

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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				
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Congregation: First English Lutheran Church				

## 1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort.

The 2016 IDW Mission Grant received by First English Lutheran Church (FELC) is for the construction and installation of a new playground and P.E. equipment for the church and Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School (IGLLS).

- 2. What goals were established for this effort and what did you hope to accomplish? There were two main goals for this project. 1) To complete the construction of the playground and P.E. equipment, and 2) To create an amenity on the FELC campus that adds a welcoming and inviting feeling to the unchurched and other non-Lutheran children who participate in the mid-week youth programs, FELC LYF youth group, and the students attending IGLLS grade school.
- 3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some contributing factors? Yes, this project successfully achieved the project goals of the grant. The members of FELC and IGLLS are more than pleased with the outcome of the playground project. The playground was essentially constructed and concreted in place in one weekend over July 15-16<sup>th</sup>. The playground was completed with the fantastic assistance of approximately 20-30 volunteers through a "community build" concept. The finishing of the playground occurred the following weekend when more than 200 tons or 4 semi loads of engineered mulch was distributed over the massive new playground surface to ensure the safety of the children playing on the equipment. Again it was by the Grace of God and through the efforts of more than 20-30 volunteers that made this monumental task achievable.
- 4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again? I don't believe so. The IDW Mission Grant program has been a true blessing for FELC and IGLLS in providing the necessary resources to complete this important mission outreach project.
- 5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

I believe one of the lessons learned through this effort is that God has a plan for everything. FELC is truly blessed through all of the generous giving both in terms of

time, talents, resources and financial support toward the FELC/IGLLS Playground project. Furthermore, the school has also been successful and gracious in achieving other sources of grant funding in addition to the IDW Mission Grant to support this worthwhile project. All those associated with the playground project are amazed at the glory God has given to our church and school, and we are all humbled by the amazing things that can be accomplished though the generosity of many along with the volunteer time and talents of many more individuals. This project is a true example of having faith and in believing that in all things there is a purpose. The project went vent smoothly, and I don't believe we would have done anything differently.

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

This mission outreach project will absolutely be sustaining. This brand new playground and P.E. equipment is completely paid for and will provide many years of fun, recreation, exercise and enjoyment for the thousands of children that will utilize these facilities over the years. Furthermore, by having the new playground amenities as part of the overall FELC campus, it is the intention of the church and school to utilize this recreational attraction to the greatest extent possible to reach out to those unchurched, underchurched or non-Lutheran children and students who are participating in the FELC midweek youth activities, the FELC LYF youth group, and the IGLLS grade school.

7. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort? The FELC family is more than grateful and thankful for the generosity shown by lowa District West through this Mission Grant. We strongly recommend other congregations consider seeking assistance through an IDW Mission Grant if they believe youth related recreational amenities will strengthen their overall Church mission service and community outreach, as it has done for IGLLS school and First English Lutheran in Spencer, Iowa.

Original proposal:



Project Photos: (Please see following pages)

Project Photos: Phase 1 - Initial Construction



Project Photos: Phase 2 – Placement of engineered much



Project Photos: Finished project and seeing the joy on the children's faces (and some big kids too!)





Copies of Project Invoices & Expenses: