

† HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA †

MINISTERING DURING A WORLD WAR & A PANDEMIC

Reverend Harvey Kidd was our Pastor from 1914-1926.

Harvey S. Kidd was born on April 28, 1884, in Bath, PA. He studied for the ministry at Muhlenberg College in Allentown and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on June 15, 1908. Later in June 1908, he married Anna Florence Kramer and they had one son and three daughters.

After the death of Rev. Oscar Pflueger in 1913, the Womelsdorf Parish (including St. Daniel's) was without a pastor for one year and services were conducted by supply pastors. The 1915 Parish Record, recording events of the Womelsdorf Parish during the year 1914, noted that, "During the past years, efforts have been made by the Reading Conference to reduce the number of congregations in the various parishes so as to increase the number of regular services on Sundays as well as enable the pastors to attend to their work more efficiently." It was determined that the best time to make these changes was when there was a vacancy in the pastorate, as was the case after the death of Rev. Pflueger. Thus, Zion - Strausstown became part of a new parish, leaving St. Daniels, Zion - Womelsdorf, and St. John's - Host as the 3 members of the Womelsdorf Parish. On May 24, 1914, the Rev. Harvey Kidd preached his first sermon at St. Daniel's. On June 21, he was elected to the Parish. On July 24, he and his family moved into the parsonage, and Rev. Kidd was officially installed on August 30, 1914.

Rev. Kidd was the chairman of a Reading Conference committee that published a *History of the Lutheran Churches in Berks County* in 1923.

During his pastorate of the Womelsdorf Parish, the current Zion church building was erected (1916-1918); Trinity church (Robesonia) organized and purchased its chapel (1917), thus making Womelsdorf a four-congregation Parish again; and St. Daniel's made improvements to its church building. Those improvements included installation of electric lights to replace oil lamps in June 1921, paid for by the Sunday School at a cost of \$700, plus volunteer labor to provide the wood for the poles and physically run the electric lines from Robesonia. St. Daniel's also decided on July 6, 1924 to purchase a new electric pipe organ from M.P. Moeller Organ Builders of Hagerstown, Maryland at a cost of \$4,150. It arrived at the Robesonia train station on Christmas Day 1924 and was moved into the church on the following day. It was dedicated on April 12, 1925 (Easter). Professor C.

Walter Wallace, a noted blind organist from Philadelphia, was the special organist of the day.

Some other significant changes occurred during Rev. Kidd's time at St. Daniel's:

1918 – The “Spanish Flu” influenza pandemic closed the church from October 6 - November 3 and again from November 24 - December 15.

1918 – There was a change from the common Communion cup to individual Communion cups, partly because of the flu epidemic.

July 4, 1920 – Though Rev. Kidd was not enthusiastic about it, Sunday School was organized by Calvin Brown.

January 1, 1924 – weekly duplex offering envelopes were introduced, to be used on a voluntary basis.

Significant world events during Rev. Kidd's time at St. Daniel's included:

* The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. (WWI was waged July 28, 1914- November 11, 1918.)

* In 1920, the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution was adopted, establishing Prohibition (it was repealed via the 21st Amendment in 1933).

Rev. Kidd resigned from the Womelsdorf Parish on February 12, 1926, which was effective March 15, 1926. He died August 18, 1942, at the age of 58 and is buried at the Green Mount Cemetery in Bath, PA.

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 3 – Pastors. Additional details from Parish Records from the applicable years. Photos from St. Daniel's archives.

