

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2024-06  
**AS AMENDED** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CERTIFICATION DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CERTIFIED BY** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FAVORABLY** \_\_\_\_\_  
**UNFAVORABLY** \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY,  
INDIANA, CELEBRATING BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 150<sup>TH</sup> YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY”**

**WHEREAS**, Bethel Lutheran Church was established one hundred fifty (150) years ago when a group of Swedish people settled in Miller’s Station and missed their close contact with the gospel they experienced in their native land;

**WHEREAS**, June 26, 1874, Svanti A. Nordstrom and Reverend A. Challman from Hobart organized the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation located in a one (1) room schoolhouse currently known as 651 South Henry Street. Membership consisted of eleven (11) families.

**WHEREAS**, S.A. Nordstrom served as lay pastor and Rev. Challman conducted worship services once a month, J.A.Berg became Bethel’s first ordained pastor in 1905, Rev. Lundahl 1906-1917, Rev. Stark 1919-1924, Dr. Dahlberg 1924-1933, Dr. Hall 1934-1936, Rev. Carlson 1936-1942, Rev. Hillstrom 1942-1947, Rev. Allen 1947-1952, Dr. Falk 1953-1959, Rev. Linstom 1960-1967, Pastor Johnson 1967-1970, Pastor Armiger 1971-1980 and 2015-16, Pastor Melton 1980-1984, Pastor McKee 1985-1992, Rev. Kentopp 1993-1996, Pastor Berry 1996, Ludia Eison 2009, Robert Saler 2011, Pastor Heine 2017;

**WHEREAS**, In 1890, Charles Daly donated land at the Southwest Corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Lake Streets for the construction of the church building which began in 1892;

**WHEREAS**, In 1894, the completion of Miller’s first church building and “Bethel” which means House of God was added to the original name and in 1896 the first class was confirmed in the new building;

**WHEREAS**, In 1921, the Luther League installed a hand-carved wood altar and a painting of Christ, the Good Shepherd, over the altar;

**WHEREAS**, Between, 1924-1933 the congregation had their choice between two (2) services on Sundays, mornings in English or afternoons in Swedish;

**WHEREAS**, between 1936 and 1942, the main floor was enlarged and a sacristy was added, Reverend Carlson was the first minister to occupy the two-story parsonage at Fourth and Howard Streets. In 1948, a large annex was added to the rear of the church;

**WHEREAS**, land was purchased for a new church building at 411 North Montgomery Street and ground was broken for the present church May 7, 1961. Reverend Linstom conducted the first services in the new sanctuary Christmas Eve of 1961 and the church was dedicated February 18, 1962;

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**WHEREAS**, the present building has mementos from their historic structure such as the old bell is found at the base of the bell spire, the old Swedish altar reredos with a picture of Christ, the Good Shepherd, is enshrined above the stairway and the original cornerstone is to the left of the entrance next to the stone at their present building;

**WHEREAS**, During the ensuing years, Bethel has become a proud and unique multicultural diverse congregation characterized by compassion, friendliness and commitment to the community. An outpouring of love and thankfulness is the hallmark of Bethel's mission and ministry in service of God's calling. Several programs were Lutheran World Action, Teaching Parish Program, Personal Services Auction, Gary Lutheran Parish, Children's Circle, WELCA, Annual Gospel Fest, Happy Birthday Jesus, Fest in the First, Listening Ears Concert, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Interfaith Action Network and Upward Sports Camp to name a few; and

**WHEREAS**, Bethel is grateful for their past, faithful in the present and hopeful for their future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:**

We, the **Gary Common Council**, are committed to "Celebrating Bethel Lutheran Church 150<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary".

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Common Council of the City of Gary, Indiana, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT, GARY COMMON COUNCIL

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

**PRESENTED** by me, to the Mayor for his approval and signature this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

**APPROVED** and **SIGNED** by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR, CITY OF GARY, INDIANA

Sponsored by: Councilwoman Lori Latham, First District

1<sup>st</sup> District \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> District \_\_\_\_\_  
3<sup>rd</sup> District \_\_\_\_\_  
4<sup>th</sup> District \_\_\_\_\_  
5<sup>th</sup> District \_\_\_\_\_  
6<sup>th</sup> District \_\_\_\_\_  
At Large \_\_\_\_\_  
At Large \_\_\_\_\_  
At Large \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Rinzer Williams, III, Legal Advisor for Gary Common Council

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT \_\_\_\_\_ Reported-Out/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Committee Hearing/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Public Hearing/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Final Reading/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Passed/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Deferred/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Tabled/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Override/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication Date \_\_\_\_\_ Community Hearing Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Veto Date \_\_\_\_\_ Pocket Veto Date \_\_\_\_\_