



IDW Mission Grant Evaluation Report Form

Grant recipients are to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort. If this is a continuing ministry, please submit a report by January 31st of the following year, in which the grant is received. Include pictures/videos that help share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their own ministry. Final grant funds will be sent upon receipt of this evaluation.

Contact Person, Congregation, and email address:

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1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort:

St. Paul's Lutheran School prepares its students for life and eternity with Christ-centered academic excellence. The purpose of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School is to teach children to know Jesus, their Savior, and to walk in His Ways. Next to the Christian home, we believe there is no better agency for Christ-centered education than the Christian school. We also believe that we are here to minister to the whole family and not just the children.

There is a need for an extended care program that runs before and after school. Working parents and single parents have a hard time getting children to and from school at specific times that may interfere with work schedules. We hope to make this program affordable for working parents and single parents with grant funds.

We also hope to make a direct connection to the unchurched family with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We will send home flyers informing families of church events they are invited to. These may include: Lenten services, Advent services, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-or-Treat, times for regular and special services and other events for the family.

2. What goals were established for this effort and what did you hope to accomplish?

- To demonstrate a clear sense of God's mission to make disciples;
- To integrate church and school by offering multiple opportunities to participate in Church services and Sunday School activities; and
- To make a direct connection between St. Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran School so students and their families can know and grow in Christ.

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?

Three families have joined the church and another one is in Adult confirmation to become members. A total of 5 adults and 5 students have become members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the last year from St. Paul's Lutheran School. We would like to think that the connections we have made between school and church are working. Flyers are sent home inviting families to activities, such as Lenten services, Advent services, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-or-Treat, other special services and Church and Sunday school times, etc.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?

We would step up efforts to make more personal connections between church and school. Also, more fliers, the internet (Facebook) and text messaging could be implemented to make more connections. Social media is widely used by younger parents that are enrolling children in school.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

It is not us, but the Holy Spirit that brings people to faith and strengthens their faith. We continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the families that are unchurched or have not been to a church lately.

We have learned that a direct and conscience effort to invite unchurched families personally into our church community can lead to active participation by these families.

6. Will this outreach effort continue and be sustaining? Did a new outreach opportunity present itself?

We will continue this outreach effort. We will need to charge a higher rate if we do not have another income (such as the mission grant). We have considered inviting the public to the Extended Care but it is full to capacity with just the school children from St. Paul's Lutheran School. We could extend the offer to the children of church families that are not using the school. This would also help make connections between the church and school.

7. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?

I would suggest that the congregation include families that do not use the school but need Extended Care for their children be invited to use the Extended Care program. This may make a connection between the family and the school and the family may consider St. Paul's Lutheran School as an option for Christian Education.

Thank you for your prayers and support in this program.