

† HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA †

CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE, ON HIM ALONE WE BUILD

April 30th and May 1st are two of many special days in the history of St. Daniel's Lutheran Church! Here's what was happening on these dates 212 and 115 years ago!

May 1, 1814 is the day that the cornerstone was laid for the second church building. It is also the day that the congregation, previously known as the church at Heidelberg, received the name "St. Daniel's" after Rev. Daniel Ulrich, who served as Pastor from 1811-1853.

April 30, 1911 is the day that the cornerstone was laid for the major renovations to the second church building. Per the 1911 Parish Record, "special services were held in the morning and afternoon [see photos of bulletin], partaking of the nature of a farewell from the old church as well as of the re-laying of the old cornerstone on the corner of the new part... The contents of the [original] cornerstone, which was laid May 1, 1814, and which appears to have been the one used already in the first church, were all crumbled and unfit for insertion in the stone at this time." A Proclamation also stated, "On the removal of the old cornerstone it was learned with regret that all the contents had wasted. Signs of repair on the leaden casket which had held the contents of the same, lead us to believe that this was already the casket of the first cornerstone, and perhaps the stone itself that of the first church. At this relaying of the stone the contents are placed in a new sealed casket of copper, and the whole inserted in the original leaden casket." So that seems to say that the box they found inside the 1814 cornerstone was literally from the first church built in 1751?!

The new contents added in 1911 included: the Holy Bible; Luther's Small Catechism – General Council Edition; sacramental bread and wine; THE LUTHERAN – Issue of April 27, 1911; THE READING EAGLE – Issue of April 29, 1911; the Proclamation quoted above; current coins; and a copy of the printed Service used.

When the church building was destroyed by fire in December 1976, the cornerstones survived with minimal damage. They were placed at the newly constructed church -- our current church building -- on October 22, 1978.

All of these cornerstones are visible today.

Note: The cornerstone for the 1951 Sunday School addition to the second building and the 1977 cornerstone for the new church building will be covered in future editions of the Holy Highlights.

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.

