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Berthoud, Colo. Salem Congregational Church records, 1909-1960. RG5506

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Salem Congregational Church (Berthoud, Colo.)
Creator:	First Congregational Church (Berthoud, Colo.)
Creator:	German Congregational Church (Berthoud, Colo.)
Title:	Berthoud, Colo. Salem Congregational Church records, 1909-1960.
ID:	RG5506
Date [inclusive]:	1909-1960
Physical Description:	2 Folders
Language of the Material:	English , German .
Abstract:	"German Russians" first immigrated to Berthoud and Northern Colorado around 1900. In 1908, these German-speaking immigrants formed the German Congregational Church. In 1917, a portion of the members of the German Congregational Church left to form the Bethlehem Congregational Church. In 1921, the name of the German Congregational Church was changed to First Congregational Church. In 1926, the First Congregational Church and Bethlehem Congregational Church merged to form the Salem Congregational Church. The church was dissolved in 1962. This collection contains registers of vital records for the Salem Congregational Church and include membership lists, lists of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, and lists of confirmations.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Berthoud, Colo. Salem Congregational Church records, 1909-1960, RG5506. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

German immigration into Colorado begin during the 1870s and 1880s, but it was not until about 1900 that the first "German Russians" arrived in Northern Colorado. Though these immigrants technically came from within Russia's geopolitical borders, they had long maintained their German culture and language. They first came to the Berthoud area as seasonal workers, but many ultimately settled in the area and began their own farms. In 1908, these German-speaking immigrants formed the German Congregational Church. On December 1, 1908, the trustees of the church bought land for the construction of a church and by December 20, 1908, a frame church building and belfry were ready for their inaugural worship service.

In 1917, owing to a rift within the church, a portion of the members of the German Congregational Church left to form the Bethlehem Congregational Church. In 1921, owing to anti-German sentiments after World War I, the name of the German Congregational Church was changed to First Congregational Church and worship services were no longer held in German. In 1926, the First Congregational Church and Bethlehem Congregational Church merged to form the Salem Congregational Church. The church continued out of the same 1908 church building until 1962 when the congregation dissolved and the building was sold to the Church of Christ.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains registers of vital records for the Salem Congregational Church in Berthoud, Colorado. The registers each contain detailed membership lists, lists of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, and lists of confirmations. The record books both contain German and English records, largely dependent on when the records were created.

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Arrangement

Materials in this collection have been arranged in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

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Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Rocky Mountain Conference, August 2021; accession 2021-10.

Processing Information

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2024, using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Confirmation records.
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- Russian Germans.
- Bethlehem Congregational Church (Berthoud, Colo.)
- Berthoud (Colo.) -- Church history.
- First Congregational Church (Berthoud, Colo.)
- German Congregational Church (Berthoud, Colo.)
- Salem Congregational Church (Berthoud, Colo.)

Bibliography

French, Mark. "Congregational Church on Sixth Street founded by Russian Germans." *Berthoud Weekly Surveyer*, March 22, 2018. <https://berthoudsurveyor.com/congregational-church-on-sixth-street-founded-by-russian-germans/>

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Church register, 1909-1947	box Small 10	folder 2
Church register, 1925-1960	box Small 10	folder 3