

Trinity Tribune

Trinity Lutheran Church ✠ Paola, Kansas

2018
FEBRUARY



Symbols of Our Savior

There is a category of Christian symbolism called “Christograms.” These are symbols that represent the names, titles, and other aspects of our Savior.



The most basic and best-known Christogram is often called the “IHS,” because that is what the letters appear to be in English. But, these are actually the Greek capital letters *iota* (Ι), *eta* (Η), and *sigma* (Σ), which are the first three letters in Greek of the name “Jesus” (ΙΗΣΥΣ).

I bought a pair of cufflinks as a souvenir at Colonial Williamsburg engraved with the initials “KDV,” the modern way to make a monogram of my name, “Kevin Dale Vogts.” However, in ancient times they didn’t have middle or last names, so monograms were created a different way, usually with the first three letters of the person’s first—and only—name.

In my case, my monogram in ancient times would not have been “KDV” but “KEV,” short for “Kevin.” In the same way, the monogram of Jesus’ name is

the first three letters in Greek, *iota*, *eta*, *sigma*, which in English looks like “IHS.” In our church this symbol is found in a medallion on our processional cross.

The angel announced to Mary, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus” (Luke 1:31). An angel also appeared to Joseph in a dream and explained the significance of this name: “You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

But, actually, during His life in this world He would never have been called “Jesus,” at least not the way we



The Christogram “Chi Rho” is featured prominently on the front of our altar, and “INRI” is above Christ on our altar cross.

pronounce it. By His mother and stepfather, by the other children who played with Him as a Child, and throughout His life among His fellow Hebrews, He would have been called “Yeshua” [YEH-shu-ah]. He wasn’t really “Jesus of Nazareth,” He was “Yeshua of Nazareth.” For, “Jesus” is simply the Greek form of the original Hebrew name by which our Lord was actually known during His earthly lifetime: “Yeshua,” which today we pronounce “Joshua.”

Years ago names were often based upon and directly related to what you did: “Smith” was a blacksmith, “Baker” made baked goods, etc. Like the names “Smith” and “Baker,” “Joshua” is a name with a meaning, Hebrew for “The Lord Saves.”

So, like “Smith,” “Baker,” and many other names with a descriptive meaning, the Lord commanded that His Son should be named “Yeshua,” which we now pronounce “Joshua” or “Jesus,” because that name tells us who He is and what He does: “The Lord Saves.” The monogram “IHS” therefore has a profound meaning, a symbolic confession that we believe Jesus is the Lord, who came to “save His people from their sins.”



We take for granted having a first and last name, but as noted above there were no last names in the ancient world. Last names are a relatively recent invention, appearing only in the middle ages, and last names as we know them are actually still not used in most of the world.

Like the examples given above of “Smith” and “Baker,” before modern last names were invented people were often known by what they did—which is actually the very reason our Savior was given the name “Jesus,” which means “The Lord Saves.”

Others were known by their father’s names: “Johnson” is literally “John’s Son,” and likewise “Peterson,” “Anderson,” etc. Because Joseph was Jesus’ legal, adoptive father, several times in the New Testament this type of name is applied to Him: “Is this not Jesus, the Son of Joseph?” (John 6:42).

But, most often before the advent of last names, people were known by their hometown. In our congregation, the “Mindens” were originally “von Minden,” meaning “from Minden,” the city in Germany from which their ancestors came.

And so Jesus is commonly called in the Scriptures, “Jesus of Nazareth.” John 1:45 combines both of these methods in naming Jesus: “Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote: Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.’”

But, if there were no last names in ancient times, what about “Christ”? Wasn’t that Jesus’ last name? Actually, no; “Christ” is not a name, but a title, sort of like

“Pastor Vogts.” Sometimes children are surprised to learn I actually *do* have a first name! “Pastor” is a title from the Latin word meaning “shepherd.” It describes what I am called by God to do, serving as His spiritual shepherd for this flock.

In the same way, “Christ” is a title that describes who Jesus of Nazareth is. “Christ” means “the Anointed One,” the one chosen by God. “Christ” is actually the Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah. We call Him “Christ” because we believe Jesus of Nazareth was chosen by God to be the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Because it is a title, and not actually His last name, He is called in Scripture not only “Jesus Christ” but “Jesus the Christ,” and sometimes it is reversed with the title first, “Christ Jesus.”

