

† HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA †

DESIGNER OF BUILDINGS; WRITER OF PRAYERS

Reverend Harry Miller was our Pastor from 1926-1939.

Harry Miller was born on April 22, 1873, in Selinsgrove PA. He attended public school in Selinsgrove and the Missionary Institute (now Susquehanna University), from which he graduated in 1893. He attended Muhlenberg College in Allentown and graduated with honors in 1895. He studied for the ministry at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, from which he graduated in 1898. That same year, Rev. Miller accepted an invitation to become a pioneer missionary in Brooklyn, NY; a work that in a short time grew the congregation from 13 members to 500. He married Bertha C. Decker on October 12, 1910, and they had 8 children.

During the dark days of World War I, Rev. Miller was so moved that he wanted to enter the field of medicine. His desire to make this profession change was thwarted when his scholastic records were lost in a fire at the administration building at Susquehanna University.

Rev. Miller was chosen to be the pastor of the Womelsdorf Lutheran Parish (including St. Daniel's) in 1926. He accepted the call on June 15 and was formally installed in Zion - Womelsdorf on July 18, 1926. He was St. Daniel's pastor for 13 years. *Note: It appears there is a typo in the 1939 Parish Record memorial tribute as well as Rev. Miller's tombstone, as they indicate that he started at the Womelsdorf Parish in May 1927. However, there is proof via other Parish Records and the 175th Anniversary service program (October 3, 1926) that Rev. Miller was in fact at the Parish in 1926.

Unlike Rev. Harvey Kidd before him, Rev. Miller was enthusiastic about the Sunday School at St. Daniel's and it grew tremendously during his pastorate. He also wrote the prayer entitled "Our Sunday School Prayer" in 1926. Copies of the prayer can be found pasted onto the inside of cover of the old Sunday School hymnals (see photo). Per the St. Daniel's 250th anniversary history book, as of 2001, the prayer was still used to open the Sunday School services at St. Daniel's.

Rev. Miller also had a strong interest in architecture. While he was at the mission in New York, he designed many of the features of the Gothic-style Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Brooklyn. In addition, the baptismal font, hymn boards, and other appointments in Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia were built by Rev. Miller. (It would be

interesting to know how many of those things remain at Trinity today!) He also designed and built his own home on the Susquehanna River and was recognized as a master cabinet maker.

In addition to his love of architecture and missions, Rev. Miller was active in local care facilities. He was Secretary to the Board of the Good Shepherd Home in Allentown, a member of the Advisory Board of the Lutheran Home in Germantown in Philadelphia, and a member of the Board of the Lutheran Home in Topton, PA.

Rev. Harry Miller died at the age of 66 on December 24, 1939, while still at St. Daniel's. He is buried in Heidelberg Cemetery in Robesonia. As seen in the following tribute, Rev. Miller was a well-loved and respected Pastor, and his death was considered a terrible loss to the St. Daniel's congregation and the Womelsdorf Parish as a whole:

"The passing of such a versatile and beloved man has been a terrible shock to his friends. His cheery personality and his Christlike character are the memories we shall always cherish. We can say that surely a great man walked among us, humbly. Pray to God that He will raise up men of similar character to preach the Truth and minister to the needs of His people." – From the 1939 Parish Record, denoted as the "Memorial Copy" after the passing of Rev. Harry Miller

Some other significant events occurred during Rev. Miller's time at St. Daniel's:

1926 – 175th Anniversary celebration; special services held.

1927 – Abolishment of a minimum yearly assessment in order to be admitted as and remain a church member.

1927 – 1st time women were allowed to vote at St. Daniel's.

1928 – The Pavilion was built at a cost of \$1,531.26.

1928 – The Chancel was changed to allow more room for the choir.

1929 – South Mountain (Texter) Sunday School was started by the Womelsdorf Parish.

1930 – An addition to the Pavilion cost \$998.71.

1931 – The Sunday School Orchestra was formed under the leadership of Homer Landis.

1937 – The Building and Improvement Fund was started.

