



Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church of America | June, 2023

On September 13, 1864, a twenty-four-year-old set foot on American soil, leaving Germany six weeks prior; turning age 24, just eleven days prior to stepping on American soil. He had all his earthly belongings in a wooden box he had made for the journey. He was dodging the draft presently taking place in his homeland and he was looking for his two brothers, Henry and William, in Illinois, who had already reached American soil and were sheep farmers. His name was August Gottlich Fesser, a baptized Lutheran and faithful child of God from Seershausen, Hanover County, Germany. In that first year, his sheep herd died, his brothers had nothing else to offer him, so he joined some friends, chicken farmers, who wanted to keep from paying taxes on a new courthouse, moved from Macoupin County to Montgomery County. It was a curious but great relationship, his friends who were Democrat and August who was a Republican; yet dear friends, the next generation, a couple marrying each other.

The story of my great-grandfather was not much different than the people I saw and met this week in El Paso, TX at the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly. They were people coming from different countries, who made assorted decisions about moving for whatever reason. A difference in 2023 is not the immigrants/refugees who are Democrat or Republican, rather it is we, the American people making decisions about them who hold these claims to political parties. Another difference is the fact that my great-

grandfather was not considered “undocumented” but rather someone welcomed into the United States, to become a citizen, a hard-working, productive person who would grow, thrive, and make a good life. Another difference between 1864 and 2023 is the fact my great grandfather was white, from Europe, entering at New York versus those I saw and met trying to enter from Mexico, at the border all wearing brown skin.

There is no difference in the numbers, the many who came from Europe entering various points between New York and New Orleans match in comparison to the numbers coming from the south who have less space, less distance, and more regulations. One thing I saw and experienced this week, was that same faith Great Grandpa August carried with him, knowing whose he was in Christ Jesus, a

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Deacon Ro Fesser

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Wednesdays 11:30am-12:30pm

Phone: (970) 631-2715

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Administrative Assistant: Terresa Lauck

Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am - 3pm

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

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faithful, trusting brother who believed in and loved his Father, the Almighty. Great-grandpa lived in communion with the Holy Spirit leading and guiding him each and every day, regardless of what or how the day unfolded, God holding him in the palm of his hand. The people at the border also live that way, having only their faith in Jesus Christ as their refuge, their strength, and their hope. And they carry their children trusting in Jesus, just as the faith-filled Europeans carried their wee ones to a new American home. This week spending the three days in El Paso, emerging with the border, walking alongside brothers and sisters struggling as undocumented, meeting the volunteers, faith communities and not-for profits who scramble for resources, support, and prayer, I pray as Jesus prayed to our Father to protect them all. As all reach to those who are different, those wanting to become hard-working citizens able to grow, thrive, and make a good life, I offer to all these brothers and sisters in faith, resources I have available; I share my voice with all of you how we all have been immigrant/refugee families sometime along the way; and I now recognize just how important it is to know and live the truth in Christ as they do.

In the book of Exodus God heard the prayers of His people in Egypt, and he brought them out from Pharaoh away from

oppression and abuse. God was fully present in this immigration story. God was fully present in the immigration story of my great-grandfather leaving his homeland, bringing friends to be his family to help him out of oppression. God was fully present in the immigration story of Bertha, Rudy, and Angelika Hansch to bring them out of oppression to Bethlehem Lutheran where they were capable of becoming thriving, productive new citizens. God is present in the story at the border, bringing his people from the south out of oppression, abuse, and persecution. Audre Lorde's essay entitled, "Scratching the Surface" writes "forms of human blindness stem from the same root—an inability to recognize the notion of difference as a human force, one that is enriching rather than threatening..." This, our human blindness, is why Jesus prays for the disciples and for you and for me. This, our human blindness is why Jesus so wants all of us to know in truth, who he is, why he came, and that we might believe in Him, glorified in the Father, to not only share, but BE the good news in Jesus Christ!

"Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering." 1 Peter 5:8b-9

Ro

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart!"

Helen Keller



Hi Bethlehem,

Thank you for your prayers. I appreciate your prayers and concerns and trying to call sometimes. If I don't know the number I don't answer, so just leave a message and I'll call you back. Glad you finally sold the house. You can come and see me sometimes too.

Love, Glenna Newport

**Come join the fun at
Prairie Parish in the Park**

June 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Brush Memorial Park Pavilion

**Guests are asked to bring a brown bag
breakfast item to share.**

All are welcome!



BOXES NEEDED!

BLC members and friends, our quilters are asking for donations of medium to large sized boxes. They use them to load the quilts into before transporting them out of town. If you happen to have any to spare, it would be appreciated if you would bring them to the church for quilts.



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Bringing HOPE to expectant mothers and fathers in Northeast Colorado!

The annual baby bottle campaign is underway! All proceeds go directly to a Northeast Colorado Pregnancy Resource Center and are used to offer hope to expectant mothers and fathers in our community.

**Bottles are due back to
Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, June 18th
(Father's Day)**

Any and all donations are
much appreciated!



A huge shout of thanks to our ever-faithful Ted Pearson for once again making sure our lawn is well-cared for.

BLC is very blessed that he always promptly makes sure the church (and formerly parsonage) lawn is covered under a good maintenance program. Your gift, Ted, is much appreciated!



