

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 300th Anniversary of St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church of Red Hook, New York, celebrated on June 7, 2015

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 300th Anniversary of St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church of Red Hook, New York, celebrated on Sunday, June 7, 2015; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious milestone was recognized at a special service presided over by Pastor William Starkweather, Pastor of St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church, and preached by Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo; and

WHEREAS, In 1715, Palatine German refugees established the joint-Reformed Lutheran Church, now known as St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church; in 1890, the famed red brick church, which stands as a landmark today, was designed by New York City Architect Lawrence B. Valk; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, the entire complex of St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as one of the earliest Lutheran Churches established in the region; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Metropolitan New York Synod (MNYS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA); it is one of three congregations which belong to the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess County; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Pastor William Starkweather, St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church of Red Hook, New York, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pastor William Starkweather, St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church.