

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 2200

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The clergy and congregation of St. John Lutheran  
2 Church in Bishop are celebrating more than a century of faithful  
3 witness and service with the dedication of an Official Texas  
4 Historical Marker on April 26, 2015; and

5           WHEREAS, St. John traces its roots to May 1913, when the  
6 Reverend F. J. Lange and 13 German Lutheran families established  
7 Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church; members initially met at a local  
8 school and at a farmhouse while they raised funds to construct a  
9 sanctuary; in 1915, the congregation changed its name to St. John  
10 Evangelical Lutheran Church, and two years later it completed its  
11 first building, with the parishioners doing most of the work; and

12           WHEREAS, For several decades, services at the church were  
13 conducted in the German language; in 1919, with prejudice against  
14 German Americans running high in the aftermath of World War I, the  
15 Ku Klux Klan set fire to St. John's sanctuary; undaunted, the  
16 congregation worshipped in a barn while it rebuilt, and it moved  
17 into its new sanctuary by the end of the year; gradually, more and  
18 more services were conducted in English, and in 1939, services in  
19 German were discontinued; and

20           WHEREAS, In 1940, St. John bought its current site for just  
21 under \$300 and built a parsonage and an education building using  
22 wood from the old church; World War II delayed the rest of the  
23 construction program, and members worshipped in the education  
24 building until a new stone sanctuary was erected in 1951; by 1958,

1 the church campus had grown to encompass the entire block, along  
2 with new classrooms and offices, and in 1972 a new parsonage was  
3 built; another milestone occurred in 1963, when the present name of  
4 the church was adopted; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout the life of this venerable institution,  
6 succeeding generations have honored and built on the work of those  
7 who have gone before, and it is a privilege to recognize the  
8 continuing commitment of this congregation to its faith and to the  
9 wider community; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of an Official Texas  
12 Historical Marker at St. John Lutheran Church in Bishop and extend  
13 to the church's clergy and congregation sincere best wishes for a  
14 meaningful and memorable event; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
17 House of Representatives.