Like the monogram of His name Jesus, the “Chi Rho” symbol is another monogram, this time just the first two Greek letters of the title “Christ” (ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ). A Greek *chi* (Χ), which looks like an English “X,” is superimposed over a *rho* (Ρ), which looks like an English “P.”

In our church we have this symbol prominently displayed on the front of our altar. It is a confession that we believe Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the promised Messiah, the Savior of the world.



This is another Christogram based on Greek letters, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, “Alpha and Omega,” the equivalent of our English “A and Z.”

This title is used several times to describe Jesus in the book of Revelation: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” (Revelation 22:13). So, the Alpha and Omega symbol represents the divine

eternity of Christ, that “He is before all things” (Colossians 1:17), and “God over all, forever praised!” (Romans 9:5).



With the “INI” Christogram, we switch from Greek to Latin letters, so this symbol is correctly called the “INI,” just like our English letters.

The letters “I” and “J” are adjacent in the alphabet because originally a broad range of sounds were all represented by “I” but later divided into these two distinct letters. Because Latin lacks a “J” our English “Jesus” is written “Iesus” in Latin, pronounced with a soft “J” sound [YEAH-zeus]. Sometimes the Latin form omits the final “S” and is thus “Iesu” [YEAH-zoo].

“INI” stands for the Latin phrase, “In Nomine Iesu,” “In the Name of Jesus.” Praying, worshipping, living, and believing “In the Name of Jesus” is a central theme of the New Testament:

“The Father will give you whatever you ask in My name” (John 15:16);

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20);

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17);

“And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 3:23).

But, this doesn’t mean just a rote recitation of His name, like a magic incantation, something specifically rejected in the New Testament (Acts 19:13-16). Rather, “In the Name of Jesus” is shorthand for having personal faith in Jesus, trusting in Him as your Savior and Lord.

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Trinity Lutheran Church

34868 Block Road

Paola, Kansas 66071

Rev. Kevin Vogts, Pastor

Stacey Elkinton, Church Secretary

Church: 913-849-3344

Pastor’s Study & Parsonage:

913-849-3711

Pastor’s Cell: 913-594-9865

trinitylcms.org

facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock

pastorvogts@gmail.com

trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com

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Another Christogram with Latin lettering is "INRI." This stands for the Latin phrase, "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum," "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." This phrase was on the placard posted above Jesus on the cross: "Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' . . . and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek" (John 19:19-20).

So, the actual sign above Jesus' head did not have just the four letters "INRI," which is only an abbreviation for the entire Latin phrase. And this proclamation was written out in three languages: *Latin*, because that was the official language of the Roman Empire; *Greek*, because that was the common language spoken by people on the street; and *Hebrew*, because that was the official of religious language of the Jewish people. In our church you will find the abbreviation "INRI" above Jesus both on our altar crucifix and in the antique painting that was above the altar in the old church.

Posting such a placard above a crucifixion victim was not unusual, or unique to Jesus, as we might assume. Such placards proclaiming the official charge against the person being crucified were a regular part of the crucifixion process. There were probably similar placards above the heads of the thieves on either side of Jesus, listing their crimes. The Latin name for this placard was the *titulus*.

However, while the placard itself was not unusual, what was very unusual was the declaration Pontius Pilate ordered written on the *titulus* of Jesus. Matthew explains this significance of this statement: "Above His head they



The Miracles of LENT

2018 Lenten Vespers Services

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday
"Darkness"
Luke 23:44-45

Wednesday, February 21

Lent Service II
"The Resurrection
of Lazarus"
John 11:46-53

Wednesday, February 28

Lent Service III
"The Withering Fig Tree"
Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

Wednesday, March 7

Lent Service IV
"Four Miracles in the
Garden of Gethsemane"
Luke 22:39-51, John 18:3-6

Wednesday, March 14

Lent Service V
"Tearing of the
Temple Curtain"
Mark 15:37-38

Wednesday, March 21

Lent Service VI
"Earthquake"
Matthew 27:51-53

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday
with Holy Communion
"The Last Supper"
Luke 22:7-13, 1 Corinthians 10:16

Friday, March 30

Good Friday
"The Miracle of Good Friday"
Romans 5:6-8

*All Services at 7:00pm
Lenten Suppers Before Services*

placed the written notice of the charge against Him" (Matthew 27:37).

