

✝ HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA ✝

Welcome to 2026 and our year of celebration! Follow this space throughout the year for snippets of St. Daniel's history from 1751 to 2026.

What's an ECK KIRCHE???

St. Daniel's Evangelical Lutheran Church was forged from the storm of the Reformation, political and religious persecution in Europe, and the trials of the frontier in America. Its founders were tempered by the ardors and cruelty suffered during migration across an ocean and to the frontier of a new land. Its buildings and property have changed from the original stone building on the corners of three properties. Succeeding generations of its members have adapted to new languages, new customs, and new times. Yet the basic justification for the church -- the teaching and spreading of the Gospel -- remains.

Immigrants from the Palatinate region of Germany, the Lenni Lenape Indians, and the familiar names of William Penn, William Allen, Jr. (Chief Justice of Pennsylvania), Conrad Weiser, and Heinrich Gruber are just a few involved in the history of this area and the creation of what was first known as the Lutheran Church in Heidelberg (or the Heidelberg congregation) before being named St. Daniel's after Rev. Daniel Ulrich in 1814.

The German forebearers of the Heidelberg congregation had settled in the region of the Tulpehocken and established farms. On May 30, 1751, the Heidelberg congregation came into possession of portions of three adjoining farms in order to build a church:

Tract 1: 1/2 acre and 7-1/2 perches given by Johannes Artz

Tract 2: 1/2 acre given by Michael Schauer

Tract 3: 3/4 acre and 1/2 perch given by Abraham Lauck

(A perch of land is an old unit of measurement typically defined as 16.5 feet long.) Conrad Weiser executed the deeds for these tracts. It is because of these "corners" of the farm property of these families that St. Daniel's was first referred to as the "Eck Kirche" or Corner Church.

Members of St. Daniel's confess the Gospel with new words in our modern world, but we build on the firm foundation of those who have gone before. We are inspired by the "faith of our fathers," just as the German immigrants who settled in the Tulpehocken, who formed the early congregation at Heidelberg in 1751, were led by those who had preceded them in the faith centuries before. Those traditions, however, do not bind the church to the past.

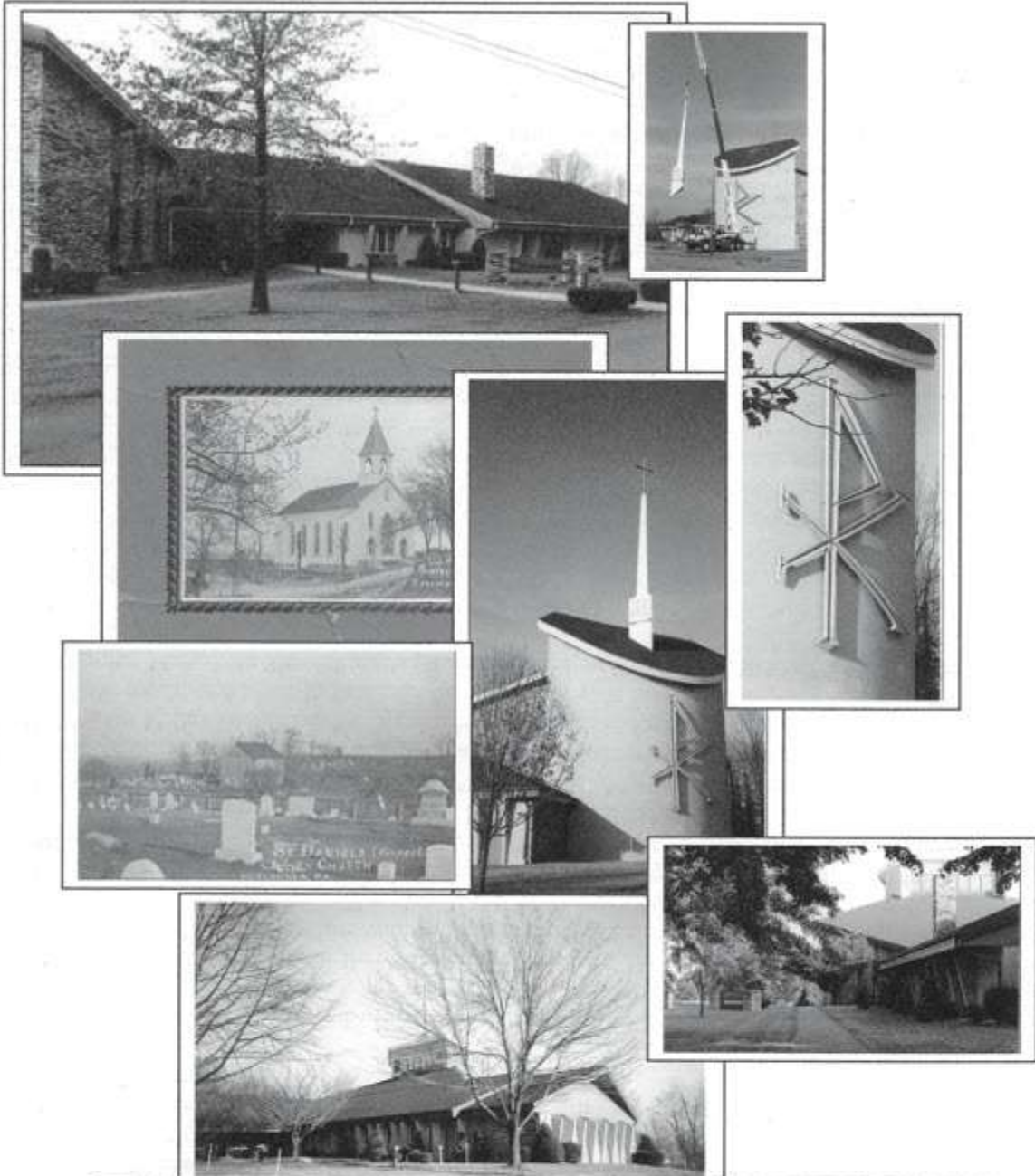
Rather, they free the church to learn from its forebears in embodying an ever-changing role in the lives of believers.

