



## CHURCH CREATES SANCTUARY FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

For more than 150 years, Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church has been a fixture of faith in central Illinois. Today, the vibrant church is taking a leap of faith to better serve the Bloomington-Normal community.

A massive building project will double its size to create a Family Life Center, complete with a gym, offices, temporary shelter, community meeting spaces, and a food and clothing pantry. Energy efficiency is proving to be a powerful building block.

“We don’t have the square footage to do all the things we want to do, but when you expand, expenses grow – so it’s important to have something sustainable,” says Trustee Robert Clark. “Energy efficiency upgrades will help finance this building project by saving us money in the long run.”

Considering that lighting can account for as much as 50 percent of electricity usage in the average organization, Clark made it his mission to light up the church for less.

“I was tasked with coming up with a plan to upgrade the lighting,” says Clark, who has four decades of utility experience. “As a former Ameren Illinois employee, I knew about their Energy Efficiency Programs.”

Manager of those programs, Ken Woolcutt, explains: “Ameren Illinois offers information and incentives to help customers reduce their energy bills. Lighting is a great place for any facility to start saving. LEDs have set a new standard for efficiency and there are bulbs to meet every need.”

ENERGY STAR®-qualified LED lighting uses at least 80 percent less energy than incandescent lighting and lasts up to 50 times longer. That equates to savings in energy costs, as well as maintenance costs.

To make the project almost effortless, Ameren Illinois provided nearly \$12,000 to defray the church’s costs to upgrade to LED lighting. Those funds reduced the project payback to just six months.

## Flip the Switch on Energy Waste

Lighting accounts for 20 to 50 percent of the average organization’s electricity consumption. On the bright side, that means your business or nonprofit can enjoy significant savings — year after year — by making simple lighting improvements. Ameren Illinois offers cash incentives for a variety of lighting projects, including:

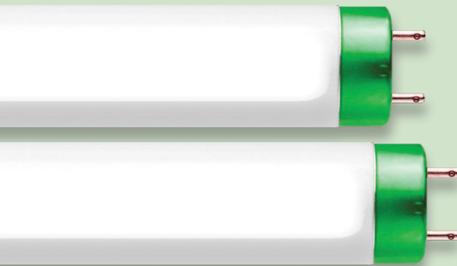
- LED exit signs
- Interior LED lighting
- LED case lighting
- High-bay lighting replacements
- Exterior Lighting for canopies, garages, or parking lots
- Removing unneeded lamps or fixtures



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## Benefits to Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church

- Nearly \$12,000 in incentives
- More than 80,500 kWh/year in energy savings
- Roughly \$4,860 in annual savings
- Better quality of light
- 10-year guarantee on new LED lighting
- Reduced project payback period
- Lower maintenance costs
- Less environmental impact
- More money to put toward mission



## The Lowdown on LEDs

ENERGY STAR -qualified LED lighting uses at least 80 percent less energy than incandescent lighting, which cuts operating costs. And because it lasts 35 to 50 times longer than incandescent lighting — and up to five times longer than fluorescent lighting — you'll save on maintenance costs, too.

In the sanctuary today, 17-watt LED flood lights do the job previously done by 250-watt incandescent bulbs. Elsewhere, LEDs replaced fluorescent tubes and halogen bulbs.

"It was a no-brainer for us to do the project. It was an excellent opportunity to save a lot of money," says Clark.

In fact, the church reduced its energy costs by an estimated \$4,860 a year.

The new LED lights are a testament to the fact that quality and savings can go hand in hand.

"The previous lighting was somewhat sterile," says Clark. "The LED lighting is warmer and brighter. Everybody has commented how much brighter and well defined things are with the LED lighting."

Life span is another key difference.

Prior to the upgrade, bulbs burned out frequently — and replacing them in the sanctuary's 50-foot dome was no small task. The new, worry-free LED bulbs boast a life expectancy of at least 25,000 hours and may be as high as 100,000 hours (and a warranty to back that up).

In light of this success, church leaders plan to tackle more energy efficiency measures — and Clark encourages other churches to take steps toward sustainability.

"A lot of churches are not new, so the buildings are not built to modern standards. Upgrades can be an expensive undertaking; and if you do it on your own, you will pay a lot more. Let Ameren Illinois step in and help."

While the church inspires hope through life's challenges, Ameren Illinois hopes to inspire individuals and organizations to use less energy and spend less.

"We're here to help churches and other nonprofits impact the community with less impact on the environment," says Woolcutt. "Something as simple as switching to LEDs can potentially save thousands of dollars per year — money that can be put to better use in the community."

While its mission may be timeless, Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church proves that it pays to keep up with the latest energy efficiency technologies.

"The world changes, but our mission stays the same. We need to execute that mission in smart ways and be a good steward of the church's money," says Clark. "Anything you can do to improve energy efficiency allows you to do more good in the community."

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## Let There Be (LED) Light

Since 2008, the award-winning Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program has provided millions in incentives to help business, nonprofit and public organizations reduce their annual energy costs. Incentives are available for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, steam system improvements, and compressed air.

**READY TO BEGIN?**

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