



## NEW CHURCH LIGHTING IS TESTAMENT TO EFFICIENCY

Much like Ameren Illinois, Crossbridge Church has roots that go back nearly a century in northern Illinois. Today, the thriving Ottawa-based church has grown to serve congregations in several area communities.

As organizations grow, however, so do energy costs. Fortunately, Ameren Illinois can help businesses, churches and non-profits spend less on energy.

“Our Energy Efficiency Program provides information and incentives to help customers make changes that reduce their energy bills and preserve energy resources,” says Ken Woolcutt, Manager of Energy Efficiency at Ameren Illinois. “Lighting is a great place for any facility to start saving.”

That’s exactly where Crossbridge Church began its journey to energy efficiency. The church partnered with Ameren Illinois Program Ally Premium Light to upgrade outdated, 1970s-era parking lot lighting with high-efficiency LED bulbs.

Ameren Illinois provided cash incentives to help defray the church’s project costs. Beyond those up-front savings, the new exterior lighting will reduce the church’s monthly power bill by hundreds of dollars a year.

In light of the parking lot success, “we had our contractor do a walk-through of our Ottawa campus to look for other energy-saving opportunities,” says Pastor John Pickens. “We ended up replacing nearly all of our interior fluorescent lighting with T8 bulbs.”

Rather than installing entirely new fixtures, Premium Light retrofitted existing fixtures and added reflectors to brighten the space even more. “In many fixtures, we were able to reduce four bulbs to three,” says Pickens. “Even with fewer bulbs, it’s amazing how much brighter the rooms feel.”

### Light Up Your Facility for Less

Lighting accounts for as much as 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. Submit your qualified lighting project and gain:

- Cash incentives
- Lower electricity bills
- Better lighting
- Reduced project costs
- Longer lamp life
- Faster payback period
- Lower maintenance costs
- Reduced impact on the environment



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## Smart Thermostats: Comfort at Less Cost

Easy to operate and install, today's smart thermostats automatically adjust heating and cooling for optimal performance. By better controlling energy usage, a smart thermostat can help your organization save as much as 10 to 15% on heating and cooling costs. As an added convenience, you can control your smart thermostat from anywhere using your mobile device. Now you can save \$100 when you purchase an ENERGY STAR® qualified smart thermostat! Visit [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com](http://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com) to learn more or apply for a rebate.



Along with the warm welcome it provides, the new interior lighting adds to the church's yearly energy savings. LED bulbs last for years, so they help reduce maintenance costs, too.

Cash incentives from Ameren Illinois put an otherwise beyond-budget project well within the church's reach.

"There was a very small chance that we could have taken on this project without the incentive," says Pickens. "The incentive made our decision super easy."

Energy management is super easy as well, thanks to the church's new smart thermostats.

"The new smart thermostats have been incredible for us. Like many churches, we only use rooms for a few hours at a time. Now we can schedule those times to keep the rooms comfortable when they're occupied and switch to an economy setting when they're not in use," says Pickens, who particularly appreciates the ability to remotely control temperatures when last-minute schedule changes occur. "Now we have better lights and cheaper electric bills — it's a win all around."

*"The Ameren Illinois program has been a blessing to us."*

— Pastor John Pickens,  
Crossbridge Church

That win means more money is available to support the church's mission work — such as Feed His Children, a year-round program that feeds children in need.

"Energy efficiency has become a huge motivator for us because those savings allow us to put dollars right back into the people and projects we're passionate about," says Pickens, who sings the praises of the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program.

"I recommend the Ameren Illinois program wholeheartedly — I was surprised at how easy it was," says Pickens. "It's been a blessing to us."

"Ameren Illinois can help churches and other nonprofits impact the community with less impact on the environment," says Woolcutt. "Something as simple as switching to high-efficiency lighting can potentially save thousands of dollars per year — money that can be put to better use in the community."

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## Cash Incentives: A Blessing for Your Budget

The award-winning Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program offers incentives for a variety of energy-saving projects, including lighting, heating and cooling, refrigeration, motors, steam system improvements, and compressed air. Those cash incentives — and the annual savings they help generate — free up funds to support your organization's mission.



**READY TO BEGIN?**

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