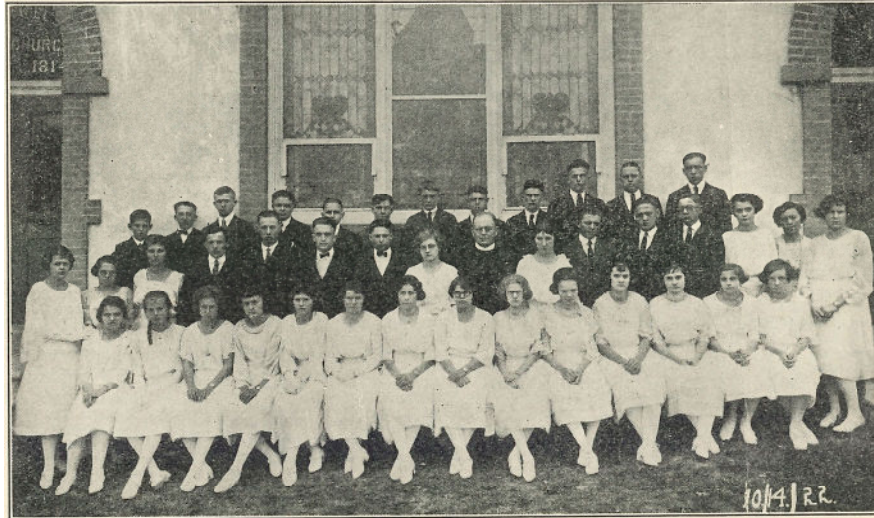
#StDaniels #StDanielsLutheranChurch #EckKirche #CornerChurch
#OnTheHillOverlookingRobesonia #RobesoniaPA #1751StDaniels2026 #275thAnniversary
#HolyHighlights #History #OurHistory #ReverendHarveyKidd #ParishRecord
#ALotHappensIn275Years



Reverend Harvey Kidd

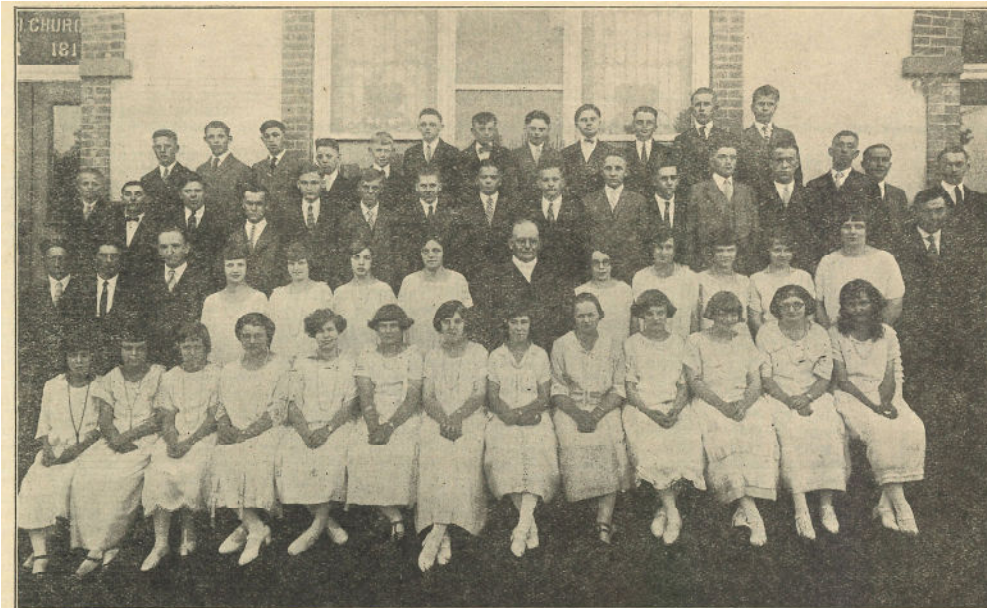
At its quarterly meeting, October 12, 1912, the Church Council of St. Daniel's congregation considered the language question, and decided that, beginning with January 1, 1913, the services held in the afternoons are always to be conducted in the English language as a slight concession to the younger portion of the membership, as well as a matter of uniformity easily to be remembered, viz., morning services in German, and afternoon and evening services in English. The younger portion of the membership should show great appreciation of its being favored by three-fourths of the services of the congregation being conducted in the English language, by very regular attendance.