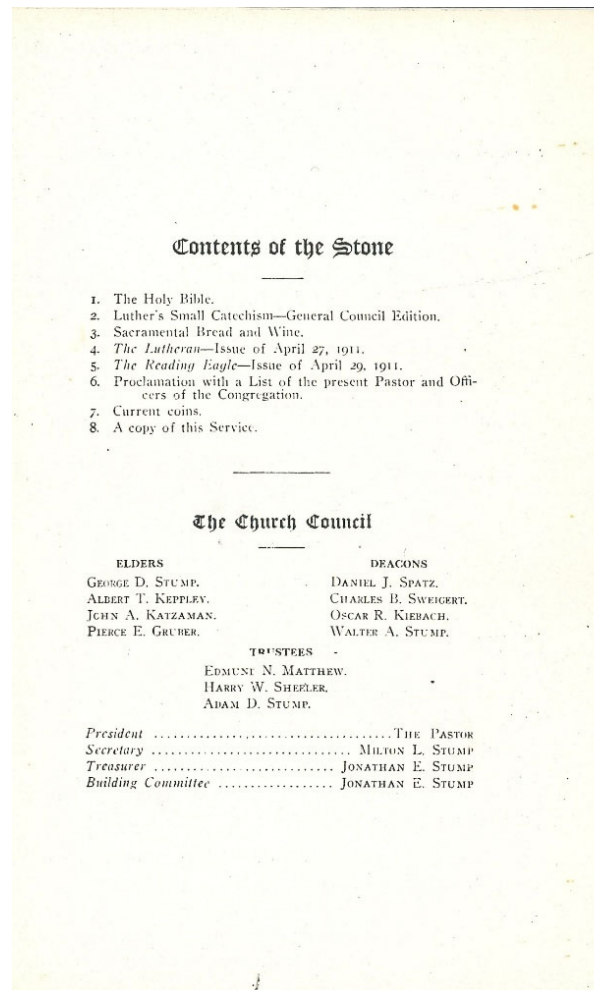
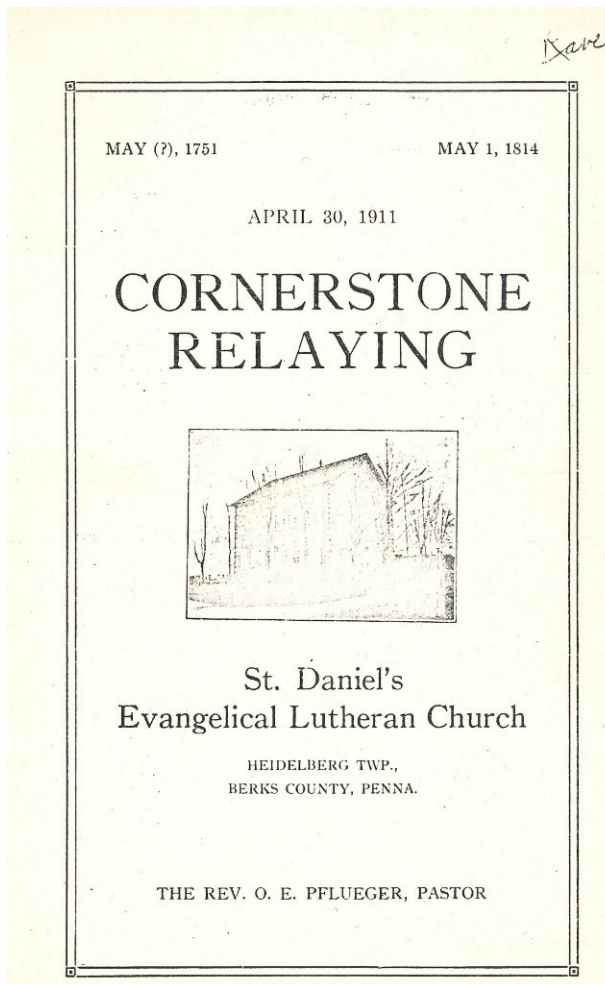
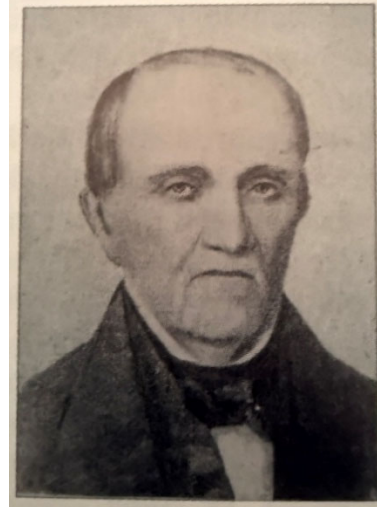
Historical details taken from the 'Saint Daniel's Evangelical Lutheran Church "Eck Kirche" 1751-2001' church history book written by the St. Daniel's History Committee in celebration of the 250th anniversary. More details regarding this topic are found in Chapter 2 – The Church Grows. Additional details 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 #Cornerstones #1751-1814
#1911 #CornerstoneRelaying #ParishRecord #ALotHappensIn275Years**



The 2nd church building as it looked in 1876. It is unclear where the 1751-1814 cornerstone was located, though it might have been on the left front corner closest to the roadway, as was the case when this building was remodeled in 1911.

Rev. Daniel Ulrich, Pastor from 1811-1853.
 The church was named
 "St. Daniel's"
 in his honor
 when the cornerstone was laid
 on May 1, 1814.



Bulletin from the service for the Cornerstone Relaying, April 30, 1911.

