



HR0511

LRB102 21001 MST 29920 r

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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 150th anniversary on April 26, 2020; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, In 1922, fifty-two years after its creation, the
17 church's membership had grown to 600, and the name of the
18 congregation was changed to what it is still known as today,
19 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, in order to be inviting
20 to 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 that 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, St. Paul Church's hand bell choir
17 joined others from across the United States and a variety of
18 foreign nations to perform Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace
19 during The Columbine Benefit Project, raising funds which
20 promoted programs to prevent school violence; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, In 2003, two years after the expansion was
12 authorized, a new building, The Ark, was dedicated on March
13 30th; and

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

18 WHEREAS, When a blizzard hit the area in 2018, St. Paul
19 Church continued its long tradition of caring for the
20 community when the church was utilized as a warming center for
21 37 people; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate the congregation of the St. Paul Evangelical
4 Lutheran Church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary
5 celebration, we commend the continued good work of the church
6 within and beyond the community of Orion, and we wish them many
7 more years of faith and fellowship; and be it further

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