Please pray for the following who have been submitted to our prayer list:

Garnet Leys
Rosa Guzman-Alexander
Wanda Rains
Lenore Wind
Zach Griffith
Dave Madsen
Kari Linker
Lori Bostron
Collene Travers



June Birthdays

Ro Fesser	3rd
Kim Redden	3rd
Lawrence Hansen	6th
Barbara Brandenburg	10th
Matt Gardner	17th
Carol Walker	27th
Sharon George	27th
Shirley Schilling	29th



June Anniversary

Lane & Jaylene Evans	5th
Steve & Janet Rohde	15th
Kevin & Jody DeKorte	19th
Allyn & Lenore Wind	21st



Thursday, June 1
Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24
Exodus 24:1-8
Romans 2:17-29

Friday, June 2
Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24
Deuteronomy 30:1-5
Romans 9:6-13

Saturday, June 3
Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24
Amos 2:6-11
Matthew 7:1-6

Sunday, June 4
Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28
Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24
Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 [29-31]
Matthew 7:21-29

Monday, June 5
Psalm 52
Joshua 8:30-35
Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, June 6
Psalm 52
Joshua 24:1-2, 11-28
Romans 3:9-22a



Wednesday, June 7
Psalm 52
Job 28:12-28
Matthew 7:13-20

Thursday, June 8
Psalm 50:7-15
Lamentations 1:7-11
2 Peter 2:17-22

Friday, June 9
Psalm 50:7-15
Lamentations 3:40-58
Acts 28:1-10

Saturday, June 10
Psalm 50:7-15
Exodus 34:1-9
Matthew 9:27-34

Sunday, June 11
Hosea 5:15—6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Monday, June 12
Psalm 40:1-8
Leviticus 15:25-31; 22:1-9
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:2

Tuesday, June 13
Psalm 40:1-8
Hosea 8:11-14; 10:1-2
Hebrews 13:1-16

Wednesday, June 14
Psalm 40:1-8
Hosea 14:1-9
Matthew 12:1-8

Thursday, June 15
Psalm 100
Exodus 4:18-23
Hebrews 3:1-6

Friday, June 16
Psalm 100
Exodus 4:27-31
Acts 7:35-43



Saturday, June 17
Psalm 100
Exodus 6:28—7:13
Mark 7:1-13

Sunday, June 18
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Monday, June 19
Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Joshua 1:1-11
1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Tuesday, June 20
Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
1 Samuel 3:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5

Wednesday, June 21
Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Proverbs 4:10-27
Luke 6:12-19

Thursday, June 22
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Jeremiah 18:12-17
Hebrews 2:5-9

Friday, June 23
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Jeremiah 18:18-23
Acts 5:17-26

Saturday, June 24
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Jeremiah 20:1-6
Luke 11:53—12:3

Sunday, June 25
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Monday, June 26
Psalm 6
Micah 7:1-7
Revelation 2:1-7

Tuesday, June 27
Psalm 6
Jeremiah 26:1-12
Revelation 2:8-11

Wednesday, June 28
Psalm 6
Jeremiah 38:1-13
Matthew 10:5-23

Thursday, June 29
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Jeremiah 25:1-7
Galatians 5:2-6

Friday, June 30
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Jeremiah 25:8-14
Galatians 5:7-12

Bethlehem Lutheran Congregational Council Meeting

May 11, 2023

Present: Kevin DeKorte, Terry Linker, Isaac Linker, Deb Johnson, Beth Hocheder, Kim Redden, Jeanette Dehning, Ro Fesser, Marisa Ford-Castrup

Ro opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:33.

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Beth made a motion to accept minutes, Jeanette second, all approved.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary report: Beth made a motion to accept reports, Terry second, all approved.

Deacon Ro Report: Jeanette made a motion to accept report, Terry 2nd, all approved.

Correspondence: We received a letter from Glenna Newport with an invitation to adopt a garden at Eben Ezer, and also a typed note from her reminding us to stop and see her while we are out there.

Received Email from Sister Patricia Chafin Memorial Fund to be designated for Church camp, Sky Ranch and then church operating fund.

Old Business: Electrical work for cameras. Kevin has not had time to call an electrician, so Deb will try to get ahold of one and set up an appointment for Kevin to meet with him to formulate a plan to get it done.

Reestablishing BLC committees: Beth suggested tabling until September since everyone is so busy during the summer. All agreed.

The council discussed using “canned music” or just saying the words to the hymns on the days we have no one to play the organ. Deb will meet with Barb B, to make music available.

New Business: Call committee Report, nothing new to report yet.

Minor Church Repairs: Marsha has a list of minor repairs she will share with Dick Craton to see if he could do those.

Deb called East Coast Roofers to get a bid on repairs or a new roof for the church.

June Deacon: Beth and Deb will share duties; Matt Gardner will be Usher.

Next Council Meeting, June 8th, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

We thank those who offer their gifts in leading worship this month!

June 2023	4	11	18	25
Deacon	Beth Hocheder and Deb Johnson			
Reader	Jeanne Wuest	Kim Redden	Deb Johnson	Sharon George
Altar Guild	Donna Morgan			
Usher	Matt Gardner			
Sunshine Committee	Marisa Ford-Castrup			
Clavinovist			Diane Nicklas	Diane Nicklas
Pastor	Tina Kvetik	Sonja Pancoast	Ro Fesser	Chuck Hubbard

	4/30	5/07	5/14	5/21
Attendance	27	24	19	23

BLC Congregation Council Members & Officers

Congregation Council is the core leadership body of the congregation, charged with overseeing and directing the life and mission of our church. We encourage you to talk with them! Please pray for their ministry as they provide leadership to BLC.

Marsha Mills, President 970-768-1562

Deb Johnson, Vice-President 970-842-5633

Marisa Ford-Castrup, Secretary 303-502-7459

Kim Redden, Treasurer 970-380-9727

Jeanette Dehning 970-380-3822

Kevin DeKorte 970-867-2238

Beth Hocheder 970-768-3888

Isaac Linker 970-520-1989

Terry Linker 970-768-1099



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Address Service Requested

A growing community of Christ's followers; cultivating disciples
through compassion, love, and integrity.