

SET IN STONE – A NEW CHAPTER FOR ST. DANIEL'S

Forty-eight years ago TODAY, on October 22, 1978, the cornerstone of the third St. Daniel's Lutheran Church was laid in a special ceremony, marking another milestone in the congregation's remarkable recovery from the devastating fire of December 1976. The service was conducted by Pastor Edward Cloughen, with the sermon preached by Reverend Jan C. Walker, Assistant to the President of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

But the cornerstone of the new church was not the only one to find a place in the building. The cornerstones recovered from the debris following the fire were incorporated into the new church during construction. The 1751-1814 and 1911 cornerstones were placed directly beneath the 1977 cornerstone, whose date marks the beginning of construction rather than the date of the cornerstone ceremony. The 1951 cornerstone from the former Sunday School building was also incorporated into the new church, just outside the entrance along Big Spring Road. Together, these cornerstones preserve a tangible connection to St. Daniel's past while linking its history to the present and future.

Although the old cornerstones
no longer contain
their original time capsules,
the new 1977 cornerstone does.

As documented on Page 10
of the bulletin for the
Service of Laying of the Cornerstone,
the following items
were placed inside by
the individuals listed:

<u>ARTICLES PLACED IN CORNERSTONE AND PRESENTERS</u>	
List of Dedication Services and Bulletin for Memorial Dedication	Mr. Robert Koch, Sr.
Parish Record and Yearbooks	Mr. Carl Labe
Groundbreaking Program	Mr. Mark Wolfskill
Service Book and Hymnal	Mr. Randall Bright
Lutheran Book of Worship	Mrs. Elsie Shartle
Church School Hymnal	Mr. Larry Rentschler
Signed Bible	Mrs. Linda Preston
Lutheran Magazine	Mrs. Dorothy Ravert
Church Constitution	Mr. Vernon Bright, Jr.
Christmas Card Depicting Former Church Chancel	Mr. James Bright
One Set of 1977 Coins	Mr. Thomas Alexander
Commemorative Bell	Mr. Herbert Stump
Glass Cross	Miss Heidi Faust
Faceted Glass	Leonids Linauts, Stained Glass Artist
Building Permit	Mr. Richard Hassler
Newspapers	Mr. Chester Sheetz
Fire and Construction Pictures	Mr. Harold Ranck
Floor Plan	Mr. Dana Gangwere, Architect
List of Building Committees	Mrs. Linda Rentschler

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The cornerstone ceremony marked another important milestone in the rebuilding of St. Daniel's. Less than two years after the devastating fire, the congregation had come a remarkable distance. With the dedication of the new church just weeks away, a new chapter in St. Daniel's long history was about to begin.

What an amazing and enduring history we share!

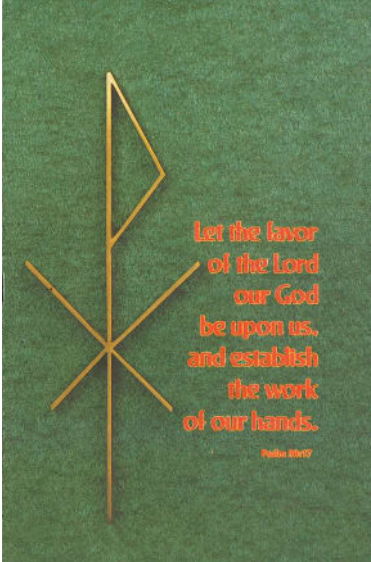
Follow this space throughout the year for snippets of St. Daniel's history from 1751 to 2026.

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 – Construction of the Third Church 1977-1978. Additional details from Church Records from applicable years and the 1978 Dedication booklet and Cornerstone Laying bulletin. Photos and articles from St. Daniel's archives and albums owned by Margie Baerncopf, Joyce Hassler, and Nancy Wolfskill.

**#StDaniels #StDanielsLutheranChurch #EckKirche #CornerChurch
#OnTheHillOverlookingRobesonia #RobesoniaPA #1751StDaniels2026
#275thAnniversary #HolyHighlights #History #OurHistory #ThirdChurch
#Construction #Rebuild #Cornerstone #CornerstoneLaying #1977Cornerstone
#1751-1814Cornerstones #1911Cornerstone #1951Cornerstone
#ReverendEdwardCloughen #ALotHappensIn275Years**



Construction of the church – August 1978 – Marge Baerncopf photos

 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands. Psalm 134	ST. DANIEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Robesonia, Pennsylvania The Rev. Edward W. Cloughan, Pastor Mrs. Miriam Borkert, Organist and Director <u>THE SERVICE OF LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE</u> Sunday, October 22, 1978  THE PRELUDE Church School Orchestra THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "JESUS, WITH THY CHURCH ABIDE" Jesus, with thy Church abide; Be her Saviour, Lord, and Guide, While on earth her faith is tried: We beseech thee, hear us. All her fattered powers release; Did our strife and envy cease; Grant the heavenly gift of peace: We beseech thee, hear us. May she one in doctrine be, One in truth and charity, Winning all to faith in thee: We beseech thee, hear us. May she guide the poor and blind, Seek the lost until she find, And the broken-hearted bind: We beseech thee, hear us. -2-
Judge her not for work undone, Judge her not for fields unwon, Bless her works in thus begun: We beseech thee, hear us. May her lamp of truth be bright; Did her bear aloft its light Through the realms of heathen night: We beseech thee, hear us. May she holy triumphs win, Overthrow the hosts of sin, Gather all the nations in: We beseech thee, hear us. Amen. THE INVOCATION Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: People: Amen. THE RESPONSIVE PSALM - Psalm 84 Pastor: How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: People: My heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Pastor: Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young: People: Upon thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Pastor: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: People: They will be still praising thee. Pastor: Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee: People: In whose heart are thy ways. Pastor: Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well: People: The rain also filleth the pools. Pastor: They go from strength to strength: -3-	People: Every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. Pastor: O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: People: Glorify us, O God of Jacob. Pastor: Behold, O God our shield: People: And look upon the face of thine anointed. Pastor: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand: People: I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. Pastor: For the Lord God is a sun and a shield: People: The Lord will give grace and glory; Pastor: No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly: People: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. THE GLORIA PATRI THE FIRST LESSON 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 THE SECOND LESSON Hebrews 10:19-25 THE THIRD LESSON 1 Peter 2:4-10 THE APOSTLES' CREED  -4-
THE HYMN "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION" The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is his new creation By water and the word: From heaven he came and sought her To be his holy bride; With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died. Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth, Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth; One holy Name she blesses, Partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued. 'Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war, She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore; Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest, And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest. Yet she on earth hath union With God, the Three in One, And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with thee. Amen. THE SERMON . . . The Rev. Jan E. Walker, Assistant to the President of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod THE OFFERTORY -5-	 THE ANTHEM "MY FAITH IT IS AN OAKEN STAFF" THE OFFERTORY THE PRAYER Pastor: O Lord our God, we thank you that through your word you have called and furnished us for your service. Grant that we may realize how many and various are the gifts that you have showered upon us, and by your Holy Spirit lead us to desire only one thing: to praise and give you all honor and glory as we worship you within these walls and serve you in lives of obedience and trust, People: Hear this, our prayer, O Lord, for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen. THE PROCESSION TO THE CORNERSTONE THE PLACING OF ARTICLES IN THE CORNERSTONE THE PRAYER Pastor: O Lord, God, who has promised to be present among your people, the Church, as we serve you on earth: Visit, we pray, with your loving kindness, this place where we erect a house to the praise and honor of your holy Name. And, as you fulfilled the desire of your servant David, so likewise grant -6-

