

† HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA †

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Rooted in Scripture, Growing in Faith Since 1920

Prior to 1920, St. Daniel's made several attempts to organize a Sunday School.

On April 10, 1904, a Sunday School started but only lasted about one year. On March 23, 1905, a St. Daniel's Evangelical Lutheran Bible School was approved, but did not last long. There might have been even earlier attempts in the 1800s. Early efforts were impacted by bad weather in the winter and poor means of transportation.

But in 1920, all that changed.

It all started in the year 1919, when Calvin E. Brown graduated from Robeson High School and went away to Pennsylvania State College. While there, he attended a Lutheran Church and Sunday School. His experience there inspired him to promote a similar Sunday School at his home church at St. Daniel's. Unfortunately, Rev. Harvey Kidd did not have the same enthusiasm, nor did the congregation. Apparently, criticism of the idea included feelings that, "It's been tried before and failed," or "It will be alright in the summer, but it won't survive the winter months," and concerns over financial needs, meeting space, and even children spoiling the pages of the hymnals. Even though Calvin Brown's dream was temporarily slowed, he was determined that spiritual education was necessary for the future of his church. He managed to gain access to a Church Council meeting through his friend, Paul Katzaman, who was a local schoolteacher and a member of the Council. The Council concurred with the Pastor and was of the opinion the Sunday School idea would eventually come to an untimely end. However, a proposal was made that if 50 members could be gathered for an organizational meeting, permission would be granted to start a Sunday School.

Calvin Brown and his friends Paul Katzaman and Edgar Lutz undertook the task of going house to house and farm to farm to invite people to attend the meeting in hopes of getting the 50 members. As automobiles were scarce at this time, they scoured the area on horseback and by walking to determine whether or not this Sunday School dream could become a reality.

The date of the first service and meeting was Sunday, July 4, 1920 at 2 PM at the "Eck Kirche." Lo and behold, 54 people attended! The second meeting on the following Sunday was even better, with 73 people attending. The Sunday School was officially established at the first meeting and Calvin E. Brown was appointed to serve as its first superintendent. Way to go, Calvin!

On the agenda for the first meeting of the Sunday School was, first, to elect staff and, second, to make plans to raise funds to buy literature and hymnals. A picnic was planned and held at the church two weeks later, earning over \$100. By the end of July, the School had grown to 80 members and by the end of September all Sunday School lesson materials and hymnals were purchased; \$40 was paid to the Church Council for coal; and there remained a balance of \$299 in the Sunday School treasury.

As the Sunday School evolved, the organizers felt that to obtain maximum benefits from religious instruction provided by the Sunday School, it was important to have all students attend regularly. One incentive was to create as many offices as possible to place responsibility on several individuals and thus enforce the importance of being present to perform their duties. In addition to basic staff, such offices as librarian, assistant librarian, ushers, assistant ushers, and other duties were assigned to young boys and girls, who took their duties seriously. Recognition was also given to all classes whose attendance increased during the school year. Thus, an emphasis on regular attendance was very productive and beneficial, and contributed to reaching out to everyone in the community. A "pin system" was also developed. Perfect attendance the first year earned a blue pin printed with the words "Lutheran Sunday School." The second year earned a gold shield embracing the blue pin and successive years received a colored bar to attach to the pin.

The Sunday School also took on additional projects. In 1921, the Sunday School was instrumental in getting electric lights installed in the church at a cost of \$700. More than obtaining funding was needed for such an ambitious project; it also involved volunteer labor to provide the wood for the poles and to physically run the electric lines from Robesonia. In 1925, the Sunday School also contributed \$500 to the organ fund. In 1934, the Sunday School provided an artificial limb to George Cleaver at the cost of \$150.

Although they were busy with all these other projects, the Sunday School staff and other interested members did not forget their real objective; namely, the spiritual education of the children and their own training. By 1925, there were seven Sunday School classes, plus a teacher training class taught by Calvin Brown. The teachers met every Friday evening for a combined business meeting and training session. Bible study focused on the Old and New Testaments, the life and works of St. Paul and his missionary journeys, followed by a course on prayer. The session closed with all forming a circle, joining hands, and each person repeating a Bible verse, with a new verse every week.

The Sunday School Constitution was revised in 1925, stating that there would be Sunday services throughout the year. Despite snow-drifted roads, severe cold, unheated buildings,

and failing electric power, plus an attendance on some days of as few as four people, services were held every Sunday.

