

HOLY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HILL OVERLOOKING ROBESONIA

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SUMMER LEARNING / ETERNAL LESSONS

In honor of our 2026 Vacation Bible School, held this week, this Holy Highlight takes a look at the history of St. Daniel's summer ministry for children.

The first Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held in 1944 during the pastorate of Rev. Elmer Leisey. It was a joint program of the Robesonia Parish with St. Daniel's and Trinity Lutheran Church.

The earlier Parish Records do not specify the length of the VBS program. The size of the committee (~12 members) could either imply that it was not a one-day event or that there were that many children participating; it was probably both! However, according to the church event calendars published in the annual Parish Records of the late 1950s, it was documented as lasting for 11 days (which seems a bit odd!). In later years it was held in the mornings, Monday-Friday, for 2 weeks, then changing to a single Monday-Friday session. Then and now, VBS was typically held in June or sometimes July.

Over the years, VBS was hosted by St. Daniel's alone, in conjunction with Trinity Lutheran in Robesonia, in conjunction with St. Paul's United Church of Christ (now known as the UCC of Robesonia), or all 3 together. In more recent years, St. Daniel's and the UCC of Robesonia have been holding a joint community evening VBS lasting 4 nights, with the churches taking turns hosting. Before passing the baton this year, Joy Kline did a stellar job leading VBS for 25 years, first as a volunteer, then as St. Daniel's Youth Director, and finally as Coordinator of Congregational Ministries. Our current Preschool Administrator & Teacher, Lorelei Lewis, very capably took over the helm this year. And we've always had a great group of volunteers helping to staff the program each day. Joy pointed out that not only was there a large contingent of adult helpers, but also high schoolers that earned community service hours required for their high school graduation.

Some of the VBS themes have included "Holy Week" (written by Joy Kline), "Christmas in July", the Ten Commandments, heroes of the Bible, and "Travels with Jesus", as well as rainforest, science, and Western themes. The 2026 VBS was titled "Game On! Faith, Teamwork, Victory".

For decades in the life of our church, St. Daniel's annual summer faith program has introduced generations of children to Bible stories, music, crafts, and Christian fellowship. Its success was made possible through the dedication of countless volunteers who generously shared their time, talents, and love for Christ. Teachers, helpers, musicians,

craft leaders, snack providers, setup and decorators, office staff, and many others worked behind the scenes to create a welcoming and meaningful experience for each child. Their efforts not only made the program a reality each year but also helped plant seeds of faith that continue to grow for years to come. We are deeply grateful to all who answer the call to serve and whose commitment help make this ministry a cherished tradition in the life of the congregation.

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 from Parish Records, Church Records, and Corner Church News publications from the applicable years, as well as personal recollections from Joy Kline. Photos from St. Daniel's archives or Facebook page (2015 and later) or as noted.

**#StDaniels #StDanielsLutheranChurch #EckKirche #CornerChurch
#OnTheHillOverlookingRobesonia #RobesoniaPA #1751StDaniels2026
#275thAnniversary #HolyHighlights #History #OurHistory #VacationBibleSchool #VBS
#Summer #ParishRecord #ChurchRecord #TheCornerChurchNews
#ALotHappensIn275Years**



OUR FIRST PARISH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

From the 1945 Parish Record, documenting events of 1944.



Vacation Bible School pins found in our archives.

BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Bible School this year was a grand success thanks to our splendid teachers and helpers and those who brought the children each morning by car. We deeply appreciate the fine spirit of cooperation given us for our school this year. We had an enrollment of 116 this year. The children presented their program on June 29th in the Educational building at 7:30 P.M. We are proud of all our young boys and girls. They presented an excellent program. A picnic was enjoyed on Friday by all the children of the school. I might say that this year's school was the most attentive group of young people I have ever experienced. We congratulate them on their fine behavior and the attention which they gave to the teachers. Again thank you for a job well done.

From the July 1961 edition of
The Corner Church News.



Undated but vintage photo of joint VBS outside of Trinity Lutheran in Robesonia.



Undated but vintage photo of joint VBS outside of Trinity Lutheran in Robesonia.



Undated but vintage photo of joint VBS outside of Trinity Lutheran in Robesonia.

“SonSpark Labs” VBS – July 2015
Experiments with Jonathan Kline and Steph Merkel



Billy Jacobs, Joy Kline, Dustin Jacobs

“SonSpark Labs” VBS – July 2015



Music time with Melissa Small



Melissa Small (back to the camera) and Lorelei Lewis

“Holy Week” VBS – June 2023



Praise the Lord!

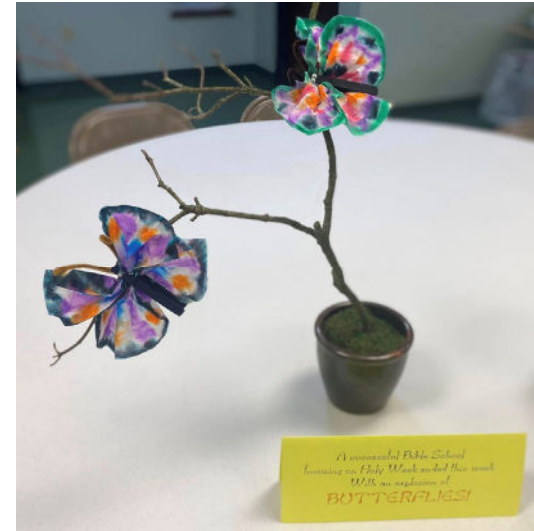


Linda Preston reads a story

“Holy Week” VBS – June 2023



Jenny Plassio, Pearl Wurst, and Betsy Althouse assisting



“A successful Bible School focusing on Holy Week ended this week with an explosion of BUTTERFLIES!”



Publicity for our 2026 Vacation Bible School. Graphic created by Jim Griesemer.

“Game On!” VBS – June 2026

Photos by Joy Kline



Activities with a wonderful helper!



Lorelei Lewis teaching



This looks like fun!