

† HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA †

THE PAVILION – SUNDAY SCHOOL, SUPPERS, SOCIALIZING, SPORTS

As noted in previous Holy Highlights, Reverend Harry Miller was enthusiastic about the Sunday School at St. Daniel's. The program was only in existence for six years when Rev. Miller came to St. Daniel's in 1926. Yet in the first two years of his pastorate, the Sunday School had grown to the extent that additional space was required to have the programs.

To provide more space, the congregation approved the construction of a 30-foot x 100-foot one-story frame pavilion in a grove of trees on the southeast corner across the intersection from the church. (Currently, this is the area near the top of the hill behind the playground outside the office wing.) The cost to construct the Pavilion was \$1,416.51. It was presented to the congregation on Homecoming Sunday, June 3, 1928. Through the years, the Pavilion housed the Sunday School classes and provided space for other functions.

As time passed, improvements and updates were made to the building. Most of the expenses were paid for by Sunday School fundraising, and there was a lot of volunteer labor for this, as well as for the church in general.

In 1929, the Sunday School installed an electrical pump to furnish water and also purchased additional land to enlarge the Pavilion plot.

In 1930, the Sunday School enlarged the Pavilion by adding a kitchen, at the cost of \$998.71. The Sunday School also planted additional "oriental plane trees" on the new land that had been purchased in 1929.

In 1931, the Sunday School Primary Department transferred to the Pavilion. To fit the building for this purpose, the Sunday School installed a pipeless heater, provided a piano and chairs, and furnished the necessary hymnals.

In 1932, the Sunday School improved the facilities of the grove surrounding the Pavilion, at the cost of \$245.98.

In 1933, the Pavilion was painted at a cost of \$60.50 and "strengthened" (whatever that means!) at a cost of \$7.96.

In 1943, the Sunday School began work on an improved basement in the Pavilion for organization meetings.

The 200th Anniversary News Letter states that the Pavilion was painted in 1951.

The St. Daniel's Pavilion not only aided the Sunday School; it was also suitable for social and recreational activities. It was used for suppers, picnics, wedding receptions, etc. And it was also used to provide opportunities to boys and girls of the community at large by enabling the church to sponsor the Boy Scouts (1939), Camp Fire Girls (1941), and Cub Scouts (1942).

Some other documented ways the Pavilion was used are as follows:

In 1944, the Parish Record indicated that the monthly Parent Pack meeting of the Cub Pack was held in the basement rooms of the Pavilion.

In 1946, the Parish Record stated that the St. Daniel's Recreation Association held weekly meetings there, with games such as pool being played in the basement.

In 1959, the Pavilion was rented to the "Election Board" at a cost of \$30.00.

In 1959, it hosted the wedding reception for Roland and Carolyn Feeg.

The Pavilion was just one example of the aggressive growth of the Sunday School and its contribution to the church at large.

Shortly after Rev. Elmer Leisey became the pastor at St. Daniel's in 1940, continued high membership in the Sunday School gave birth to the dream to have a new educational building that could house the entire school in one place. In 1948, meetings began regarding building an addition onto the church, which came to fruition in the early 1950s, with the cornerstone of the building laid in 1951 and the construction completed in 1952. NOTE: We will cover the Sunday School building itself in much more detail in future Holy Highlights.

It's currently a mystery as to what happened to the Pavilion. It no longer exists, but we are still searching our archives for more information as to when and how it was removed. As noted above, we know it was used in 1959. We also believe that it was no longer there by the time of the Parsonage move in 1977. If you have any recollection, any additional information, or any additional photos, please feel free to share! We'll create an addendum to this Holy Highlight when we solve the mystery!

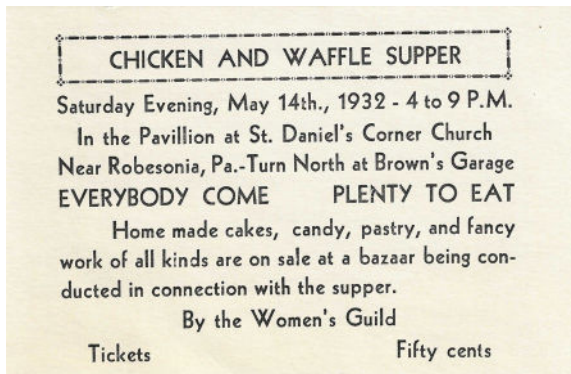
What an amazing and enduring history we share!