In 1926, St. Daniel's received a new pastor, Rev. Harry P. Miller, who was featured in last week's Holy Highlight. Rev. Harry Miller was considered a great asset to the growth of the Sunday School. He showed an immediate interest in the Sunday School and wrote the opening prayer. As a result of Rev. Miller's keen interest and enthusiasm, the membership grew to the point where space became a problem. On June 3, 1928, the congregation approved the construction of a 30' x 100' frame pavilion on the church grounds to provide more space to hold classes. The Pavilion was located across the intersection from the church in a grove of trees, near the site of our current church, about 75 feet east of the Sexton's house.

Due to continued growth, even with the Pavilion, forethought was given to the future need for more space. Since there was desire to have the entire School meeting in one building, plans were made in January 1939 to establish a "Building Fund Club." On May 7, 1950, the congregation of St. Daniel's approved the construction of the Christian Education Building that, when built, was attached to the west side of the church. Monies from the Building Fund were used toward this purpose.

Calvin Brown was the Sunday School Superintendent for over 30 years. The song "*The Bell of St. Daniel's*" – recently sung at our "Sing to the Lord – Honoring Our Music Heritage" 275th Anniversary service in April 2026 – was written by Katie Saltzer for Calvin Brown on the occasion of a Sunday School Anniversary.

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 'St. 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 4 – Ministry – Sunday School and Christian Education. Additional details from Parish Records from the applicable years and various Sunday School anniversary booklets. Photos from St. Daniel's archives or as noted.

**#StDaniel's #StDaniel'sLutheranChurch #EckKirche #CornerChurch
#OnTheHillOverlookingRobesonia #RobesoniaPA #1751StDaniel's2026 #275thAnniversary
#HolyHighlights #History #OurHistory #SundaySchool #CalvinBrown #PaulKatzaman
#EdgarLutz #Rev.HarveyKidd #Rev.HarryMiller #Pavilion #EducationBuilding #ParishRecord
#ALotHappensIn275Years**



Calvin E. Brown



Edgar P. Lutz

Staff of the Sunday School in 1920:

Superintendent - Calvin E. Brown
Assistant Superintendent - John W. Brown
Secretary - Rachel Weidner Wallace
Treasurer - Walter Stump
Organist - Homer Landis
Assistant Organist - Catherine Brown Ravert
Primary Teachers - Harvey Bechtel and Annie Helm
Junior Teacher - Ella Brown
Intermediate Teachers - Ida Weidner Fink and Edgar P. Lutz
Senior Teacher - Paul Katzaman
Assistant Senior Teacher - Levi Eckert
Primary Superintendent - Levi Eckert
Home Department Superintendent - Alvin Keppley
Cradle Roll Superintendent - Mrs. John Lutz
Assistant Cradle Roll Superintendent - Laura Batzel Putt
Librarians - Margaret Lutz Gruber and Pauline Lutz Frost
Ushers were also appointed.

Charter Members of St. Daniel's Sunday School:

Daniel Bechtel
Mrs. Harvey Bechtel
William Bollinger
Lizzie Katzaman Brossman
Calvin Brown
John Brown
Mrs. John Brown
Sallie Brown
Lawrence Eckert
Mrs. Levi Eckert
Levi Eckert
William Eckert
Ida Weidner Fink
Pauline Lutz Frost
Mrs. Alandon Gruber
Alandon Gruber
Margaret Lutz Gruber

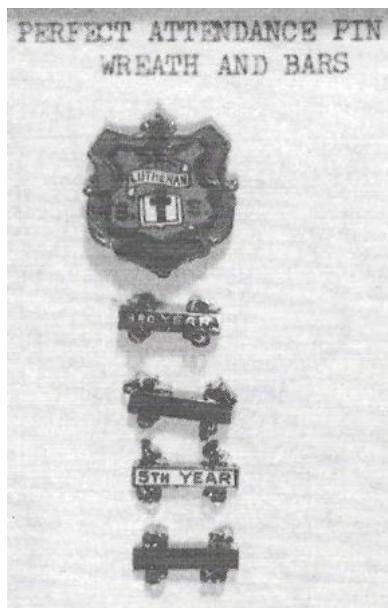
Annie Helm
Catherine Heller
Paul Katzaman
Irvin Keppley
Kathryn Heffner Koch
Margaret Schell Ludwig
Arthur Lutz
Carl Lutz
Edgar Lutz
Laura Brown Lutz
Norman Lutz
Annie Stump Miller
Mable Palm Miller
Clair Stump Muth
Florence Werner Peiffer
Laura Batzel Putt
Catherine Brown Ravert

Stanley Schell
Verna Schell
Mrs. Willis Schell
Myrtle Snyder
Russell Snyder
Mrs. Howard Snyder
Mrs. Arthur Stump
Arthur Stump
Mrs. Walter Stump
Walter Stump
Mrs. William Stump
William Stump
Rachel Weidner Wallace
Dorothy Stump Wartluft
Walter Weidner
Oscar Wenrich



Daniel Bechtel, Kathryn Koch, Laura Lutz

Pictured in 1999 at Celebration Sunday, they were charter members of the Sunday School program.