From 1911 Parish Record regarding services in English vs. German.



Members of Class Confirmed at St. Daniels Church on October 15, 1922
 Back Row, standing left to right—Paul Unger, Elmer Sweigart, Calvin Lamm, Lester Haag, Reuben Saeger, William Wolf, Paul Himmelberger, Samuel Marderness, Earl Boyer, William Gruber, Charles Miller, Paul Keppley.
 Second Row—Stella Zechman, Mrs. Paul Hartman, Catherine Eisenhower, Harvey Fessler, James Snyder, George Brigle, Benjamin Gromis, Beulah Mentzer, Rev. Kidd, Beulah Rothermel, James Spohn, John Wenrich, Raymond Boyer, Edna Mountz, Mrs. John Ressler, Margaret McCook.
 Front Row, seated—Dorothy Stump, Isabel Snyder, Margaret Haag, Elsie Haag, Lizzie Hoover, Beulah Hoover, Florence Sterner, Elizabeth Stump, Elsie Putt, Helen Moyer, Annie Boyer, Pearl Boyer, Ruth Wenrich, May Mentzer.

Confirmation Class – 1922



CONFIRMATION CLASS ST. DANIELS, OCTOBER 11, 1924
 Front Row, Left to Right—Myrtle Palm, June Palm, Margaret Brossman, Mabel Stump, Verna Schell, Mabel Davis, Florence Oaks, Edna Brossman, Bessie Dreibelbis, Pearl Koch, Helen Nye, Mary Betz, Elsie Brossman. Second Row—Paul Snyder, Howard Bennethum, Max Landis, Margaret Putt, Margaret Schell, Mae Zellers, Florence Koch, Rev. H. S. Kidd, Margaret Weidner, Ellen Bricker, Lillian Haly, Lillian Adams, Annie Gromis.
 Third Row—Oswald Froelich, Albert Gromis, Clarence Bricker, John Haly, John Heffner, Roy Haag, Lewis Ringler, George Hockman, Paul Beshore, Lawrence Klopp, John Moyer, Earl Zechman, Harold Keppley, George Koch, John Eisenhower, Martin Wenrich, Earl Putt.
 Fourth Row—Elmer Beshore, Luther Bricker, Herbert Bricker, Elwood Aulenbach, George Nye, Walter Dreibelbis, Harvey Noecker, Leroy Stump, Matthew Boyer, Ira Angstadt, Paul Putt, Isaac Marderness.

Confirmation Class - 1924

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO MY PEOPLE.

Dear Parishioners:—

I need your help in a very important matter. At Synod we were told of the dangerous state of affairs due to the lack of men for the ministry. Some of our most active men have been called home, not only from among the ranks of those who have labored diligently all day, but from among those as well who had barely begun their work. It is difficult to supply the churches that now exist. Under these conditions it is impossible to extend our work. We need men for the ministry and we need your help in securing them. We are addressing you on this subject because we know that you have the interests of the Church at heart. How can you help us? Let me tell you.

You and I and all our people ought to include a petition in our daily prayer to God that He will raise up men from our midst who shall say: "Here am I Lord, send me." Shall we not, individually and as a congregation pray to the Lord of the harvest that laborers be found and sent into the harvest?

We must begin with prayer, but we must convert our earnest prayer into action and ask ourselves, is not there a young man in our family, a young man who is spiritually minded, a young man of ability, a young man who, though he possesses ability, possesses heroism as well, and realizes that life is more than raiment and food. If there is one young man of that type in your family it is your privilege to present him to the Lord, as have many of the most saintly parents of all ages.

The Gospel ministry, from which so many men are deliberately turning, has compensations to offer such as no other profession offers. Unfortunately there is a wrong estimate of it current in the minds of many young men. It is your privilege to help me correct this wrong impression. Will you not help me by praying with me and will you not come to see me so that we can talk this matter over?