<p style="text-align: center;">Morgens Gottesdienst 9 A. M.</p> <p>ANTHEM BY THE CHOIR</p> <p>ALTAR DIENST DER PASTOR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I Petri 2:21-23 Johannes 10:11-16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIED 393</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Ich habe nun den Grund gefunden, Der meinen Anker ewig halt! Wo anders, als in Jesu Wunden? Da lag er vor der Zeit der Welt, Der Grund, der unbeweglich steht, Wenn Erd und Himmel untergeht!</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Es ist das ewige Erbarmen, Das alles Denken uebersteigt, Desz, der mit offenen Lichesarmen Sich nieder zu den Saendern neigt, Dem stets das Herz vor Mitleid bricht, Wir kommen oder kommen nicht.</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Bei diesem Grunde will ich bleiben, So lange mich die Erde traegt; Das will ich denken, thun und treiben, So lange sich ein Glied bewegt: So sing ich einst in Ewigkeit: O Abgrund der Barmherzigkeit!</p> <p>PREDIGT EHRW. JOHN C. FISHER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOLUNTARY OFFER</p> <p>ANTHEM BY THE CHOIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIED 264</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Hilf, Herr! lasz wohlgelingen Was hier begonnen ist, Dein Volk kann freulich singen, Weil du der Eckstein bist, Der Zweifel waegt und zaehlet Gar zeugstuecklich dein Thun, Der Glaube, nutzbesetzt, Darf in der Allmacht ruhn.</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>In deinem grossen Namen, Der alle Kirchen traegt, Sei heut' ein glaebig "Amen" Auf diesen Stein gelegt, Glueck zu, Glueck zu, ihr Braeder! Der Herr wird helfen haeren, Wie sollten denn die Glieder Dem Haupte nicht vertrauen?</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Ja, Koening aller Ehren, Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn! Du wirst dem Reich hier mehren, Der Glaebe sieht es schon: Dein Heil wird hier verkunden, In's Haus zieht Segen ein, Es wird, auf dich gegrueundet, Ein Friedenstempel sein.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LOBSPRUCH SEGEN</p>	<p>Ich habe nun den Grund gefunden, Der meinen Anker ewig halt! Wo anders, als in Jesu Wunden? Da lag er vor der Zeit der Welt, Der Grund, der unbeweglich steht, Wenn Erd und Himmel untergeht!</p>	<p>Es ist das ewige Erbarmen, Das alles Denken uebersteigt, Desz, der mit offenen Lichesarmen Sich nieder zu den Saendern neigt, Dem stets das Herz vor Mitleid bricht, Wir kommen oder kommen nicht.</p>	<p>Hilf, Herr! lasz wohlgelingen Was hier begonnen ist, Dein Volk kann freulich singen, Weil du der Eckstein bist, Der Zweifel waegt und zaehlet Gar zeugstuecklich dein Thun, Der Glaube, nutzbesetzt, Darf in der Allmacht ruhn.</p>	<p>In deinem grossen Namen, Der alle Kirchen traegt, Sei heut' ein glaebig "Amen" Auf diesen Stein gelegt, Glueck zu, Glueck zu, ihr Braeder! 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JOHN C. FISHER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HYMN L. M.</p> <p>This stone to Thee in faith we lay, We build the temple, Lord, to Thee; Thine eye be open night and day, To guard this house and sanctuary.</p> <p>Here, when Thy people seek Thy face, And dying sinners pray to live, Hear Thou in heaven, Thy dwelling place, And when Thou hearest, O forgive.</p> <p>ADDRESS THE PASTOR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOLUNTARY OFFERING</p> <p>ANTHEM BY THE CHOIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE LAYING OF THE STONE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIED 5. 6. 7. D.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Nun danket alle Gott: Mit Herzen, Mund und Haenden, Der grosse Dinge thut An uns und allen Eenden: Der uns von Mutterleib Und Kindesbein an Unzaehlig viel zu gut Bis hierher hat gethan.</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <p>Lob, Ehr und Preis sei Gott, Dem Vater und dem Sohne, Und dem, der Beiden gleich Im hochsten Himmelsthronen: Ihm, dem Dreieinigen, Als es urspruenglich war Und ist und bleiben wird Jeztund und immer!</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">BENEDICTION</p>	<p>Behold the sure Foundation Stone Which God in Zion lays, To build our heavenly hopes upon, And His eternal praise.</p>	<p>The foolish builders, scribe and priest, Reject it with disdain; Yet on this Rock the Church shall rest, And envy rage in vain.</p>	<p>Nun danket alle Gott: Mit Herzen, Mund und Haenden, Der grosse Dinge thut An uns und allen Eenden: Der uns von Mutterleib Und Kindesbein an Unzaehlig viel zu gut Bis hierher hat gethan.</p>	<p>Lob, Ehr und Preis sei Gott, Dem Vater und dem Sohne, Und dem, der Beiden gleich Im hochsten Himmelsthronen: Ihm, dem Dreieinigen, Als es urspruenglich war Und ist und bleiben wird Jeztund und immer!</p>
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Bulletin from the service for the Cornerstone Relaying, April 30, 1911.