The charge brought against Jesus by His enemies was treason against the Roman Empire: "And they began to accuse Him, saying, 'We have found this Man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king'" (Luke 23:2).

Even though Jesus testified "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Pilate repeatedly declared

Him innocent of this charge of treason (Luke 23:13-14), in a miscarriage of justice, that nevertheless was the official reason why He was crucified, supposedly claiming to be "King of the Jews" as an earthly king, in competition with Caesar.

But, the only territory King Jesus wants to conquer is your heart. He is not only "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," He is also, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of You"!

Pastor Kevin Vogts

ASH Wednesday

Lent Begins February 14

Our special Lenten Vespers services begin with our Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 7:00pm, and continue each Wednesday throughout the Lenten season. A Lenten Supper will be served before each service.

The theme for this year's Lenten services is *The Miracles of Lent*, looking at the meaning for us of the miracles that took place during our Lord's suffering and death, such as the *darkness* (Luke 23:44-45), *earthquake* (Matthew 27:51-53), and *tearing of the Temple curtain* (Mark 15:37-38). See page 3 for the complete series.

"Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus . . . who endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2).



Adult Bible Study

Our current study in Adult Bible Class is *God's Grace in Colossians*.

One of the Apostle Paul's shorter letters, Colossians is especially rich with descriptions of Christ, His work, and the blessings He bestows on us. Though written nearly 2,000 years ago, this Biblical book still speaks to our lives today in a surprisingly fresh and relevant way.

Join in Sundays at 9:00am in the Overflow to learn more about *God's Grace in Colossians*.



FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Our records of birthdays and anniversaries may not complete. If your information is missing or inaccurate, please accept our apologies and notify the Church Office at 913-849-3344 or email Church Secretary Stacey Elkinton at trinitylutheranblock@gmail.com.

- February 2 Ashtin Armstrong
- February 4 Jodie Wood
- February 4 Leslie Vohs
- February 6 Kerry Brandt
- February 6 Tanna Jones
- February 6 Glenn Minden
- February 7 Stacey Elkinton
- February 7 Tyler Allen
- February 8 Karen Ohlmeier
- February 9 Daniel Wendte
- February 10 Darrell Brandt
- February 10 Terry Bunch
- February 10 Kathy Gerken
- February 10 Leonard Oberheide
- February 11 Hannah Raines
- February 12 James Haley
- February 13 Valerie Gerken
- February 13 Logan Hendrickson
- February 18 Joey Stephens
- February 18 Stan Windler
- February 19 Debbie Windler
- February 20 Judy Kutz
- February 20 Angie Fickel
- February 20 Carolyn Warner
- February 21 Jeff Davis
- February 21 Marty Stutzman
- February 25 Michelle Haley
- February 25 Curtis Hall
- February 25 Duane Rodewald
- February 26 Glenn Block
- February 26 Cate Minden
- February 27 Matthew Kriesel
- February 27 Reita Woodall
- February 28 Slina Prothe
- February 29 Austin Henry
- Feb 10 Curtis & Kristie Weaver (22)
- Feb 11 Lloyd & Karen Ohlmeier (56)
- Feb 13 Jeff & Windy Davis (25)
- Feb 15 Curtis & Jamie Hall (15)
- Feb 19 Michael & Katie Taylor (13)
- Feb 21 Ron & Marcia Raines (29)
- Feb 22 Kevin & Denise Debrick (26)
- Feb 22 Rick & Jill Druse (21)

Missionaries of the Month

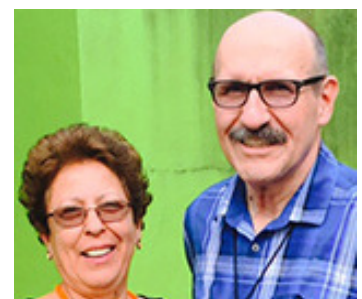


Each month we remember in prayer in our worship services—and you are encouraged to remember in your personal prayers—specific missionaries around the world who are supported by our congregation through our mission offerings to our Synod.