Even though the bricks and mortar have changed and generations and centuries have passed, the church remains and continues to move forward so that the Gospel may be heard.

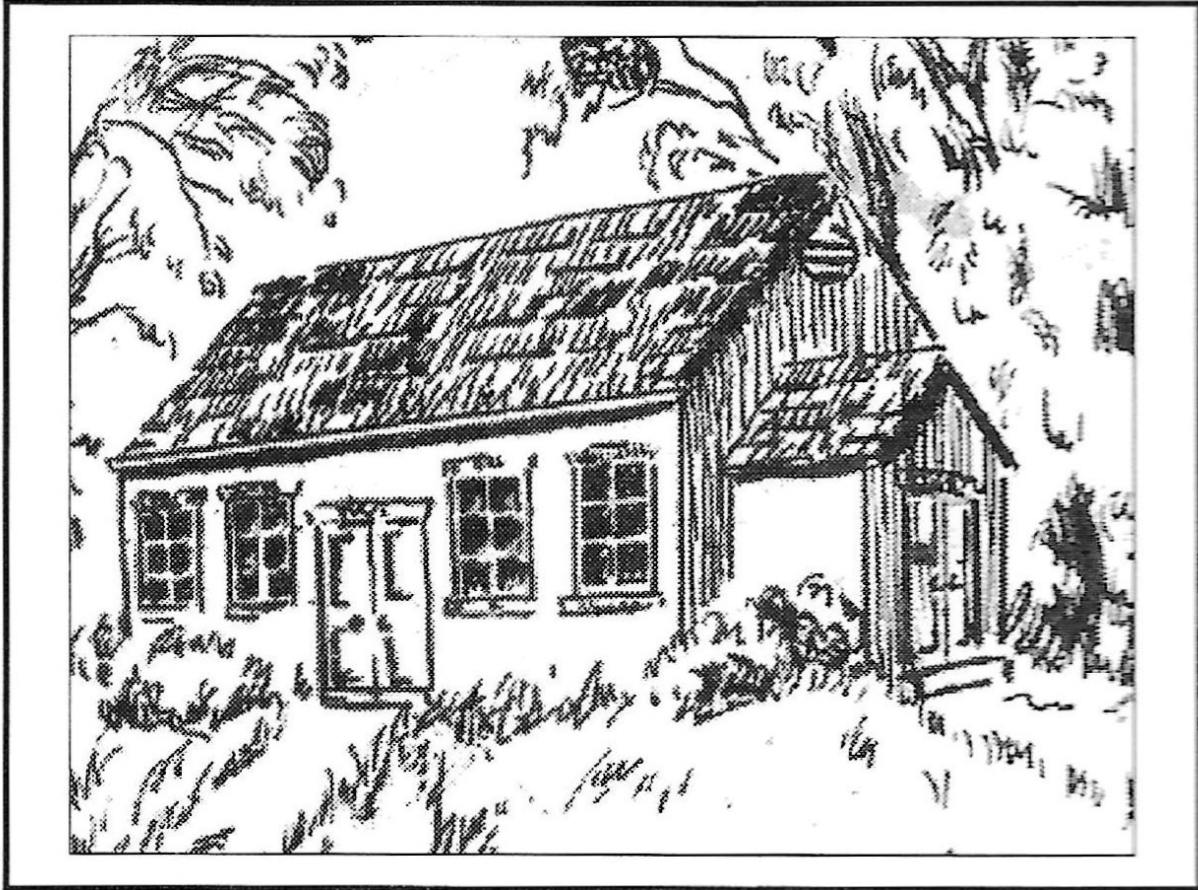
What an amazing and enduring history we share!

