

BY: Senator ADDABBO

HONORING Pastor William Baum of St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Howard Beach, Queens, upon the occasion of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his ordination

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of faith leaders throughout the State of New York who provide opportunities for spiritual guidance, growth, fellowship, friendship, and community involvement to their parishioners; and

WHEREAS, Pastor William Baum, who leads St. Barnabas Church in Howard Beach, Queens, is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his ordination, which was officiated by the Rev. Dr. William Lazareth at Grace & Paul's Church in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Pastor William Baum, who enjoys the deep respect and affection of his St. Barnabas Church congregation, is a man of many talents and interests, including music, the New York City Cyclones hockey team, video production and website design; and

WHEREAS, Pastor William Baum received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Composition from Concordia College, moved on to post-graduate composition studies through the City University of New York, but then changed gears to pursue and earn a Master of Divinity degree at the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, In choosing this life and spiritual direction, Pastor William Baum was following in the footsteps of his brother, Father George Baum, who serves as the rector of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and one half of the band "Lost and Found"; and

WHEREAS, On top of his pastorate at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Pastor William Baum has served on the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan New York Synod 2000-2015; as Dean of Southwest Queens Lutherans; chair of the synod's Ethics Dialogue on Ministry with Gay and Lesbian People; chair of the synod's Congregational Viability Committee; chair of the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Dialogue; and chair of the synod's Gathered Strategic Plan Committee; and

WHEREAS, Pastor William Baum chaplains the local volunteer fire department, gives of his time as CEO of a host of local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, served for many chilly winters as an off-ice official manning the New York City Cyclones penalty box and scoreboard, and used his video production and website design skills to submit an entry in the World Trade Center Memorial design competition; and

WHEREAS, When his beloved Howard Beach church was devastated by Hurricane Sandy in October of 2012, Pastor William Baum worked diligently with his congregation and other members of the community to

rebuild and rededicate the sanctuary at 159-19 98th Street by November of 2013; and

WHEREAS, Pastor William Baum is married to Reverend Brooke L. Swertfager, the pastor of the Christ Lutheran Church in Manhattan; in addition to being the guardians of Northford, an eastern box turtle, the couple are the proud parents of "two tall sons" who are, like the rest of the family, avid hockey players and fans; and

WHEREAS, In his many and varied endeavors, Pastor William Baum has brought great joy, energy, talent and dedication to serving the needs of his congregation at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, whether through providing spiritual guidance and communion to his parishioners or by reaching out to the larger community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and congratulate Pastor William Baum upon the occasion of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his ordination; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pastor William Baum.