February 4
Rev. David & Jennifer Preus
Hans, Rebekah, Rolf, Lena, Soren, Leif & Andreas
Dominican Republic
(See Article Page 6)

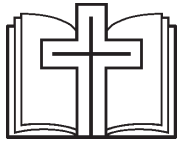
February 11
Deaconess Kim Buelmann
Missionary to
Muslim Immigrants
Germany



February 18
Rev. Richard & Gema Schuller
Puerto Rico



February 25
Rachel Meyer
Uganda



Sermons for February

February 4

"Recharge Your Batteries"
Mark 1:35-38

February 11

"Do Not Speak of It"
2 Kings 2:1-12

February 14 (Ash Wednesday)

"The Miracles of Lent: Darkness"
Luke 23:44-45

February 18

"How Temptation Works"
James 1:12-18

February 21 (Lent Service II)

*"The Miracles of Lent:
Resurrection of Lazarus"*
John 11:46-53

February 25

"Profit and Loss"
Mark 8:27-38

February 28 (Lent Service III)

*"The Miracles of Lent:
Withering Fig Tree"*
Mark 11:12-14, 20-21



Nursing Home Services February 18

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents at Country Club Estates and Vintage Park on February 18. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. We begin at 1:30pm at Country Club Estates and then go to Vintage Park for the second service.

The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a faithful few members who help but we could use your help too!

Our other nursing home services scheduled for 2018 are:

- ✘ March 18—North Point and Medical Lodge
- ✘ April 22—Country Club Estates and Vintage Park
- ✘ May 20—North Point and Medical Lodge
- ✘ June 17—Country Club Estates and Vintage Park
- ✘ July 15—North Point and Medical Lodge
- ✘ August 12—Country Club Estates and Vintage Park
- ✘ September 9—North Point and Medical Lodge
- ✘ October 7—Country Club Estates and Vintage Park
- ✘ November 4—North Point and Medical Lodge
- ✘ December 2—Country Club Estates and Vintage Park
- ✘ December 30—North Point and Medical Lodge
- ✘ January 27, 2019—Country Club Estates and Vintage Park

Snacks Hosts Needed for 2018



Could you—individual, family, or group—serve snacks sometime after worship during 2018? Most of the year remains open! The sign-up sheet for 2018 is on the table with the snacks.

Our Generations group generously provides and prepares coffee and juice each week, so those signing up are only asked to provide some treat. Consider signing up for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. Thanks to all providing snacks for Coffee Hour!

February 4

Linda Prothe

February 11

*Michelle Haley
(James' Birthday)*

February 18

Sharon & Gladys Prothe

February 25

*Chancie & Cooper Minden
(Cate's Birthday)*



Trinity Youth invites you to a Lenten soup supper before the Ash Wednesday service on February 14. Proceeds will be used to help fund youth activities.

Other dates for Lenten services and dinners are February 21 & 28 and March 7, 14, & 21. Check the bulletin for the hosting groups and menus. Thank you to all those hosting these fun fellowship events!

Sweetheart Dinner February 11



Beat the winter blahs with a fun Italian themed Sweetheart Dinner put on by the Trinity Youth on Sunday, February 11. Drinks and appetizers will start at 5:00pm. The delicious homemade meal will include lasagna or chicken spiedini.

The cost is \$20 per person, \$40 per couple. Singles are also invited to join the fun! Proceeds will be used to help fund Trinity Youth activities and to attend the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Babysitting offered at no additional charge! Kid-friendly food will be served along with games, movies, and entertainment.

Reserve your tickets after worship or contact one of the Trinity Youth or their leaders for tickets or more details.

MISSION NEWS

New Seminary in Dominican Republic

"I was living the good life, living in the moment," seminarian Marcelo Rivas recalled. "But at the end of every day, I felt the same thing: I'm empty. I wanted to believe, but in what?" That's when Vania caught his eye in a university class in Talca, Chile. She invited him to go to church with her. He was intrigued to learn that Vania attended a Lutheran church. As a history buff, Rivas knew the story of Martin Luther, but he thought that the Reformation ended with Luther's death. He went to church with her the next Sunday and kept returning to hear God's Word, discovering that the Lutheran Church exists, even in Chile.



Students come from throughout South America to attend the new seminary.