St. Daniel's after the 1911 remodel. The cornerstone is visible in this photo on the left front corner between the tree and the doorway/steps.

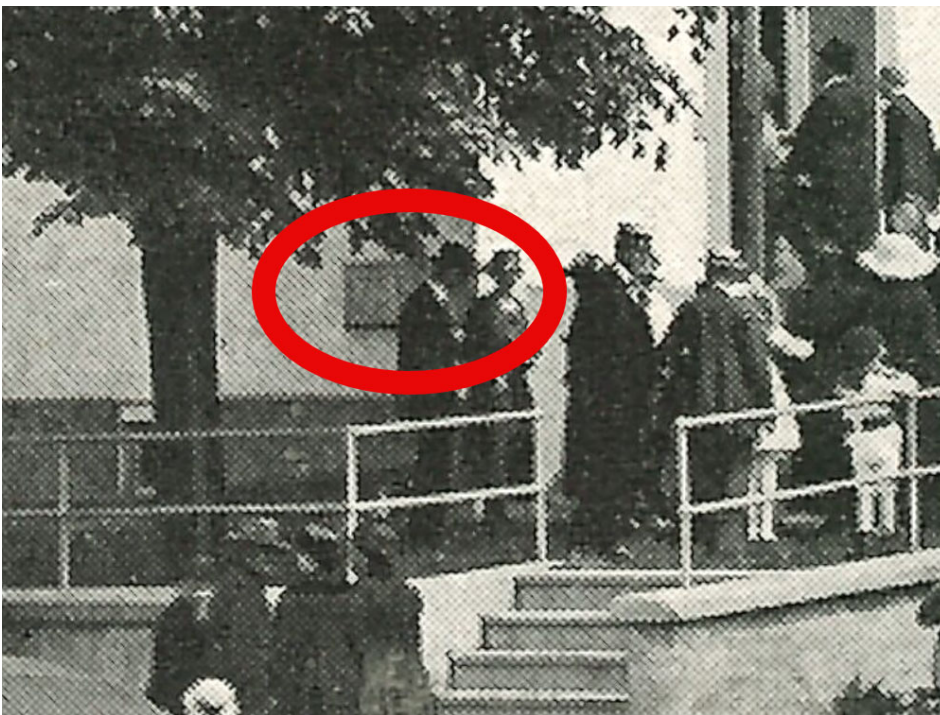


St. Daniel's at Service Time, June 1, 1919.

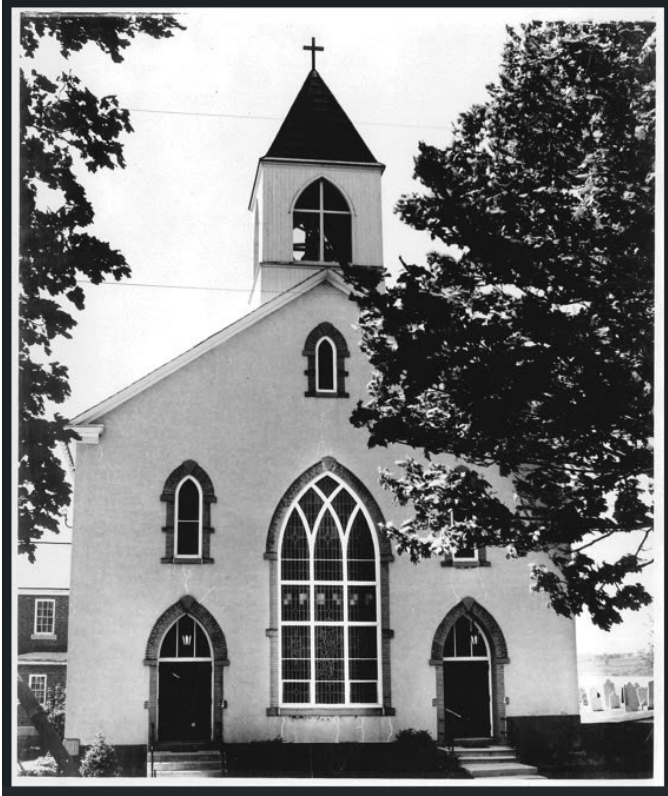
This photo of St. Daniel's was in *The Lutheran* magazine in 1919.

