

The First Place of Worship in Bruderheim

The Andreas Lilge home, built 1894-1895 approximately one mile east of the present Town, was the first place of worship in Bruderheim. The initiative to form a Moravian congregation at Bruderheim came from Lilge, a Moravian lay-pastor who had served in Volhynia, Russia from 1878-1892. Lilge was instrumental in arranging for the immigration and settlement of many colonists, and in the spring of 1894, the first group of Moravians arrived. The congregation was established in 1895 with forty-four adults, sixteen youths, and fifty-one children. Although his ministry was established for Moravians only, Lilge also later helped to organize the two closely related local Lutheran churches, “Bethlehem” and “Bethany”.



The first log house of the Andreas Lilge family built in 1894-95 – the first place of worship in Bruderheim. Thirteen members of the Lilge family live in this house at the time.