

PAX CHRISTI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Goal: Be a responsible steward for the earth and save energy in facility operations.

Results: Reduced facility energy use by up to 10% since 2009.

An Aligned Approach: Faith & Sustainability

Eden Prairie's Pax Christi Catholic Community strives to incorporate forward-thinking strategies that align with the Catholic faith into everything the parish does. For Director of Operations Ken Reineccius, this extends to the worship facility's building operations. With Ken's guidance, Pax Christi has become a leader in energy efficiency and solar generation, both to save on operating costs and to be a better steward of God's creations.

Originally constructed in 1983, Pax Christi's worship facility was expanded in 1989 and again in 1998. The facility was built to be welcoming and environmentally friendly, constructed from natural stone and wood. The 100,000-square-foot building is the spiritual home to more than 3,600 families, amounting to around 10,000 parishioners. While most live in Eden Prairie or nearby Bloomington, members hail from over 100 zip codes statewide.

Reducing Building Costs

A large facility means high operating costs. With bills topping \$100,000 each year for electric, gas, water, and sewer utilities, the parish regularly seeks opportunities to reduce costs and improve its environmental stewardship. One such opportunity presented itself through a Turn Key Services assessment from Xcel Energy.

During the audit, an energy professional examined the building to identify ways to save energy. The auditor suggested solutions to improve the efficiency of heating and cooling appliances added at different times through the years. The audit also suggested that the facility would benefit from a building management system that allows a facility operator to adjust each room's temperatures based on whether it's occupied or not. The system was installed in 2010, along with upgrading the heating equipment with the help of Xcel Energy rebates. More recently, Pax Christi has begun investing in energy-saving LED lighting.

BY THE NUMBERS

100,000	Facility Square Footage
10,000	Parishioners
3,600	Families
\$100,000	Annual utility costs
10%	Energy use savings

Tracking Energy Use

The parish has been tracking its energy use with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager® since 2009, and has seen its energy use go down by nearly 10% during that time. Pax Christi is recognized as an ENERGY STAR® partner for its dedication to improving the energy efficiency of its facility.

Capitalizing on Utility Rebates

There's nothing better than building investments that pay for themselves, especially for a facility that relies on generosity to keep its lights on. Fortunately, in offices and other high-traffic building areas, Xcel Energy's lighting rebates mean quick paybacks on investments — so Ken is first focusing on lighting upgrades in the most heavily used areas, and will do the same later in less traveled areas, such as the parking lot and chapel.

In fact, rebates were Ken's tipping point for deciding to invest in energy efficiency. Ken worked closely with Xcel Energy's Business Solutions Center to learn more about available utility rebates. After hearing about Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy's rebates for the building management system, and for heating and cooling equipment upgrades, investing in those technologies became a "no-brainer."

A Community Working Together

At Pax Christi, energy efficiency is also a community effort. Ken emails tips to building staff about how to save energy, and posts signs around the worship facility so parishioners can join in the efforts. He also makes himself available to any community member with questions about the church's energy efficiency efforts.



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Learn more about energy efficiency opportunities by visiting
xcelenergy.com/Rebates

