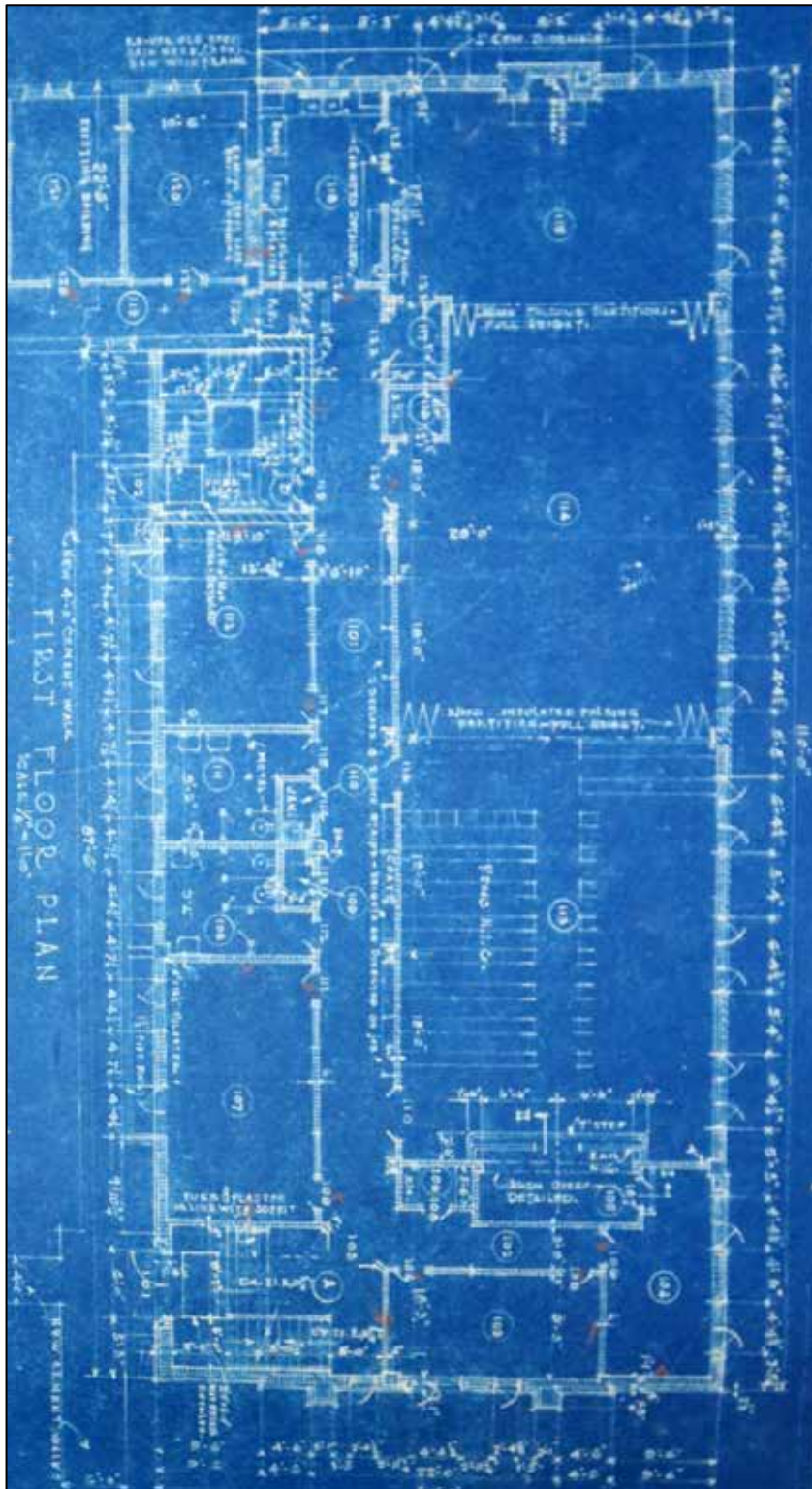


Figure 8: First floor plan of
Parish Hall, 1953, Calvary
Lutheran Church

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Photos and Drawings Page 9

Calvary Lutheran Church