The Lutheran Church came to Vania's hometown of Talca in 2010, following a massive earthquake and tsunami that shattered the region and destroyed Vania's house. Just two weeks prior to the earthquake, Vania's mother died. It was too much for her; all alone, she considered suicide. "The day after the earthquake, the Lutheran Church came to Talca," Vania told Rivas, as she explained how she came to join the Lutheran Church. "The pastors started to organize and help the people. At the end of each day, they also prayed with the people."

The Lutherans were there to stay. They planted a church, sending a young pastor to Talca to care for Vania and others in the new congregation, and share with them the Gospel of salvation. Now, God was using Vania to share the Gospel with Rivas as the two fell in love. "It sounds strange," said Rivas, "but that same year, I also fell in love with Christ."



Seminarians greet a wheelchair bound neighbor on their way from the dormitory to class at the new Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic.

He began to study the Bible and theology every day. As he did, others noticed his growing involvement in the church. Family and fellow parishioners encouraged him to become a pastor. This past fall, seven years after Vania's invitation to join her at church, Rivas and his family moved from Chile to the mountain village of Palmar Arriba, Dominican Republic, to attend Concordia Lutheran Seminary. He is part of its very first class, along with other students from Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic.



LCMS missionary Rev. David Preus serves as the seminary's lead professor.

As part of their preparation, the students will return to their home countries during their vicarage, or pastoral internship, to find locations for a mission plants. "That's an emphasis here at the seminary, to train these students to plant churches so when they go back as

pastors," said Rev. David Preus, a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod missionary who serves as professor at the seminary. "The seminary curriculum is based on a model of what a pastor in Latin America ought to be," Preus said. "He ought to be a teacher, an evangelist, and a pastor. You need to talk about Jesus not just in the pulpit, but also on the threshold of a house, over a meal, wherever you may find yourself."

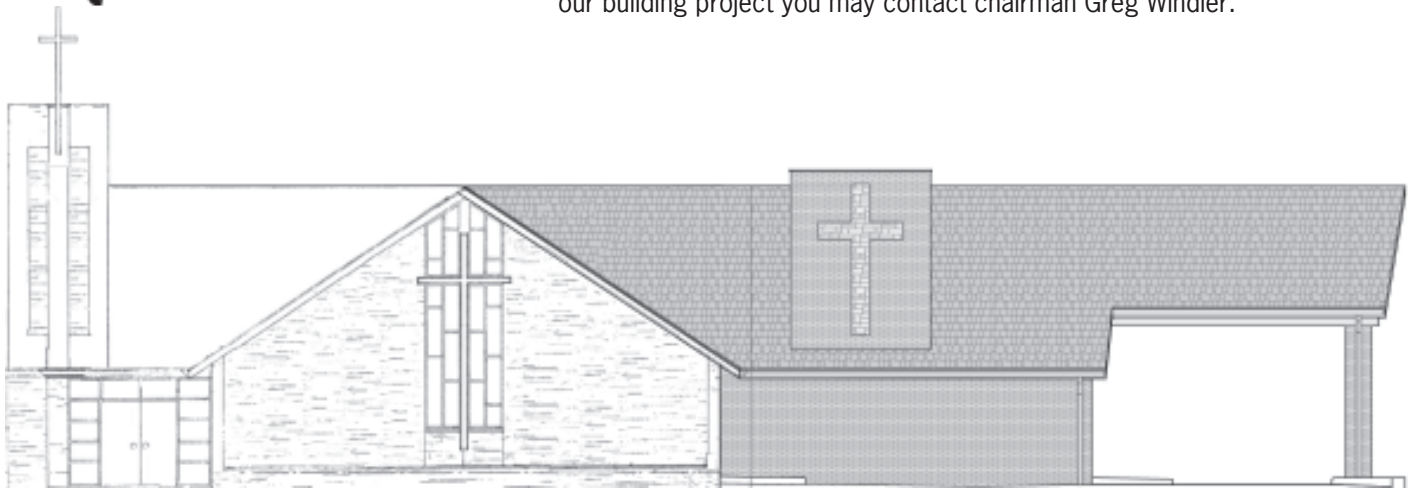
Like seminarians across the globe, the men study God's Word in the original Greek and Hebrew, pore over the Lutheran Confessions, and learn to preach and care for God's people. Before his call to missionary service in 2015, Preus served a parish in Montana, and he is currently completing a doctorate degree in theology. He is a third generation pastor, following in the footsteps of his father, and his grandfather and great-uncle, who were both seminary professors and presidents. He is joined in the mission field by his wife Jennifer, who has a master's degree in speech communication, and their seven children (see family picture page 4).