that our purpose may be accomplished, that we, your servants, may see your work, and our children may behold your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. People: <i>Amen.</i> THE VERSICLES Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord. People: <i>Who made heaven and earth.</i> Pastor: Blessed be the name of the Lord. People: <i>From this time forth, and forevermore.</i> Pastor: The stone, which the builders refused People: <i>Is become the headstone of the corner.</i> Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: People: <i>As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i> THE PRAYER Pastor: Let us pray together. All: <i>O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, the one foundation and the chief cornerstone of your holy Church, bless what we do now in laying this stone in your name. As we offer our praise and thanksgiving in this building we pray that you would inspire, strengthen and lead us as we become your instruments of service and reconciliation in this world. May all that we do be undertaken in your holy name. Amen.</i>  -7-	THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE Pastor: In the faith of Jesus Christ I do now lay this cornerstone: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. <i>Amen.</i> Here may true faith, and the fear of God and brotherly love ever abide; and let this place be set apart to the preaching of the Gospel, the administration of the Holy Sacraments, and the invocation and praise of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost lives and reigns, one God, world without end. People: <i>Amen.</i> Pastor: Let us pray: O Lord God, who makes the assembly of your saints an everlasting dwelling-place for your majesty: Bless and prosper us as we use this building, so that we, as living stones, may be built up into a spiritual house and an abiding temple of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray: THE LORD'S PRAYER THE CLOSING VERSICLES Pastor: The Lord be with you. People: <i>And also with you.</i> Pastor: Bless we the Lord. People: <i>Thanks be to God.</i> THE BENEDICTION THE CLOSING HYMN "O ZION, HASTE" O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling, To tell to all the world that God is light; That he who made all nations is not willing One soul should perish, lost in shades of night. -8-
<i>Refrain:</i> Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace; Tidings of Jesus, redemption and release. Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation That God, in whom they live and move, is love: Tell how he stooped to save his lost creation, And died on earth that man might live above. <i>(Refrain)</i> Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious, Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way, Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious, And haste the coming of the glorious day. <i>(Refrain)</i> He comes again; O Zion, ere thou meet him, Make known to every heart his saving grace; Let none whom he hath ransomed fail to greet him, Through thy neglect, unfit to see his face. <i>(Refrain)</i> *****  -9-	It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Rev. Jan C. Walker, Assistant to the President of the North-eastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, who joins us for this special service and preaches the sermon. We offer to him our sincere appreciation for taking part in this momentous event. + + + + + The bulletin for the service today is presented to the glory of God by Mrs. John D. Ressler in memory of her husband. + + + + +  -11-

The bulletin for the Service of Laying of the Cornerstone



Mark Wolfskill - Bldg Committee Chair,
Vernon Bright - Council President,
Rev. Edward Cloughen - Pastor,
Rev. Jan Walker - Synod
From St. Daniel's archive



Worship Service for the Laying of the Cornerstone
October 22, 1978
Nancy Wolfskill photo
Note here that the cross is not yet hanging in the sanctuary!



Members
gather around
the cornerstone
for the
ceremony
October 22,
1978

***All cornerstone ceremony
photos courtesy of
Nancy Wolfskill***

Elsie Shartle places a Lutheran
Book of Worship
in the cornerstone





Richard Hassler places the building permit in the cornerstone



Stained glass artist Leonids Linauts places faceted glass in the cornerstone



Mark Wolfskill and Vernon Bright place the groundbreaking program and the church constitution in the cornerstone, with Pastor Cloughen



Mark Wolfskill and Vernon Bright with Pastor Cloughen and Rev. Walker



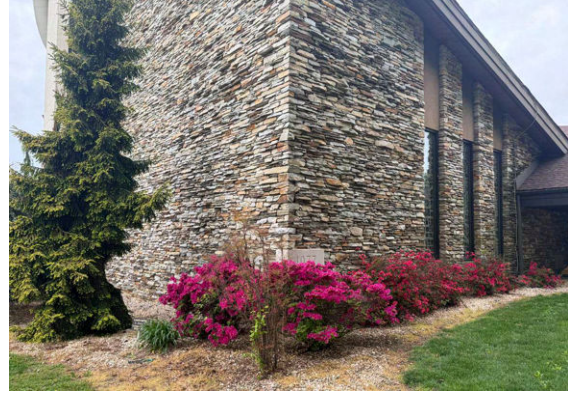
The cornerstone is in place.
Marge Baerncopf photo



The cornerstone is sealed in place.
Nancy Wolfskill photo



THEN: View of St. Daniel's cornerstones
(Photo from 1981)



NOW: The cornerstones - April 28, 2026
Photo by Kim Henning



The cornerstones - April 28, 2026 - Photos by Kim Henning