

Voss Family



The Rev. Hans Heinrich Christian Karl (Henry) Voss (1860-1939) was born in Holzendorf, Hecklenburg Schwerin, Germany. His parents were Pastor Johann Otto Voss and Marie Louise Henriette Helene nee Nebee'. The father of Pastor Johann Otto, also named Otto, was an Ambassador to the Netherlands and was knighted by the king of the Netherlands. The coat of arms is a rampant fox.

After attending the High School and Junior College of Guestrow and Buetzow, he came to America in 1884, to finish theological training at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, under the tutelage of Dr. C.F.W. Walther, founder of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri. In 1887 he returned to Germany to marry Elizabeth Brauer (1859-1935), daughter of Pastor Albert Brauer of Ribnitz, Germany. His first call was to the congregation at Deshler, Nebraska. He was then called to the congregation at Haven, Kansas, where he served for 11½ years. During this time he founded a new congregation at Nashville, Kansas. In November 1900, he accepted a call to St. Lorenz Lutheran Church as associate pastor with the Rev. Dr. E.A. Mayer, with whom he served the congregation for over 30 years, retiring in 1932 due to ill health.

Rev. Henry Voss and Helene raised four children: Emil, adopted, became a pastor; Lilly married Arthur Hubinger; Lenchen married Edward Klatt; and Elsie married Herbert Veitengruber. Emil (1890-1968) was born in Spring Valley, Kansas May 17, 1890, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Emil Maehr. His mother died soon after his birth and he was then raised and later adopted by the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Voss. Emil graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri in 1912 and then served as vicar to St. Lorenz. The Rev. Dr. Emil Voss founded St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School in Bach, Michigan, and served there from 1912 to 1921.

He served Trinity Lutheran in Monitor, Michigan 1921 to 1927 and was then installed at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Saginaw, and served there for 40 years. On June 10, 1914, Rev. Dr. Emil Voss was united in marriage with Esther Bartels, daughter of Pastor Herman Bartels. They had 5 children: Rev. Kurt, Mrs. Ruth Bell of Saginaw, Michigan, Rev. Hans of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, Rev. Theophil of Akron, Ohio, and Eugene of Saginaw. Esther Bartels Voss died in December 1999; Ruth Bell died in March 1999, and Rev. Hans died in September 2003. Rev. Theophil lives in Akron, Ohio with his wife Jean and son Gabriel. Eugene Voss had four girls: Ruthanne Voss of Saginaw, Chris Larson, a registered nurse, Sharon Voss, Ph.D. and missionary teacher in China, and Mrs. Kathy Davenport, a pharmacy technician.

Rev. Kurt Voss (1915-1983) was born in Bach, Michigan and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. His first assignment was as a missionary to China. When he returned home on leave to Michigan in 1946, his father had as a speaker at his church a Norwegian woman, Eli Engen, who had been a courier for the Norwegian underground during the Nazi occupation in World War II. Eli spoke about those exploits and how she had been imprisoned by the Nazis in a concentration camp outside her home city of Oslo. The young minister and the speaker met in April, became engaged in June, and were married that September. They both went to China as missionaries in 1947 and stayed until Communist advances drove them out in 1949.

In 1957, after serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Reese, Michigan and St. John Lutheran Church in Springfield, Pennsylvania, he went to Korea teaching in Seoul University and at Women's College in Seoul. He helped establish a Lutheran servicemen's center and was the military contact pastor of the United Nations forces. Upon his return to the United States he was pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio from 1963 until he retired in 1978 because of ill health.



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