The story of Vania and Rivas illustrates the Bible's promise that "God works all things together for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). For, it was through loss and disaster that Christ came to Vania, and then to her husband Rivas through her. Now he will be bringing Christ to his fellow countrymen. "I never thought," he says, "that I would be studying to share Christ, as His tool to rescue people from death." Thanks be to God!

Building for the Future

2018 Building Addition and Modernization

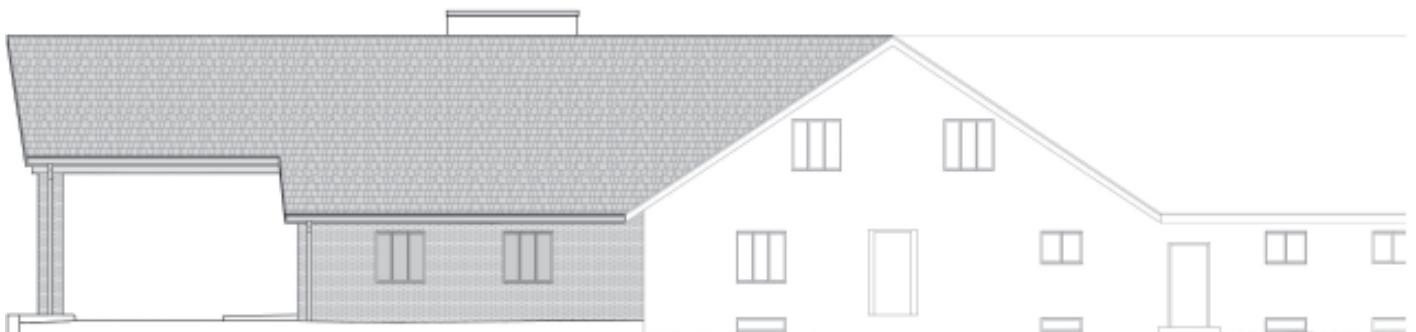
These are the latest outside elevations and floor plans for our building project. Based on the timing of county permits, weather, and the schedule of our contractor, Legacy Builders, we will (*Lord willing!*) hold a groundbreaking ceremony sometime in February or March. Watch the bulletin and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranblock) for details. It will be a brief ceremony on a Sunday after worship, with everyone proceeding outside for the ceremony following the close of the service, and then returning inside for snacks. If you have questions or would like more information about our building project you may contact chairman Greg Windler.



