

## (Sample Essay)

Project Title: **Children's Ministry**

**Background:** Main Lutheran Church is located within two blocks from Community Elementary School, which serves mostly under-privileged children within our community. Many of the children come from either a single parent home or both parents of the household have to work. During the school year, this leaves the majority of the children unsupervised for a good part of the afternoon until they are either reunited with their parents after work or in some cases, reunited with an older teenage sibling.

Mrs. Angelica Wings, a long-standing member of the congregation and past President of our Church Council recognized that there was a need and an opportunity for the church to become an active partner in the community. She proposed the church provide a homework study help program for the students at Community Elementary. In collaboration with the school and parents of the community we were able to design a pilot program that included both study and play for five children. The five children identified were selected based upon need by the school personnel. It was agreed that with the permission of their parents they would come to our campus for help with homework and have an opportunity to play in a safe area within our campus.

**Purpose for Project:** Improve a student's overall scholastic performance while also building a lifelong spiritual foundation for the glory of God.

**Pilot Program:** During the summer of 2014 – we distributed flyers within the surrounding community announcing our Children's Program and asked parents if they would be willing to have their child participate in a program that would help their child with their homework

in addition to having time for them to play on our campus. Five children were identified to participate in the pilot program for six months beginning in the fall of 2014. Selection was based on a need to improve their study habits as well as the quality of their schoolwork.

**Pilot Results:** All children who participated in the pilot program showed a significant improvement. They went from working below standards to either meeting or exceeding the standards as measured by their school. Subsequently, the parents of all five children enrolled their children into our 2014 VBS program and one of the single parents requested their child be baptized and has since joined the congregation.

**The Program:** As a result of the success our pilot program, Community Elementary has requested that we expand our program size while targeting ages 6-10 years of age. In response, Mrs. Wings, a retired teacher, has volunteered for the homework study program and will be supported by a second member of our congregation, also a retired secondary education teacher, Mrs. Alma Fay. In addition, two college freshmen, (twin siblings) and also members of our congregation, Jon and Sandra Smart, have volunteered to provide support to the program. Jon and/or Sandra will meet the children after school at a pre-determined area of the school and walk them to our campus. Children will be given a snack and beverage prior to beginning homework assignments. The volunteers will review homework and work with the children to improve their work assignment skills. Parents have agreed that their children would attend faith programs and chapel services on Fridays since no homework assignments are given on this day.

**Proposal for the 2016 Spring Session:** After publishing new flyers that were distributed to parents at Community Elementary, we shall expand the program to 10 - 12 children that

will be selected by the Community Elementary School in cooperation with the parents who have requested to have their children participate.

It has been determined we will need daily snacks and four tablets (same as school) to assist the older children with their schoolwork. In addition, various play equipment and videos are required that will enhance our faith based programs on Friday.

**Projected Results from Project:** Continued improvement of student study habits, quality of schoolwork and spiritual formations via weekly faith based teachings through chapel services and video stories provided by our Pastor and Teachers. An additional prayerful expectation is that some parents may ask that our pastor baptize their children. Though we are not directly seeking to bring in new members through this program, we will be in prayer and planting seeds towards this endeavor. At the conclusion of the project a letter will be sent to each of the student's parents and included in our church bulletin, recognizing the contribution the Warner Trust Grant to this important and valuable Christian educational community project.

**Metrics:** School Report Cards will be used to measure the success of the project. Any student(s) that is baptized or any parent(s) seeking church membership will also be documented though this is not necessarily an expectation for the success of the project.

**Sustainment:** Main Lutheran Church is committed to both long-term sustainment and growth of this important Christian education program by providing internal funding for recurring expenses required of this ministry.

Attached: Time phased financial execution plan and pictures of our facility/program

## Detailed Financial Execution Plan

### Total Program Cost:

Qty	Description	Total Cost	Expenditure Date
4	Tablets at \$800 each	\$3,200	Jul-16
10	Faith based Videos at \$15 each	\$150	Jul-16
	Snacks 26 weeks \$15 each week (\$3 per day)	\$390	Sep-16 - Jun-17
2	Vollenteer Teachers	\$0	N/A
2	Vollenteer College Students	\$0	N/A
1	Miscelaneous Play Equip, balls etc	\$510	Jul-16

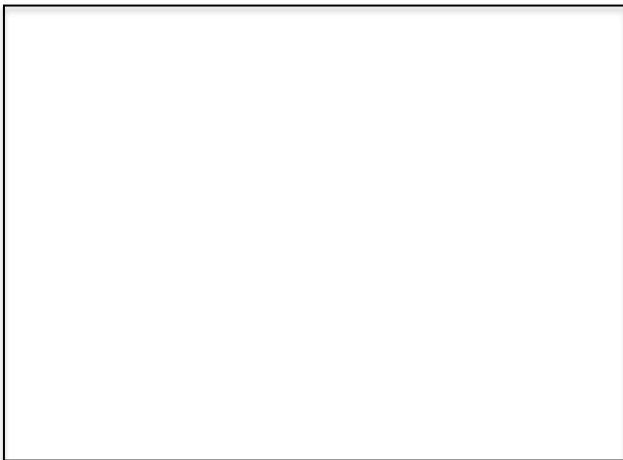
Total Expense **\$4,250**

### Main Lutheran Church Investment:

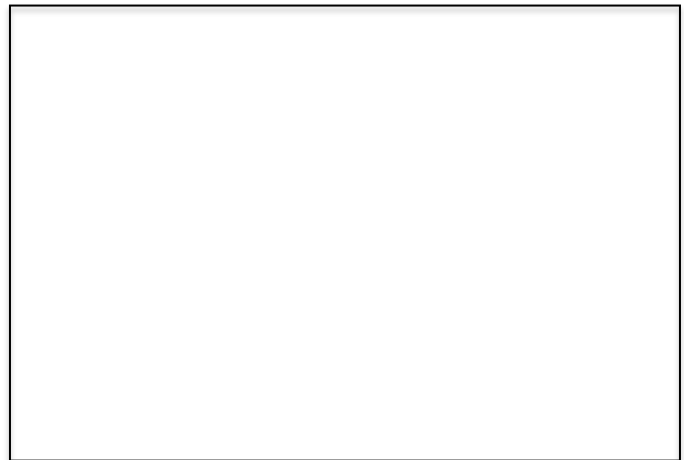
Qty	Description	Total Cost
2	Vollenteer Teachers	\$0
2	Vollenteer College Students	\$0
	Donations by Church Members	\$1,000
	Donations by Community	\$150

Total Investment **\$1,150**

**Grant Request: \$3,100**



Picture of our Classroom



Picture from our Pilot Program