Name of Property

Hennepin County, Minnesota

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

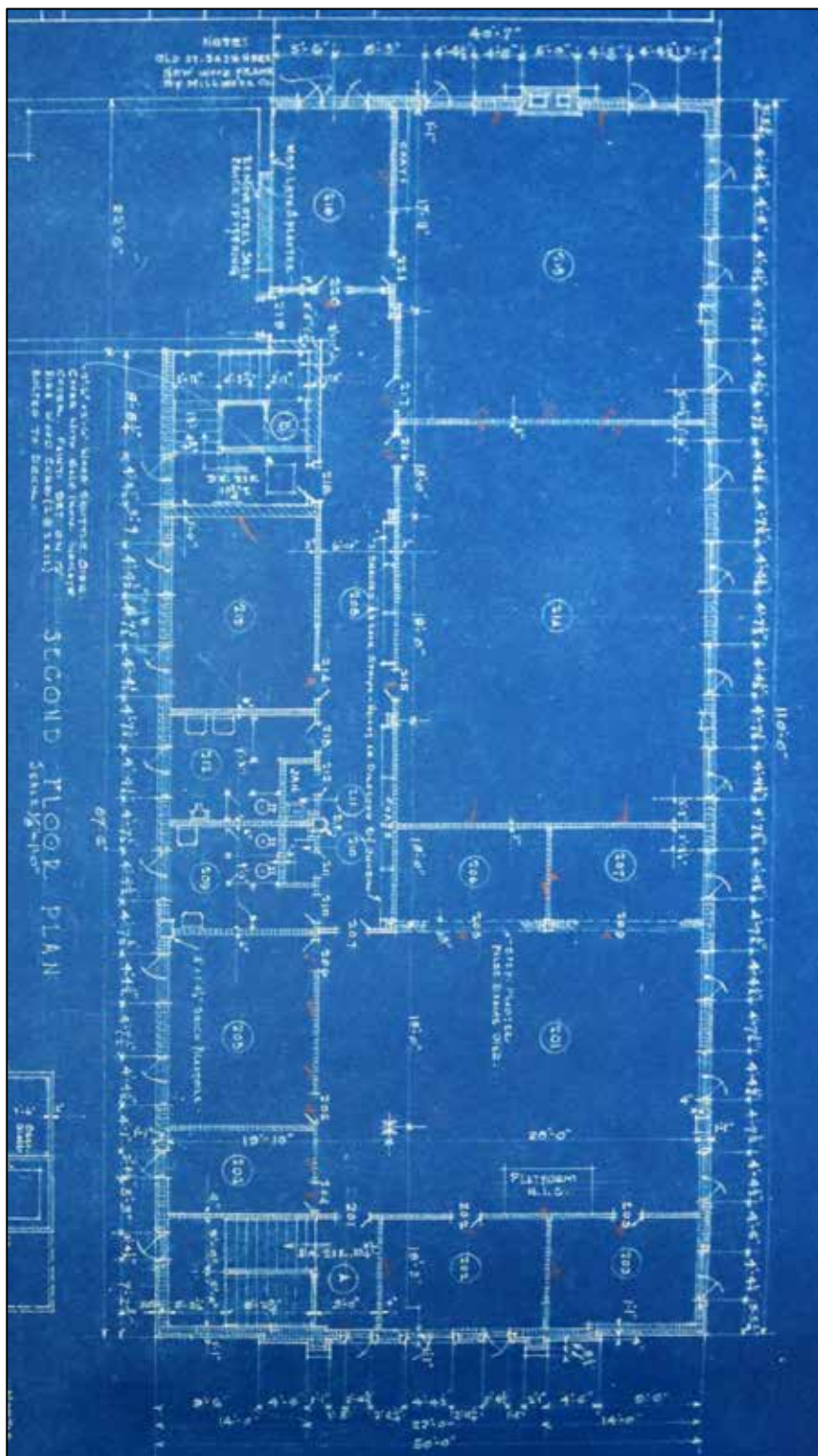


Figure 9: Second floor plan of
Parish Hall, 1953, Calvary
Lutheran Church