Bethany Children's Home
Archival Research

Bethany Children's Home houses a number of genealogical resources valuable for genealogical research. These resources include:

- Book of Life: A chronological record of every child admitted to the Children's' Home. Records include: full name, date of birth, parent's names, location of origin, date of admission, date of discharge and discharged to whom (last 2 entries are often missing in some records). Some of the records indicate the next stage of life work.
- A personal file on almost every child admitted. Some information in these files may not be shared due to privacy regulations of the time period. Sometimes a photograph on admission and discharge is included, some general health information, admission information, often an indenture form.
    - Census records: 1870-1930 of residents of Bethany
    - Confirmation records at Bausman Memorial Church
    - Graduation records – group photographs until Conrad Weiser SD
    - Genalogical and historical records of the founder, Emmanuel Christian Boehringer and family (courtesy of Christ & Widemer familes)
- **Archival files**:
    - Newspaper articles & pictures of Bethany Anniversaries
    - Photograph collections – many need identification
    - Postcard Collection of events, buildings, and people
    - Maps and blueprints of land & buildings
    - Bethany pins from the past
    - Several found artifacts during excavations
    - Books/Histories by Vandevere and Yundt/More
    - Bound and Digitized issues of the Bethany Echo & Bethany Annuals

We ask that you refine your inquiries as much as possible to help the researcher know what is needed. Requests for "all the information you have about" is too vague and beyond the scope of our services. Some information in the personnel files cannot be shared due to privacy constraints.

Researcher(s) or parties of interest must pay the relevant fees in advance; most searches can be completed in less than 1 hour. If we cannot provide any information as requested, your research fee will be refunded.

Fees:

- $30 limited to 1 hour of time to search and copy the items retrieved.
- Services cover the cost of up to 10 copies, additional copies are $.40, which covers the extra postage.
- Postage rates:
    - 1-4 pages $.45
    - 5-8 pages $.55
    - 9-12 pages $.70
- A self-addressed manila envelope will be required to return the items you are requesting; once a discussion is had regarding the size of the file, please provide the necessary shipment method.