The cornerstone is visible behind the folks standing near the steps.

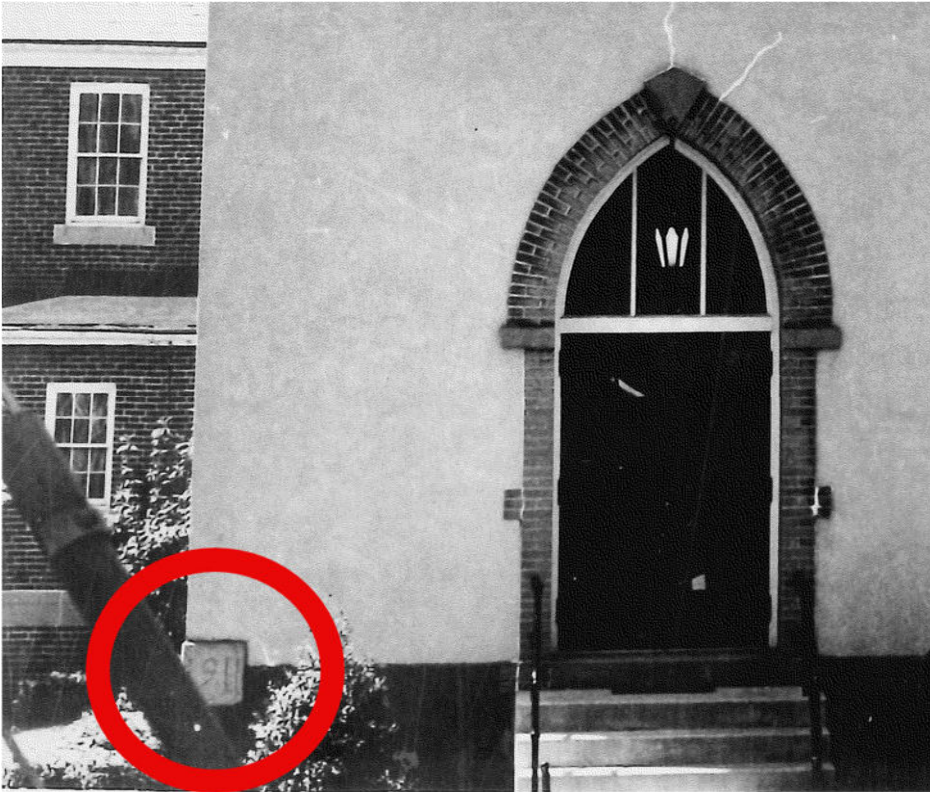
The next photo is zoomed in...



Zooming in on the previous photo, the cornerstone is visible and you can just make out the numbers 1751.



This photo is after the 1964 remodel.
The front of the cornerstone
is visible in the
front left corner.
The next photo is zoomed in...



Zooming in on the
previous photo,
the cornerstone is
visible and you
can make out the
numbers 1911.



This photo after the December 8, 1976 fire clearly shows the cornerstone surrounded by rubble. Note that it is one “L” shaped stone with “1751-1814” on one side and “1911” on the other. Photo by Joyce Hassler.



This photo after the December 8, 1976 fire clearly shows the cornerstone surrounded by rubble. Photo from 1978 Church Dedication Booklet.



These cornerstones are part of our current church building. The cross is part of the 1977 cornerstone for the 3rd (and current) church building. Photo taken April 27, 2026 by Kim Henning.



The 1751-1814 cornerstone is part of our current church building. Photo taken April 27, 2026 by Kim Henning.



These cornerstones are part of our current church building. The 1977 cornerstone is for the 3rd (and current) church building. Photo taken April 27, 2026 by Kim Henning.



The 1911 cornerstone is part of our current church building.

Photo taken April 27, 2026 by Kim Henning.