

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 140th Anniversary of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lindenhurst, New York, to be celebrated on February 28, 2016

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 140th Anniversary of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lindenhurst, New York, to be celebrated with a worship service led by Bishop Robert Rimbo of the Metropolitan New York Synod, ELCR, followed by a reception on Sunday, February 28, 2016; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion marks the 140th Year of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, with the Reverend Thomas E. Taylor leading families in worship at this vital religious institution today; and

WHEREAS, On February 3, 1871, ground was broken on West John Street, formerly Falersben Avenue, in Lindenhurst, New York, for construction of the original church structure; and

WHEREAS, The beginning of the present Lutheran congregation occurred when connections were severed with the Reformed Consistory; the congregation formally incorporated itself on May 20, 1876, under the title, "Evangelische Lutherische St. Johannis Gemeinde"; and

WHEREAS, By 1924, the old fire house was purchased and the building on West John Street was used as a Sunday School and a Parish hall; it was destroyed by fire in 1926, and Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was erected; and

WHEREAS, After nearly 30 years, a new church was needed to accommodate the growing congregation, and in 1953 and 1954, plots were purchased for the new church building on East John Street, which was dedicated in 1960; the new parsonage and the church tower were built within the next year and a half and on December 2, 1973, the last part of the church complex, the Educational Wing, was dedicated; and

WHEREAS, At present, Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church stands humbly, prayerfully, meditatively, and joyfully 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 140th Anniversary of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church to be observed on Sunday, February 28, 2016, 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 Reverend Thomas E. Taylor, Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lindenhurst, New York.