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

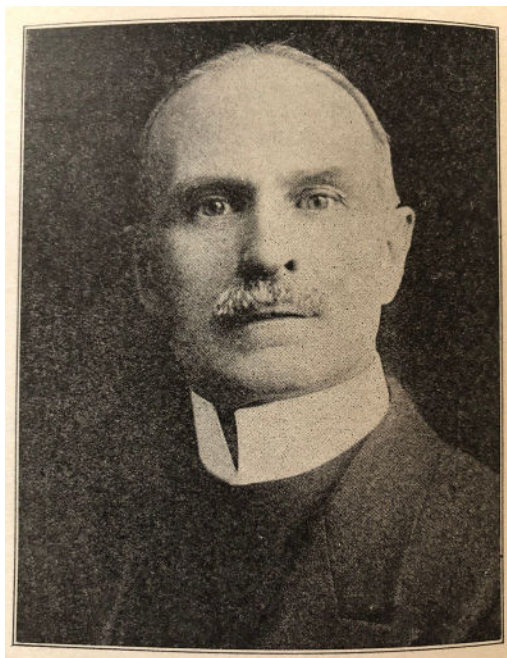
- * 1927 – Charles Lindberg completed the first trans-Atlantic flight.
- * 1929 – The stock market crashed, setting off the Great Depression.
- * 1939 – World War II began as German forces attacked Poland.

What an amazing and enduring history we share!

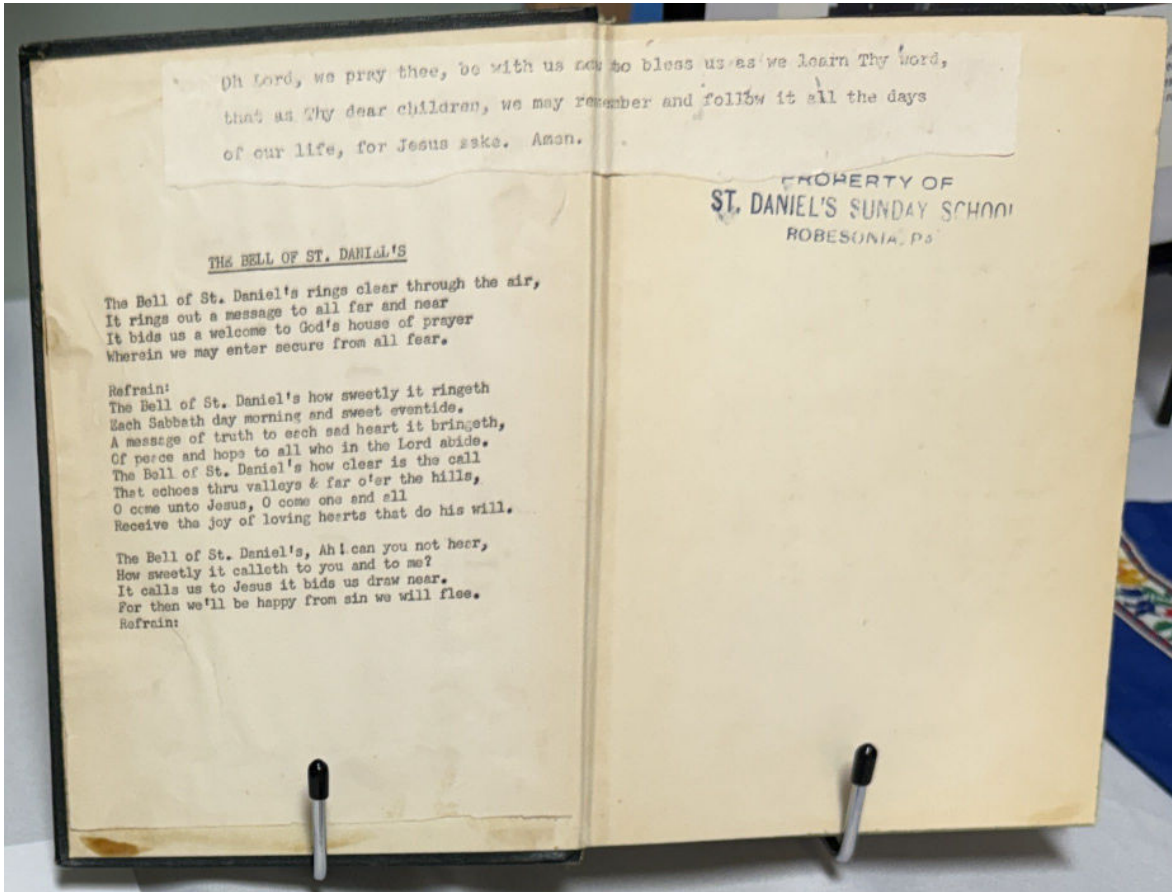
Follow this space throughout the year for snippets of St. Daniel's history from 1751 to 2026.

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 or as noted.