Sunday School Perfect Attendance Pin



Sunday School pin from 1930

AN APPROPRIATE POEM WRITTEN BY HELEN KOCH

DEDICATED TO ANNIVERSARY

God hath built a Church for me
In grandeur, on a hill,
Placed it there 'mid His own beauty,
Where all is peace and still.

God hath built a Church for me
In splendor, 'neath His sky.
There shall I, His humble child,
Abide, until I die.

God hath built a Church for me,
And blessed it with a name,
Bound with faith its mighty walls,
Which naught can e'er deframe.

St. Daniel's! oh, St. Daniel's!
My Church! I thee adore,
My prayers for thy upholding strength,
Shall rise to Him forever more.

Oh, may thy portals open stand,
As when my fathers trod,
Lest evil, strife, and hatred
Shall draw me from thee and my God.

From the Silver Anniversary celebration

<p>ST. DANIEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Robesonia, Penna. The Rev. E. L. Leisey, Pastor</p> <p>THE CHIEF SERVICE 9:00 A.M.</p> <p>SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</p> <p>Prelude Lester Coleman, Organist</p> <p>Processional Hymn - 164</p> <p>Chief Service Page 9</p> <p>Confession and Absolution Introit Gloria</p> <p>Kyrie Gloria in Excelsis Collect</p> <p>Epistle Romans 6: 3-11</p> <p>Junior Choir - "Memories of Galilee"</p> <p>Gospel Matthew 5: 20-26</p> <p>Apostles' Creed</p> <p>Hymn - 212</p> <p>Address Dr. Q. A. W. Rohrbach President of Kutztown Teachers College</p> <p>Offertory Offering</p> <p>Senior Choir - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"</p> <p>General Prayer Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Hymn - 489</p> <p>Benediction</p> <p>Recessional Hymn - 451</p>	<p>THE CHURCH SCHOOL 10:15 A.M. Calvin E. Brown, Supt.</p> <p>July 8, 1945</p> <p>Orchestra Homer Landis, Director</p> <p>Hymn - 288</p> <p>Versicles Page 5</p> <p>Hymn - 285</p> <p>Topic: "Why I Can Do Big Things" John 15: 4-9</p> <p>Hymn - 289</p> <p>The Lesson</p> <p>Lesson Hymn - 223</p> <p>Closing Versicles Page 7</p>
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This program is dedicated to all our boys in the armed forces.

The flowers today honor the boys in the armed forces. They are placed in the chancel by Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Brown.

We are so happy that Dr. Rohrbach could arrange his busy schedule to be present this morning. He is an educator of whom our state is very proud.

Our 4th of July celebration was a great success. Keep in mind July 22 and 29. Next Sunday is a regular routine service when we catch our breath.

This afternoon is the big Rural Bally when the President of the United Lutheran Church in America speaks. The Ringgold Band plays and Dr. Harry Sykes leads a fine chorus.

