

## † HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA †

### THE PARSONAGE: Shelter for the Shepherd

In the early days of the church, the pastor was not supplied with living quarters. Pastors of the 1700s and 1800s often lived with friends or relatives. Others rented living quarters. St. Daniel's first Pastor, Rev. John Nicholas Kurtz, lived with Conrad Weiser and his wife on their farm near Womelsdorf.

By the early 1900s, many churches owned their own buildings for use as parsonages. St. Daniel's first parsonage was a joint responsibility shared with other members of the Womelsdorf Parish. The parish was formed circa 1887 and consisted of four churches: St. Daniel's, Zion - Womelsdorf, St. John's - Host, and Zion - Strausstown. This parsonage, located on Third & High Streets in Womelsdorf, was purchased for Rev. Oscar Pflueger on February 25, 1903, for \$4,000. It was renovated in 1905, and St. Daniel's share was sold when the Womelsdorf Parish split in 1943. That parsonage building is currently part of the campus of Zion Lutheran Church in Womelsdorf.

In 1943, the new Robeson Lutheran Parish, composed of St. Daniel's and Trinity Lutheran Church, purchased a house and refurbished it as a parsonage at 105 E. Penn Avenue in Robeson. This was a 2-1/2 story brick house initially costing \$5,000. When the Robeson Lutheran Parish was dissolved in 1957, Trinity Lutheran agreed to buy St. Daniel's share of the existing parsonage. That parsonage building is currently a private residence across from the Robeson House restaurant in Robeson.

On October 13, 1957, St. Daniel's congregation adopted a proposal to sell its parsonage share to Trinity (as noted above) and build a new parsonage on the St. Daniel's church grounds east of the Pavilion, diagonally across from the church. The proposal included a cost estimate of \$20-30,000. On May 7, 1958, it was decided to use stone instead of brick for construction and an additional \$9,000 was authorized to cover the increased cost. The building was dedicated on November 23, 1958. That parsonage was in use until 1976 during the pastorate of Rev. James Miller.

There is a ***lot*** more to share about the final parsonage of St. Daniel's! More details in a future edition!

What an amazing and enduring history we share!

Follow this space throughout the year for snippets of St. Daniel's history from 1751 to 2026.

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. More details regarding this topic are found in Chapter 2 – The Church Grows – The Parsonage. Additional details from Parish Records from the applicable years. Photos from St. Daniel's archives or as noted.

**#StDaniels #StDanielsLutheranChurch #EckKirche #CornerChurch  
#OnTheHillOverlookingRobesonia #RobesoniaPA #1751StDaniels2026  
#275thAnniversary #HolyHighlights #History #OurHistory #Parsonage  
#ALotHappensIn275Years**



From the 1912 Parish Record.



Photo taken April 4, 2026.

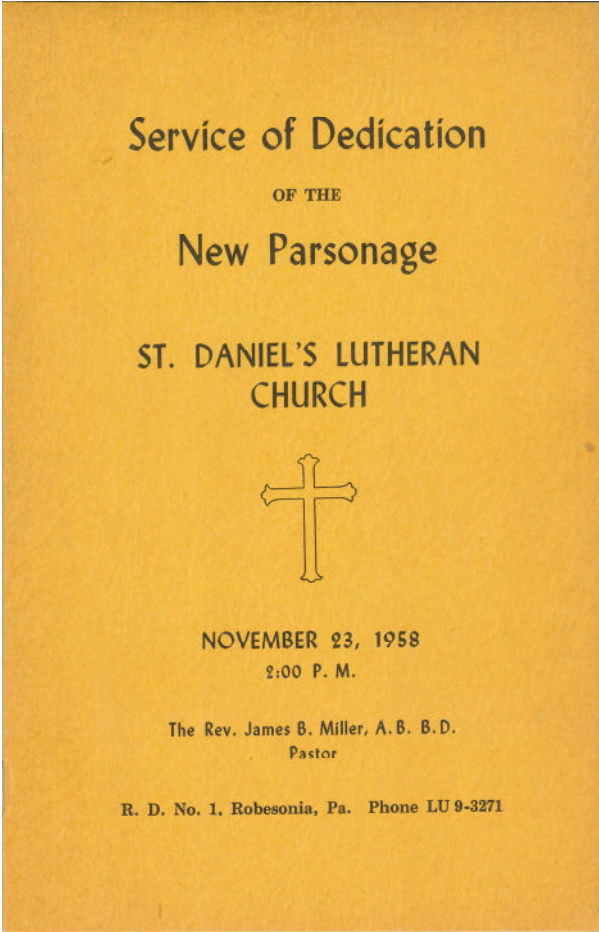


Photo taken April 4, 2026.

**Lutherans to Dedicate \$39,000 Parsonage in Robesonia**

The Rev. James B. Miller, pastor, is shown above grading the lawn in front of the new parsonage of St. Daniel Lutheran Church, near Robesonia, which will be dedicated at special services this afternoon at 2 o'clock. The parsonage, a ranch type stone house, is situated near the church on the crest of a hill which overlooks Robesonia. It contains four bedrooms, three baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, pastor's study, garage and basement. The dwelling was constructed by Stanley K. Haak, Sheridan. The speaker for the dedicatory service will be the Rev. Dr. Elmer L. Lelsey, former pastor of the church. The dedication service will be conducted by the Rev. Daniel F. Newhart, West Reading, Reading Conference president. An open house will follow the services in the church until 5 o'clock. The pastor and his family will move into the new parsonage tomorrow. The parsonage planning committee comprised Raymond Kalbach, chairman; Peter Gruber, J. J. Ravert, Adam Spohn, Warren Davis, Irvin Bricker, J. Samuel Brown, Burt Webber, Mrs. Robert Koch and Mrs. Edgar Lutz.  
(Eagle Staff Photo)

Reading Eagle article - November 23, 1958



PARSONAGE COMMITTEE

- Rev. James B. Miller, Pastor
- Mr. Raymond Kalbach, Chairman
- Mr. Peter Gruber
- Mr. J. J. Ravert
- Mr. Adam Spohn
- Mr. Warren Davis
- Mr. Irvin Bricker
- Mr. J. Samuel Brown
- Mrs. Robert Koch
- Mrs. Edgar Lutz
- Mrs. Burt Webber

Your Pastor and the members of the congregation wish to take this opportunity to express to the Parsonage Committee our sincere thanks for a job well done. We deeply appreciate the many hours spent by each of you at the many meetings which had to be held relative to the Parsonage. I think the building itself is evidence of good sound planning and of your good spirit.