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

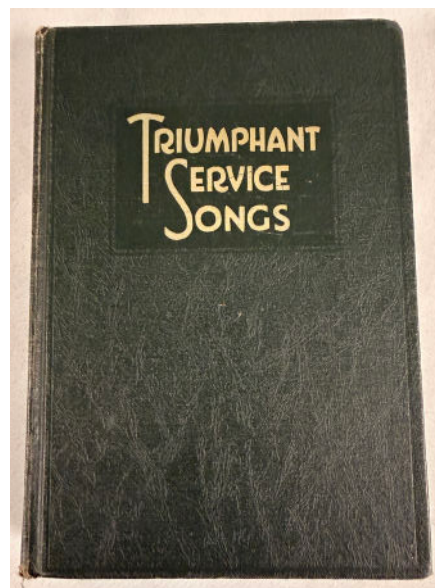


Rev. Harry P. Miller



The Sunday School Prayer written by Rev. Harry Miller is pasted inside this “Triumphant Service Songs” hymnal.

*Oh Lord, we pray thee,
 Be with us now to bless us
 As we learn Thy word,
 That as Thy dear children,
 We may remember and follow it
 All the days of our lives,
 For Jesus' sake.
 Amen.*



CONFIRMED BY REV. HARRY P. MILLER IN 1932



Daniel S. Bechtel
Andrew R. Fichthorn
Anna M. Hassler
Mary C. Kayser
Rachel M. (Koch) Stump
Jeannette G. Labe
Stewart E. Mech
George L. Patches
Adam C. Ressler
Edna K. (Rhine) Ressler
Annie E. (Stump) Benshoff
Catherine I. (Wenrich) Good

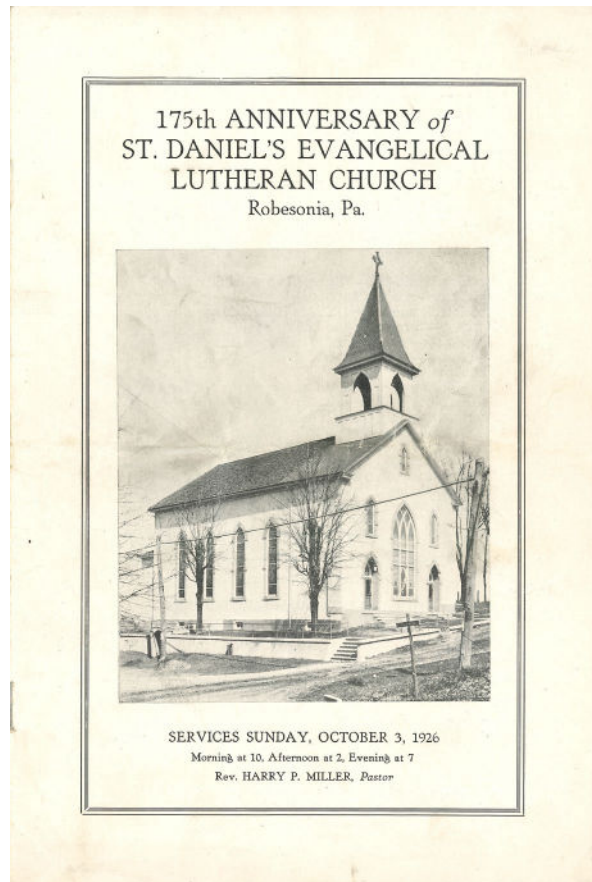
Mrs. Minnie Bennethum
George A. Gromis
Margaret M. (Hassler) Hartman
Gilbert F. Keppley
Robert F. Koch
Irwin S. Lutz
William H. Mountz
Harold P. Putt
Clarence J. Ressler
Harold N.S. Seip
John F. Webber
Ethel C. (Wenrich) Markel

Verda P. (Betz) Lutz
William H. Gromis
Kathryn M. (Heffner) Koch
Avis L. (Klopp) Weirich
Carl T. Labe
Mary E. (Lutz) Texter
Martin W. Oaks
Ralph J. Putt
Lester W. Ressler
Thomas C. Smith
Warren H. Weidner

Confirmation Class
1932
Rev. Harry Miller

(Recognize any
names?)

175th Anniversary
service program



♦

ST. DANIEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

ROBESONIA, PENN'A.

REV. HARRY P. MILLER, PASTOR

March 18, 1928.