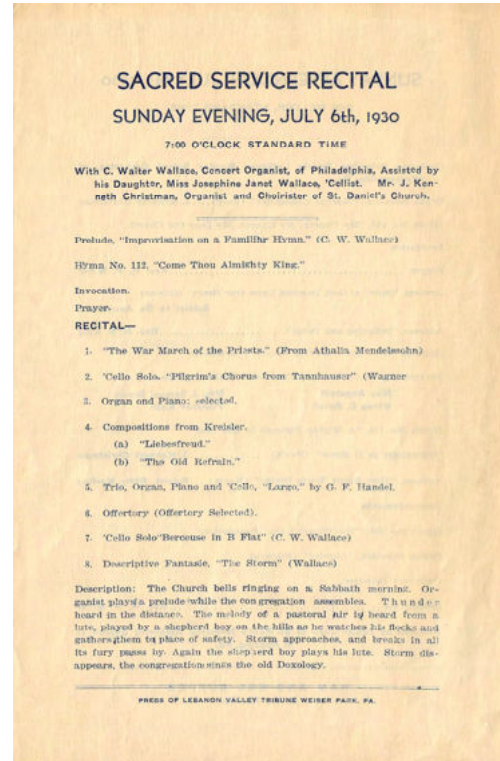
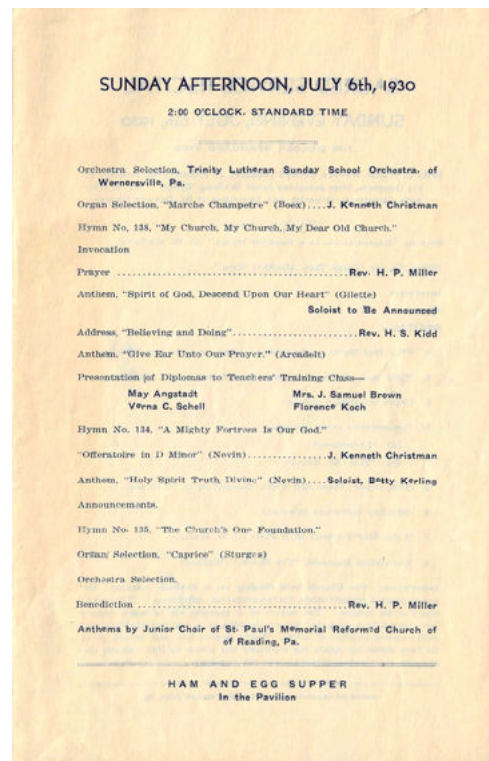
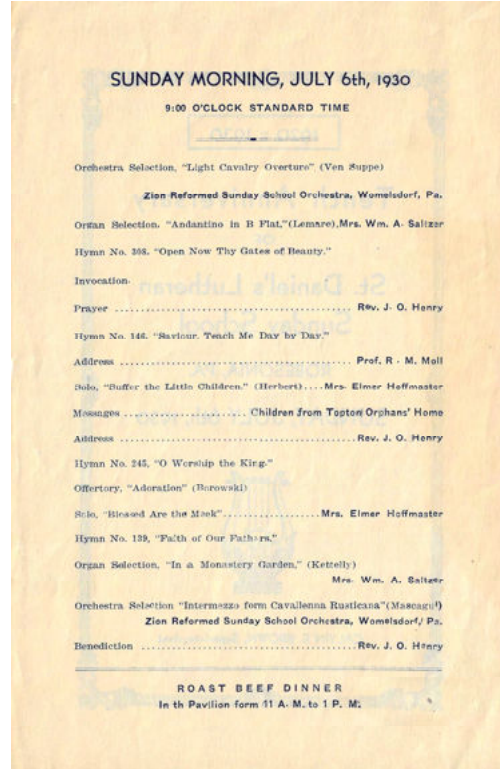
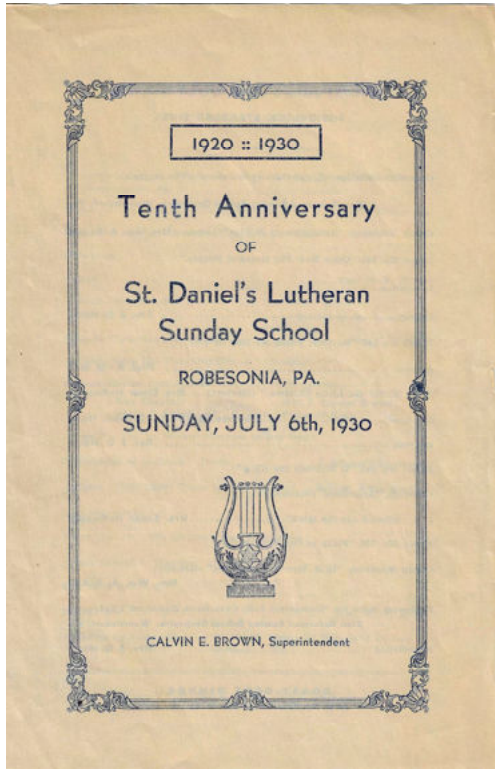
This is an Extra-ordinary occasion that comes once in a lifetime of a congregation. No one can afford to miss it.

On July 22 at 9:00 A.M. our Service will be a Sunday School service only in the amphitheatre with five visiting Sunday Schools present bringing their greetings. Let us all turn out to be good hosts to all these guests.

On July 22 in the afternoon our home coming will attract people who have not been here for a long time. Let's shake hands until our fingers get too tired.

