

RESOLUTION NUMBER 156

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on Sunday, September 15, 2008 the 100th Anniversary of Messiah Lutheran Church will be celebrated; and

WHEREAS, Messiah Lutheran Church traces its roots back to a few meetings held in December of 1907 when local men began a discussion regarding the logistics of starting a congregation. After prayerful deliberation, they decided to begin services on January 19th 1908. The first service was conducted in German, and then alternated weekly between German and English. Kleekamps' Hall on Grand Avenue was secured for just \$5 per Sunday and Messiah was off and running. By February, the congregation was officially organized, in March it had formed its first constitution and by September had called Reverend William Wilk as its first pastor. Eager for their own place of worship, the congregation broke ground on a church building at Grand and Pestalozzi in December of 1908; and

WHEREAS, after only a few years, the congregation had outgrown its first chapel building. With the same zeal shown in the origination of the church, a building campaign was launched on Messiah's 20th anniversary entitled, "It Can Be Done." The current home of Messiah Lutheran Church was subsequently dedicated just a year later in December of 1929. One of the local newspapers called the church a "symphony of charm and beauty." The church continued to flourish in the coming decades, and in 1948 began serving the community with Messiah Lutheran School; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s and early 70s, however, many young families began to move to the suburbs, and Messiah, along with countless other urban churches, had to redefine itself in a changing neighborhood. The following decades brought new pastors and new vision for the congregation. No longer serving a primarily German area, Messiah shifted its focus to be a church for all nations. Now they host events that try to bring in school and neighborhood children, such as "Light up the Night," their annual evening of fun and food on Halloween. They also try to be visible in the neighborhood by caroling at Christmas, visiting neighbors to ask for prayer requests and hosting the Messiah Pumpkin Patch, which also serves as a fundraiser. This spring, they even had the chance to be featured on the Grand/South Grand Area House Tour; and

WHEREAS, Messiah Lutheran Church is also one of three churches that support of King Glory Lutheran school with one of the two campuses located just across the street. King of Glory is striving to provide quality education to St. Louis. Its middle school now includes the Nativity Miguel model that features high school placement assistance and a longer school day offering more challenging opportunities for students while also accommodating working parents; and

WHEREAS, the new millennium continues to bring more change to the Tower Grove neighborhoods as many homes are being renovated and young families are moving back to the city. It can be difficult for a congregation to constantly meet the needs of its community, but as ambassadors of the gospel, that their our calling. This is a year of celebration for Messiah Lutheran Church, as they remember the past century of its worship and service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Messiah Lutheran Church on its 100th Anniversary and we wish them continued success and accomplishment and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 8th day of September, 2008 by:

Honorable Stephen J. Conway Alderman 10th Ward

Adopted this the 8th day of September, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