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 2 – The Church Grows – Church School and Schoolhouses, Chapter 3 – Pastors – Harry P. Miller and Elmer Lebo Leisey, and Chapter 4 – Ministry – Sunday School and Christian Education. 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 #ThePavilion #Pavilion
 #SundaySchool #SocialActivities #RecreationAssociation #ParishRecord
 #ALotHappensIn275Years**



Dinners held in the Pavilion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING FUND

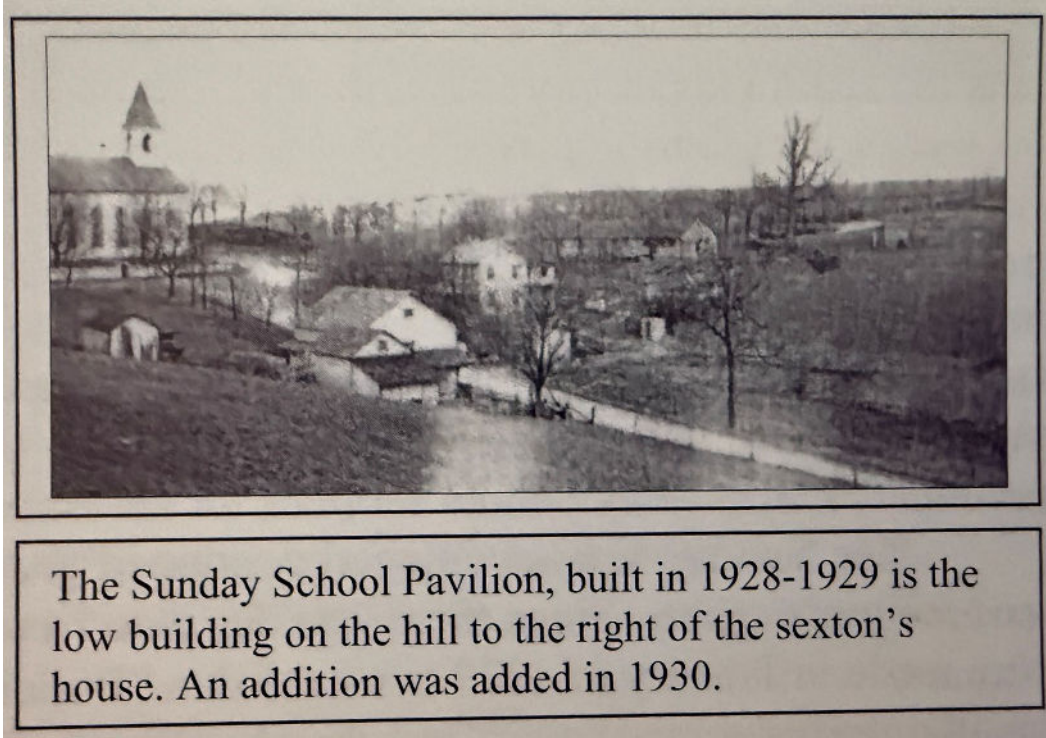
Realizing that before very long more adequate quarters will be needed for its work, the Bible School of St. Daniel's has started a Building Fund. The only purpose of the members is to have on hand, when it is time to go ahead with this project, a sum of money sufficient to cover a large part of the expense. The Primary and Junior departments are handicapped by their quarters in the Pavillion and, if they continue to grow, must have more room. Accordingly, the school is putting aside a portion of its income for this worthy purpose and showing the growth of the fund on a chart on one of our bulletin boards.

On the left: Article from the 1937 Parish Record.
 The Sunday School started a Building Fund which would be used to help finance the Sunday School building constructed in 1951-1952.

