

## 2015-J6019

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and commemorate the proud and distinguished histories of the people, communities and organizations which comprise the noble body of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS, Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church has a very rich and long history, organized under the Augustana Synod on August 27, 1891, as The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethany Church; in 1907, the church moved to the corner of West State and South 6th Streets, where it remained until the new church was built in 1996; and

WHEREAS, During the earlier years, Swedish was used for morning services and English was spoken for the evening services; by 1937, all services at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church were held in English; and

WHEREAS, In 1941, the church was reincorporated as Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, and in 1945, R. Edward Carlson became the first resident pastor in 38 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1959, the Bethany Lutheran Church purchased the church house and it was used as an office and for Sunday school; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, the same year the current site was completed, Bethany and St. Stephan's Episcopal Church formed a committee to start a homeless shelter, and the Genesis House was born; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, at Bethany's annual meeting, it was decided to help

the Olean Food Pantry by providing them with a permanent home, thus the Sandra Stimson Building was built on Bethany property; the building was named to honor Sandra Stimson, one of the founding members of the Bethany Food Pantry, which eventually expanded with the assistance of other area churches and became the Olean Food Pantry; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize and honor milestones in the history of churches large and small in this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church.