East Elevation

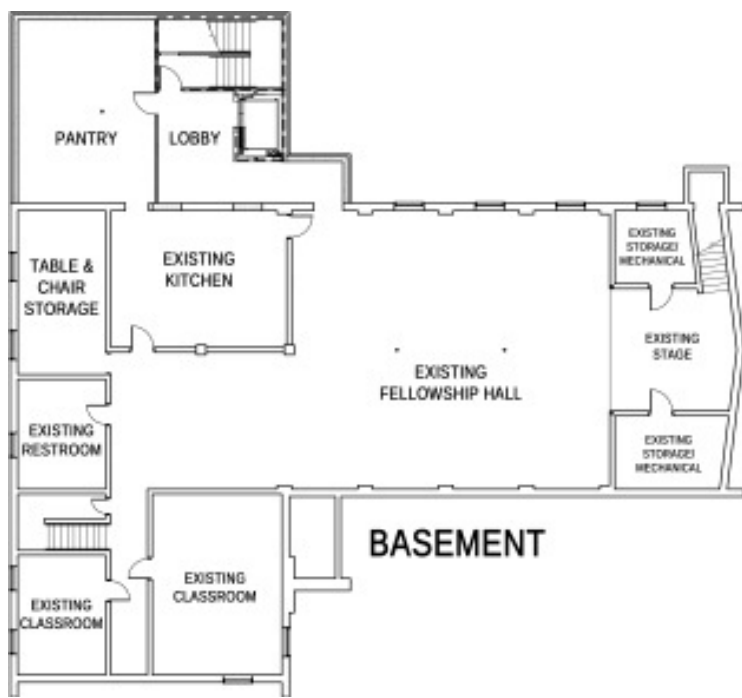
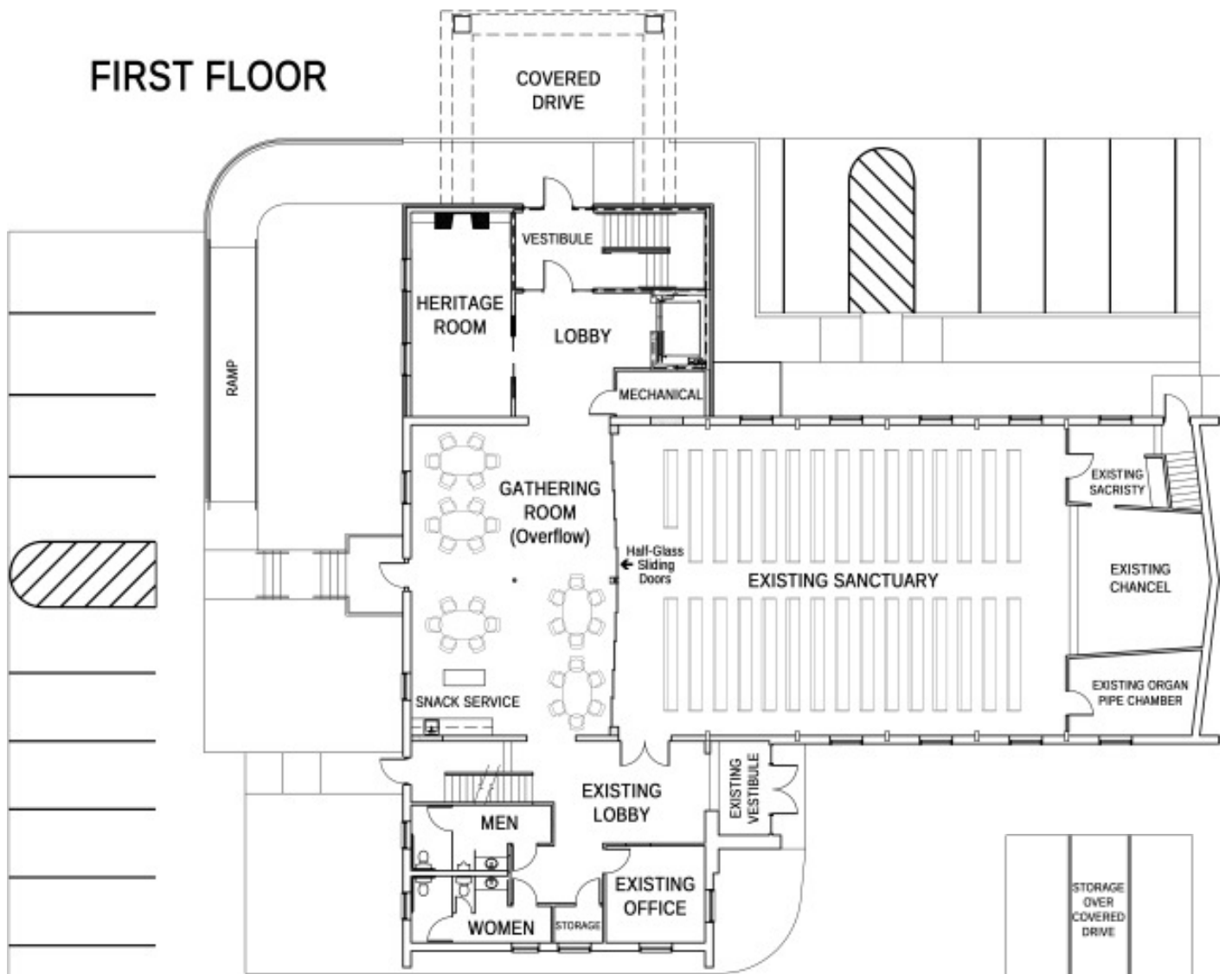


North Elevation



West Elevation

FIRST FLOOR



*Building
for the
Future*

2018 Building Addition and Modernization

