

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 2003-27
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1328

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVERENDS
ADOLPHEUS NUSSMAN AND JOHANN GOTTFRIED ARENDS ON THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Whereas, on November 15, 2003, the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will celebrate its 200th anniversary; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Synod is the second oldest Lutheran Synod in the United States; and

Whereas, during the 1770s, German immigrants who had settled in the Piedmont area of North Carolina felt a need to have their own pastor and schoolteacher; and

Whereas, the German Lutheran Church sent Reverend Adolpheus Nussman and teacher Johann Gottfried Arends to North Carolina in 1773; and

Whereas, Johann Gottfried Arends, who was a graduate of the University of Goettingen, Germany, and also had theological training, came to North Carolina with an official letter of recommendation signed by King George III and became an ordained minister in 1775; and

Whereas, by 1783, Reverend Nussman was the pastor of three churches, each with a school, and the supervisor of 25 missions across North Carolina; and

Whereas, in 1803, the North Carolina Synod was organized to provide congregations with adequately prepared ministers; and

Whereas, the Reverend Arends organized or helped organize 19 congregations in Western North Carolina; and

Whereas, the Reverend Arends had helped organize the synod and was respected throughout the Lutheran Church in North Carolina; and

Whereas, the Reverend Arends was chosen and served as the synod's first president (a position currently referred to as 'bishop'); and

Whereas, in the early years, the synod struggled with the issues of slavery, German heritage and language, and the structure of worship, but the synod managed to prosper despite differences of opinion; and

Whereas, in the late 1800s, the synod began supporting higher education and foreign missions and allowing lay people, especially women, to take a more active role in the Lutheran church; and

Whereas, the Lutheran population had increased dramatically in North Carolina by the 1960s, allowing the synod to provide centralized programs, resources, training, advice, and other services to local ministries; and

Whereas, the synod has responded to the changing demographics of the State by developing policies to improve its outreach to African-Americans and Latinos; and

Whereas, the synod has grown from four pastors in 14 congregations to 455 leaders in 241 congregations; and

Whereas, it is only fitting to acknowledge the 200th anniversary of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

SECTION 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of the Reverend Adolpheus Nussman and the Reverend Johann Gottfried Arends for their roles in the development of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

SECTION 2. The General Assembly extends its sincere congratulations to the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on its 200th anniversary.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 18th day of July, 2003.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

Richard T. Morgan
Speaker of the House of Representatives