Everyone is welcome to the open house following the service of Dedication. The hours are from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Our Thanks to all the men who came out and helped to rake and work at the parsonage. Also a word of appreciation to the women who came and helped in the cleaning. We are grateful to all who helped to make this parsonage a reality.

Our thanks and appreciation to Pastor Leisey and Pastor Newhart for helping to make our dedication service such a grand success. It was good to have you with us for this occasion.

Booklet from the Service of Dedication of the new parsonage – November 23, 1958

SERVICE OF DEDICATION OF THE NEW PARSONAGE

The Rev. James B. Miller, A.B. B.D. Pastor  
Mrs. Helen M. Smith, Organist & Directress

November 23, 1958  
2 P.M.

THE PRELUDE — "Prelude" ..... *Franck*  
 THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN ..... 187  
 THE VESPERS SERVICE ..... Page 141  
 THE PSALM: 71 ..... Page 187  
 THE GLORIA PATRI  
 THE LESSON ..... Hebrews 3:1-6  
 THE ANNOUNCEMENTS  
 THE HYMN ..... 434  
 THE SERMON ..... The Rev. Elmer Leisey, D.D.  
 THE OFFERING  
 THE ORGAN MEDITATION — "Poeme" ..... *Boellmann*  
 THE ANTHEM — "Now Thank We All Our God" ..... *Mueller*  
 THE OFFERTORY — Page 27  
 THE CLOSING VESPERS SERVICE ..... Page 146  
 THE LORD'S PRAYER  
 THE BENEDICTION  
 THE RECESSIONAL HYMN ..... 323  
 THE POSTLUDE — "Festival Postlude" ..... *Tours*

Following the recessional Hymn the clergy and congregation will proceed to the New Parsonage for the Service of Dedication.

THE ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A  
NEW PARSONAGE

The Rev. Daniel Newhart, S.T.M.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

R — Amen.

Our Help is in the name of the Lord.

R — Who made heaven and earth.

I was glad when they said unto me. Let us go into the house of the Lord.

R — Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Peace be within thy walls.

R — For my brethren and companions' sakes I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R — As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

O Lord, Have mercy upon us.

R — Thanks be to God.

The Acceptance of the Key.

The Prayers and Office of Dedication:

Let us pray: Look graciously, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, on this Parsonage which we have reared to Thy Glory and for the use of the Pastor and his family of this Church; and be pleased to bless and accept it of our hands. Amen.

Blest and dedicate be this Parsonage. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and in earth is named: Let Thy blessing descend and rest upon this Parsonage which we humbly dedicate to the service of Thy Kingdom. Let Thy benediction ever abide upon this house and in the hearts of Thy people, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Booklet from the Service of Dedication of the new parsonage – November 23, 1958

### DONORS OF GIFTS

We are deeply grateful to the following people for their gifts to the new parsonage:

Mr. & Mrs. John Brown and Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Lutz for furnishing the Pastor's Study.

Mr. Stanley Haak, Contractor for the Fire Place in the Living Room.

Mr. John Ray for Drawing Plans for Fire Place.

Mr. & Mrs. Adam Spohn for Shrubbery.

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Davis, Shrubbery, Walks and Patio and for the beautiful Landscape Work and Planting.

Mr. & Mrs. Levi Eckert for Blue Spruce Tree.

Mr. J. J. Ravert for his Labor in putting in the Heating System and Profit on Material.

Mr. Roy Fritz for Garbage Disposal Unit and Glass Shower Door.

\* \* \* \* \*

To all who gave to St. Daniel's Church Cash Gifts and Money to be used toward the new parsonage on an interest-free basis we deeply appreciate your gifts.

### THIS DEDICATION BOOKLET

Presented Through the Courtesy of the Following:

Mr. Stanley K. Haak	Sheridan, Pa.	Contractor & Builder
Mr. J. J. Ravert	Robesonia, Pa.	Heating & Fuel Oil
Mr. Melvin Ernst	R. D. 1, Sinking Spring, Pa.	Electrician
Mr. Earl Bashore	R. D. 2, Denver, Pa.	Plastering
Mr. Edgar Sweigart	Reinholds, Pa.	Tile & Linoleum
Mr. Harry Gring	Reinholds, Pa.	Lumber & Mill Work
Mr. Roy Fritz	Wernersville, Pa.	Plumbing
Richmaid Kitchens	Richland, Pa.	
Mr. Levi Koch	Wernersville, Pa.	Painting & Paperhanging
Mr. Elmer Brendel & Sons	Terre Hill, Pa.	Stone Masons
Mr. Paul Barry	Richland, Pa.	Excavating
Mr. Wilbur Z. Wike	Lebanon, Pa.	Planned Interiors
Mr. Lincoln Murdough	Robesonia, Pa.	Driveway
Mr. Warren F. Davis	Wernersville, Pa.	Florist
Lamm & Witman Funeral Home	Wernersville, Pa.	

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