

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, On April 25, 1923 Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized by twenty-eight members. Consequently, they celebrate their 100th Anniversary on April 25, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Marty Quinn, Alderman of the 13th Ward, has apprised the members of the chamber of this remarkable milestone; and

WHEREAS, It all began on September 27, 1914, when a West Lawn resident named Gust Berg volunteered to hold a missionary Sunday School in his home. Later they moved to a local portable schoolhouse at 62nd and Kostner. In 1922, pioneers of Calvary gathered money and secured a loan to purchase a lot at 6118 South Kenneth Ave; a chapel was built and was known as the West Lawn Community Mission. On April 25, 1923, twenty-eight dedicated souls organized Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS, Once organized, approximately 80 members of Calvary called it's first Pastor, Pastor J.H. Gregg and built its first permanent structure, the church. In 1928, the Parish Hall was dedicated. As the community grew so did Calvary. By the end of 1939 the confirmed membership had grown to 238; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary Star of the Sea, offered their first mass on December 19, 1948. It has been written that, "On Christmas Eve, as more than 600 people streamed into that tiny little church for midnight mass, "The Bells of Saint Mary's" could be heard wafting through the cold crisp air from the carillon of our neighboring church, Calvary Lutheran Church. What a wonderful display of welcome and hospitality". To this day the relationship between churches remains steadfast; and

WHEREAS, On December 5, 1954 the new church building was dedicated and two years later a separate parsonage was built. Calvary's membership continued to grow at 667 adults and 234 children. On Reformation Sunday, 1964, a wonderful Wicks Pipe Organ of 28 ranks 1,418 pipes was dedicated; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate the 45th Anniversary in 1968, a new Parish Hall was dedicated to accommodate its continuing growth. On January 19, 1986 a members of Calvary held a "Burning of the Mortgage Ceremony". On January 1, 1988 Calvary officially became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Calvary has hosted various actives for parishioners: Choir and Bible Study for adults and children, Youth Group and Sunday School. Annual and semi-annual activities included talent shows, concerts, Scout Pancake Breakfasts, Flea Markets and its once famous Spaghetti Dinners; and

WHEREAS, Calvary has supported many community organizations and initiatives throughout the years such as Campfire Girls, Cub and Boy Scouts, Polling Place, ESL classes, and AA to name a few. Over the years multitudes of dedicated Christians gave graciously their time, service and passion to make Calvary what it is today; and

WHEREAS, Today, Reverend Gary Cox presides as Pastor. Although he leads a much smaller congregation, the passion and commitment of its current members remains strong and unwavering. Calvary continues to serve the community by sharing its space with Consuelo Therapeutic Services, AA, Maranatha Seventh Day Adventist and Victory Outreach Churches. Calvary has been truly blessed and prays that it can continue God's work in whatever form they are called to do so; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered together this nineteenth day of April, 2023, do hereby congratulate Calvary Lutheran Church on their 100th Anniversary and wish them many more years of continued service to their parishioners and the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Calvary Lutheran Church.

MARTY QUINN
Alderman, 13th Ward