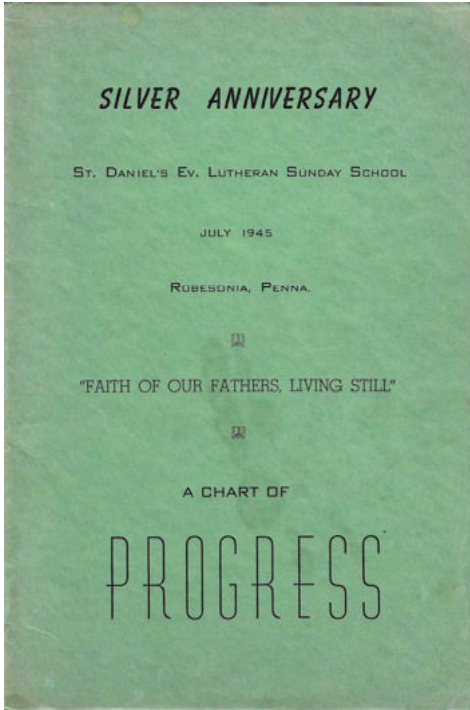
Last Sunday the first of our Amphitheatre Envelopes came in. 22 Envelopes yielded the amount of \$172.00 which averages about \$8.54 per envelope.

Bulletin from July 8, 1945

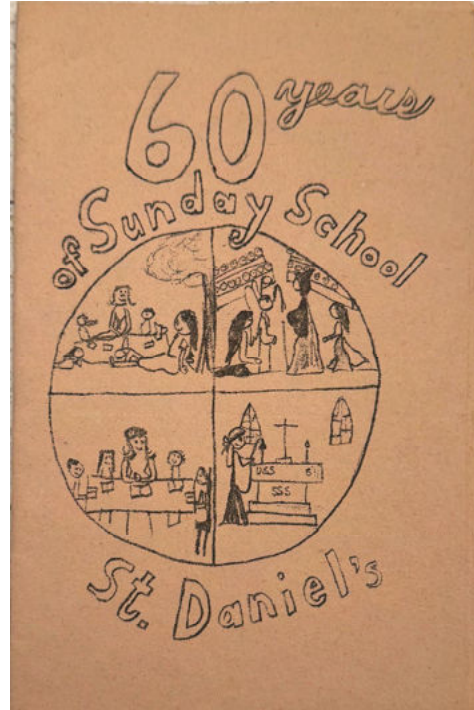


10th Anniversary of the Sunday School

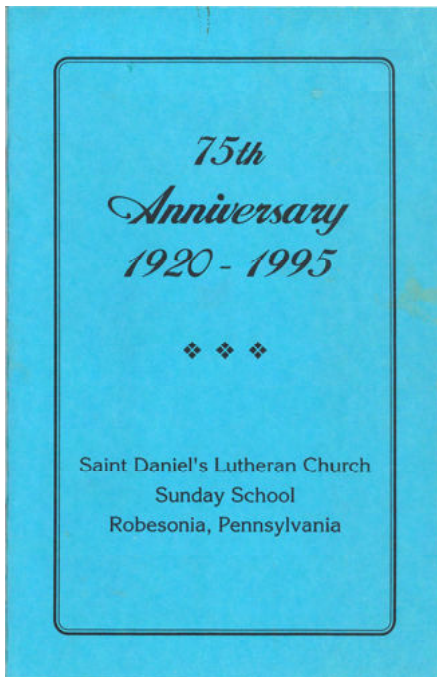
~ 1930 ~



Booklet cover for the
25th Anniversary of the Sunday School
~ 1945 ~



Bulletin cover for the
60th Anniversary of the Sunday School
~ 1980 ~



Booklet cover for the
75th Anniversary of the Sunday School
~ 1995 ~



Souvenir plate celebrating the
75th Anniversary of the Sunday School
Plate / Photo – courtesy of Nan Feeg

Summary for 1950
 St. Daniel's Lutheran Sunday School

	Main	Children's
Enrollment Jan. 1, 1950		
Jan 1, 1957	204	109
Average Attendance	124	83
Lowest Attendance	Sept. 3, 114 May 28, 168	Jan. 8, 41 May 28, 109
Percentage of Attendance	67.8%	75.2%

	Attendance	Special Days
Palm Sunday April 2	147	90
Easter Sunday April 9	150	77
Children's Day June 18	131	90
Memorial Day May 28	168	109
Promotion Day Sept. 24	120	98
Rally Day Oct. 8	132	84
Christmas Day Dec. 24	165	89

Miriam Zwick, Sec.

Summary of Sunday School enrollment and attendance for the year 1950.