Your friend and Pastor,

A. S. Kidd.

An appeal from Rev. Kidd in the 1916 Parish Record regarding the need for more ministers (only men at the time).

Notice has come to the pastor that some members are displeased when their attention is called to the great needs of the Church. They even object to have anyone tell them that they are in arrears with their Church dues and that it would be very desirable to have them square their accounts. The Church lays no tax, for she simply asks for a free will offering. The Church sets no day when that which is due must be paid, but waits an entire year and often longer after the money should be paid. The Church enforces no penalty for those in arrears. These same people who are abusing the Church because once in a while she asks for what they want to give, are paying everything else in a regular manner. Their taxes are paid promptly to avoid penalty and arrest. Their water rents are paid or else their water is turned off. The telephone is paid or the lines are cut. They even seem to hate it when they owe anyone else but the Church. We have names of members who pay nothing from year to year. Our records do not go back far enough in a few cases to show that they ever paid anything, and yet these are the very ones who are so easily offended. What if the Gospel should be turned off or cut off?

THE PARISH RECORD

No. 15

WOMELSDORF, PA.

JANUARY, 1920

THIS is the fifteenth number of The Parish Record. The first ten numbers were issued by the Rev. O. E. Pflueger. The present pastor has now served a little more than five years. These have been five strenuous years in the world and also in the Womelsdorf Parish. At the beginning of the present pastorate the Church at Strausstown was dropped from the parish and some of our best friends in the ministry told us that the three congregations left in the Parish would leave this a weak field in which to work. In spite of this separation the work has increased above what it was under the old arrangement. The yearly average in baptisms has increased from 30 to 54, in funerals from 31 to 44, in weddings from 11 to 19. The amount of money raised for apportionment, running expenses and special expenses in these five years is just about equal to what was raised in the previous ten years.

The HIGH COST OF LIVING is one of the subjects about which Rev. Pflueger wrote in the Record published in 1912. He states there that the increase in the cost of publishing the Record was 10 per cent. in a single year. That looks insignificant at this time, when we are told that the cost of these things is doubled in a single year.

More than 800 copies of The Parish Record were handed out last year. Every one of these had an envelope enclosed to be returned with a contribution to help pay for the Record. Only about one-fourth of them ever came back. We are very glad to say that the returned envelopes contained enough money to pay the expenses. The same amount will not reach this year, therefore many others

who receive the Record should return the envelopes.

The pastor is very glad to report that by action of each of the Church Councils the salary has been increased by one-third or more so as to enable the pastor to meet the increased cost of living.

By an oversight in our last Record we did not give Mr. L. R. Valentine, Kathryn Valentine and Edyth Valentine credit for the gift of the new Church bell in the tower of the new Church at Womelsdorf. Our apology and

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Commentary from Rev. Kidd in the 1919 Parish Record regarding offerings and the church's monetary needs.

New Organ Dedication Services

St. Daniel's Lutheran Church
Robesonia, Pa.

Easter Sunday, April 12th, 1925



St. Daniel's Church

Rev. H. S. Kidd, Pastor Prof. H. L. Landis, Organist

PROF. C. WALTER WALLACE

Well known blind organist of Philadelphia is the special organist for the day.

The New Organ

The new organ was built by M. P. Moller, of Hagerstown, Maryland, whose factory is the largest in the world, and who has built organs for more than 4000 churches, among which are some of America's largest and best known instruments.

SPECIFICATIONS OF ORGAN

MANU'LS—Compass CC to C, 61 notes.

PEDALS—Compass CCC to G, 32 notes.

ATION—Moller's Patent Electro-Pneumatic throughout.

Stops controlled by stop keys.