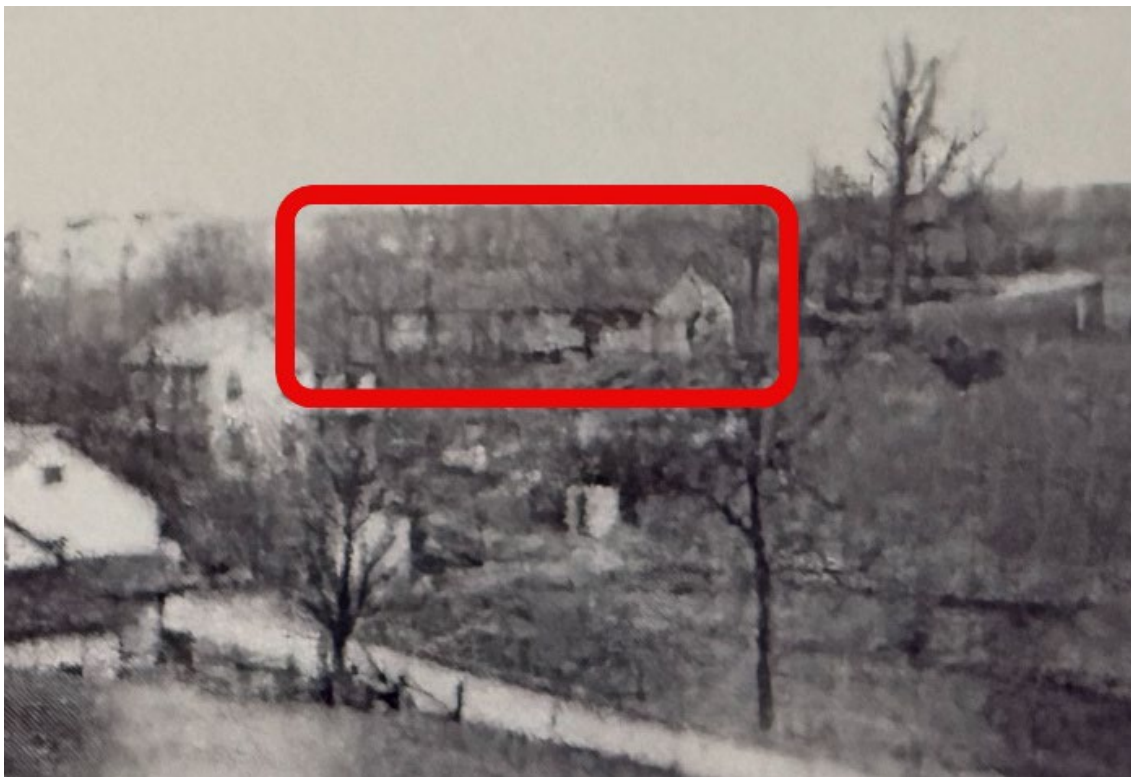


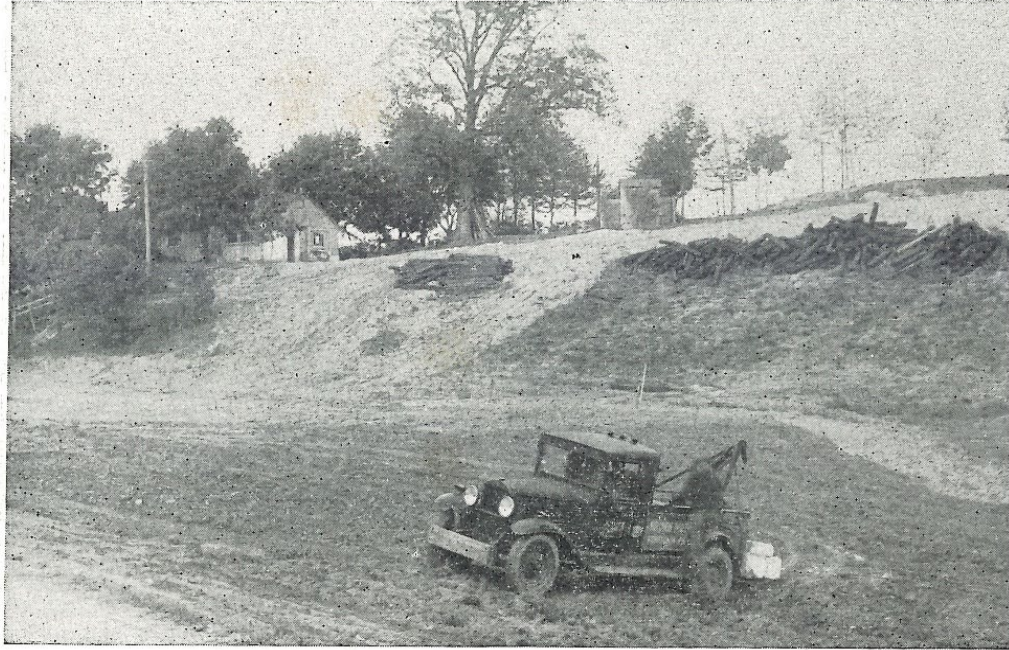
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Same photo, cropped below.





GETTING AMPHITHEATER OUT OF DIRT

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