TO THE MEMBERS OF ST. DANIEL'S---

Dear Friends in Christ:

For some months, owing to inclement weather and bad roads, it has been difficult for many of you to attend Church; but now that conditions are improving we are naturally looking for larger congregations. We want to make this year, under the blessing of God, one of the best in the history of old St. Daniel's and we ask you to help us in this endeavor by coming to Church every Sunday, if possible, and by cooperating heartily in every other way. No matter what your past record of activity has been, resolve, with the help of God, to do better during 1928.

You should find the following services both interesting and helpful and you can well afford to put other interests aside to enable you to attend them:

April 1, PALM SUNDAY, 2 P.M., Festival Service
"Whither Goest Thou?"

April 6, GOOD FRIDAY, 2 P.M.
Passion Service and Preparation for Communion
April 8, EASTER, 2 P.M., Festival Service
Communion

April 21, SATURDAY, 2 P.M., Preparatory Service
April 22, 2d SUNDAY AFTER EASTER, 9 A.M., Communion

A large congregation like St. Daniel's should have two communions in spring and fall, and we have so arranged. We want every member at one or the other of these services. If you cannot come on account of illness, the sacrament will be brought to you.

A Confirmation Class will be organized in the Church on April 14, at 2 P.M. All who desire to take advantage of this course of instruction are asked to hand in their names between Palm Sunday and Easter. Parents with children of confirmation age should encourage them to join the class and be faithful in their attendance.

No Special Easter Envelopes will be sent out this year. If the members use the envelopes they have, following the printed directions and giving liberally, we should be able to meet our running expenses without difficulty. The money you give to your Church, you lend to your Lord and of all the money you invest it yields the largest returns. God has been liberal in his gifts to you; be liberal also in your gifts to him.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Harry P. Miller

1928 letter from Rev. Harry P. Miller to the congregation.

TO THE MEMORY OF REV. HARRY P. MILLER

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT AND SYMPATHY READ AT THE
MEMORIAL SERVICE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1939

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

Our Heavenly Father, in His allwise Providence, has called from our midst to eternal life, our beloved Pastor, the Reverend Harry P. Miller, who indeed was a true shepherd of the flock, and a devoted husband and father.

Whereas; This death has shocked the entire community by its suddenness, and stirred all hearts to sympathy with his bereaved family, and has affected with sincere sorrow those associated with him in the Christian work:

Therefore, be it Resolved: That we be ever mindful of Pastor Miller's outstanding life as a faithful servant of his Lord and Saviour, and an outstanding citizen in our community, especially the testimony of the worthy example in clean and pure living.

Resolved, that we, the members of the Womelsdorf Lutheran Parish, consisting of these four congregations, - Zion Lutheran, of Womelsdorf; St. Daniel's, of Robesonia; Trinity, of Robesonia, and St. John's, of Host, bear witness to the constant fidelity and loyalty of Pastor Miller in all his duties in the upbuilding of the Church of Jesus Christ, and in the guidance of these active congregations. He truly was a Leader and Pastor who was the incarnation of consecration.

He was endowed by Providence with these high gifts which qualified him to lead his members of the Church in a truly religious and faithful manner, together with a keen mind.

Those who were his closest associates in hours of anxious deliberation, when important subjects were discussed, and who also were with him in the midst of his family and friends, can fully appreciate his innate love for justice and his constant and unvarying kindness and gentleness.

Resolved: That we tender to the members of his bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in their sore bereavement, commending them prayerfully to the tender love and care of our Heavenly Father, who, ever offers to all his children, especially when called upon to walk in the vale of affliction and sorrow, his boundless grace and limitless help, and who, alone, can bring peace and rest to the troubled heart.

Resolved: That the vacancy caused by the sudden death of our beloved Pastor, as a great leader in the Christian faith, admonishes all the members of the four congregations to be like him in fidelity, and rouse all who may be careless or indifferent as to their soul's salvation to heed the admonition of Christ, their Lord and Saviour.

Therefore, we are reminded again of the Word of God which he always preached and the admonitions always given to us,

"Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life," and, finally,

Be it Resolved: That these resolutions be read at his Memorial Services and a copy transmitted to his family and each congregation and that they be entered upon the Minutes of the Parish.

WOMELSDORF LUTHERAN PARISH

CHARLES D. LEINBACH, President

RALPH J. NOECKER, Secretary

From the 1939 Parish Record – denoted as the "Memorial Copy"
after the passing of Rev. Harry Miller.



Rev. Harry Miller's grave in Heidelberg Cemetery, Robesonia, across the street from St. Daniel's. Photos taken April 28, 2026 by Kim Henning.