GREAT ORGAN		8' Viola D'Orchestre 73 Notes
8' Open Diapason 73 Pipes	8' Dulciana 73 Notes	
8' Viola D'Orchestre 73 Pipes	8' Doppel Floete 61 Pipes	
8' Dulciana 73 Pipes	4' Flute Traverso 61 Pipes	
8' Doppel Floete 73 Pipes	8' Oboe 61 Pipes	
4' Octave 61 Notes	8' Vox Celeste 61 Pipes	
4' Flute D'Armour 61 Notes	8' Vox Humana 61 Pipes	
16' Oboe 61 Notes	8' Stopped Diapason 73 Pipes	
Chimes 20 Notes		
SWELL ORGAN		PEDAL ORGAN
8' Viol Diapason 73 Pipes	16' Bourdon 32 Pipes	
	16' Lieblich Gedecht 32 Notes	

Ten couplers and 9 pistons make it possible, with the 19 stops, to produce most any effect desired.

Financial Statement

Price of organ \$4150.00	Cash on subscriptions \$3650.35
Special expenses 114.52	Cash on S. S. subscription for organ alone 450.00
Old debt of Church yard wall and fence 650.00	Outstanding Subs. 100.00
Dedication expense 60.00	
	\$4180.35
	\$4974.52

Amount needed to pay all bills \$800.

Coming

In 1926 St. Daniel's expects to celebrate its 175th Anniversary.

Program--9:30 A. M.

The choir of Zion Lutheran Church, Womelsdorf, Prof. E. F. Klopp, Director will render the anthems on the morning program.

Organ Prelude "Hail Easter Morn" Wallace
 Professional Hymn No. 625
 Anthem
 Scripture Reading
 Organ "March Triumphal" M. Costa
 Anthem
 Hymn No. 111
 Organ Selection Prof. E. F. KLOPP
 Brief Address Prof. PAUL L. KATZMAN
 Organ Selected
 Offering for Organ Fund
 Anthem
 Hymn No. 269
 Lord's Prayer
 Postlude Selected

Program--2:00 P. M.

Prelude Overture Selected
 Hymn No. 262
 Service on Page 1
 Anthem By ST. DANIEL'S CHOIR
 Hymn No. 192
 Brief Addresses
 Rev. J. W. LASKARUS
 Rev. D. F. LONGACRE
 Organ Grand Chorus in D Gellhaus
 Offering for Organ Fund
 Anthem By ST. DANIEL'S CHOIR
 The Organ Dedication
 Organ & The Swan Saint-Saens
 & Minuet Beethoven
 & The Honey Meyer
 Hymn No. 216
 Benediction

Program--7:00 P. M.

Inaugural Organ Recital
 Prelude Selection from Oberon Wallace
 Hymn No. 30
 Scripture and prayer

Recital

- Overture From the Overture Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ Wallace
 Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- Anthem Hosanna Greater
 ST. DANIEL'S CHOIR
- Liedstrau Chapin
- Festal March Scott
- Improvisation on an Easter Hymn W. Ince
- Offering Offertory selected
- Tune Picture Memories of life Wallace
 Note description: An aged couple seated by the open window of their cottage listening to the nearby church choir singing their vesper hymns. They think of the time when they sang in that same church. They think of their childhood days, lovers' days, their wedding day. The holiday times, their son's departure from home, "Where is my wandering boy tonight". His return and welcome at "Home sweet home." "Gilding oxen, "Silver thrushes among the gold". "The sun of a perfect day". "In the sweet bye and bye."

St. Daniel's Choir

Organist and Choir Director, Prof. H. L. Landis
 Assistant Organist, Edna Landis Weaver

Alto
 Ida Weidner
 Dorothy Stump
 Florence Koch
 Isabel Snyder
 Mrs. Calvin Brown

Tenore
 Ira Angstadt
 Calvin E. Brown

Bass
 William Babel

Parts of the Old Organ

to be kept as souvenirs may be bought from the Sunday School, thus helping them to pay the remainder due on their subscription.

New Organ Dedication Service - April 12, 1925