Historical details taken from the 'Saint Daniel's Evangelical Lutheran Church "Eck Kirche" 1751-2001' church history book written by the St. Daniel's History Committee in celebration of the 250th anniversary. Significantly more detail regarding the applicable history of the early 1700s is found in the Introduction to that book.

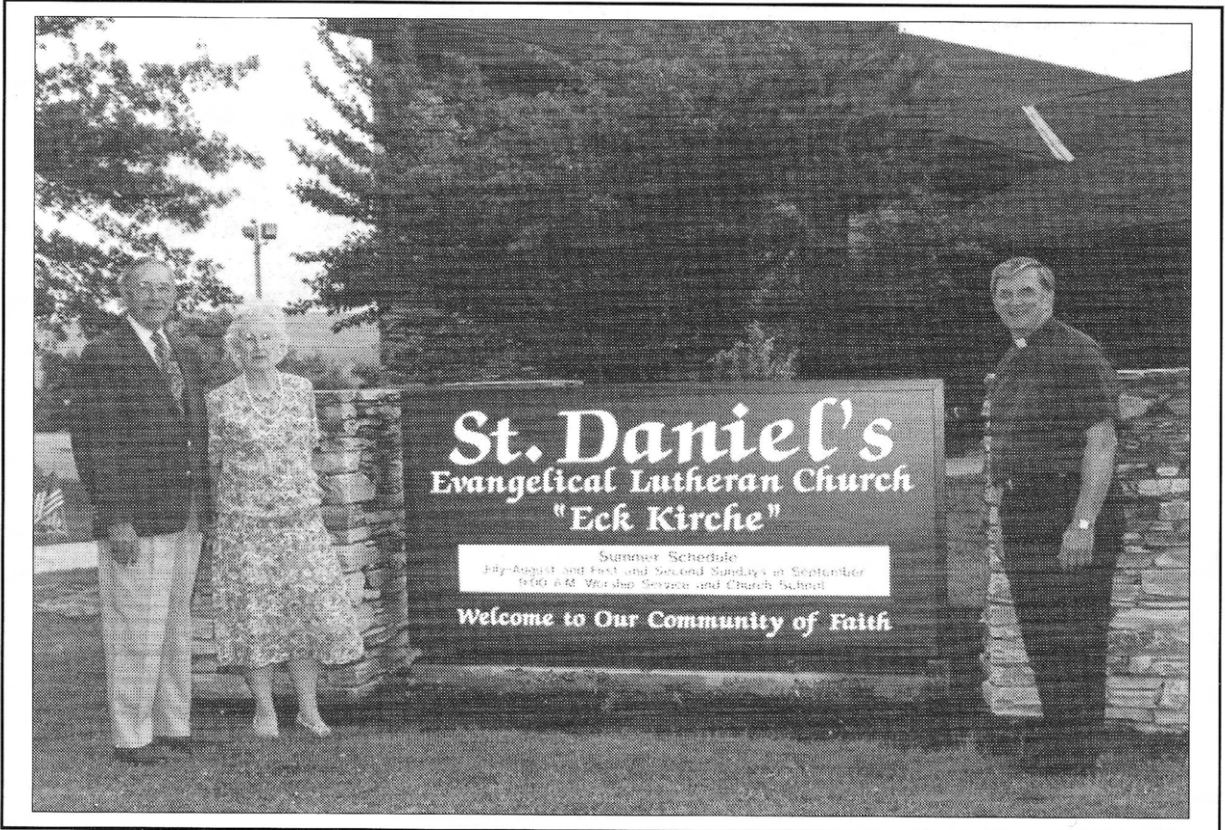
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St. Daniel's
"The Eck Kirche"



Artist's concept of the first St. Daniel's Church building



A new sign welcomes the public at St. Daniel's. Robert and Kathryn Koch, shown here with Rev. Ronald Weir, donated the sign in 1994 in memory of their parents: Levi and A. Rachel Koch, and Michael and Annie Heffner.