



HR0858

LRB101 21551 MST 72405 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives would like to congratulate the congregation of  
4 the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Orion on the  
5 occasion of its 175th anniversary celebration on April 26th,  
6 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, Ascension Day in 1870 was marked by the  
8 organization of the Orion Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church  
9 by a group of laymen with 30 charter members, mostly from the  
10 Swedona Church, on May 26th; and

11 WHEREAS, A year later, they were accepted into membership  
12 in the Augusta Synod and completed their church's first  
13 building; and

14 WHEREAS, Eleven years later, their first pipe organ was  
15 installed at a cost of \$800, which served the church for 40  
16 years; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1922, 52 years after its creation, the church's  
18 membership had grown to 600, and the name of the congregation  
19 was changed to what it is still known as today, St. Paul  
20 Evangelical Lutheran Church, in order to be inviting to  
21 non-Swedish residents; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1979, an internship program was created, which  
2           lasted 22 years and had 18 participants; it was also the same  
3           year that the Orion senior citizens meal site was started by  
4           the St. Paul social ministry; and

5           WHEREAS, In 1989, the first parish nurse of the  
6           congregation was installed; and

7           WHEREAS, At the 125th anniversary in 1996, a revised  
8           mission statement was adopted which included a major component  
9           entitled Rooted, Nourished, Sent; and

10          WHEREAS, On June 18th, 1998, the steeple that topped the  
11          church since 1902 fell during a tornado-like storm; it was  
12          originally built of structured steel, measuring 103 feet from  
13          ground to top of the six foot cast-iron cross; and

14          WHEREAS, In 1999, St. Paul Church entered the digital age  
15          by launching their first webpage; and

16          WHEREAS, A year later, their hand bell choir joined others  
17          from across the United States and a variety of foreign nations  
18          to perform Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace during The  
19          Columbine Benefit Project, raising funds which promoted  
20          programs to prevent school violence; and

1           WHEREAS, The same year, a new steeple, replacing the former  
2 one that was destroyed two years prior, was dedicated; and

3           WHEREAS, The following year brought about many exciting  
4 changes, such as the authorization of church expansion and  
5 renovation, the hiring of the first Director of Youth and  
6 Family Ministry, and the creation of Fun and Fit, which was an  
7 outreach program for the children of the Orion community  
8 designed to improve children's nutrition, health status, and  
9 spiritual growth; and

10           WHEREAS, In 2003, two years after the expansion was  
11 authorized, there was a dedication of a new building, The Ark,  
12 on March 30th; and

13           WHEREAS, Retirement of The Ark mortgage concluded just  
14 before Ascension Day in 2014, and the church began their  
15 Backpack Blessings program, which operated through the food  
16 pantry; and

17           WHEREAS, When a blizzard hit the area in 2018, St. Paul  
18 Church continued its long tradition of caring for the community  
19 when the church was utilized as a warming center for 37 people;  
20 and

1           WHEREAS, Celebrating its 150th anniversary entitled  
2 Growing in God's Grace, St. Paul Church still holds its roots  
3 in a strong Swedish component but is home to a very large  
4 number of members from other nationalities; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we congratulate the congregation of the St. Paul Evangelical  
8 Lutheran Church on the occasion of its 175th anniversary  
9 celebration, we commend the continued good work of the church  
10 within and beyond the community of Orion, and we wish them many  
11 more years of faith and fellowship; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the congregation of St. Paul Church as an  
14 expression of our esteem and respect.