

# Solar Opportunity for Your Congregation

Currently, 1/5 of the average Lutheran church budget is utilized to pay utilities. What if you could eliminate or reduce your church's electric bill? What kind of ministry could your congregation add or improve?



The Inflation Reduction Act passed in September of 2022 has allowed all non-profits to participate in a solar energy rebate. The IRA provides churches and non-profits with a direct payment of tax credits available to all commercial properties.

Now, you might be wondering, "What's stopping us?" It may be the uncertainty of where to begin. Fear not! Those with experience have already paved the path to energy independence during this window of opportunity. Keep reading to gain valuable insights.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **1. How much is a solar panel system going to cost my congregation?**

Thanks to various tax credits, the cost of your solar project, after federal rebates, can be equal to or even less than your current electric bill - and paid off in under ten years. Churches can qualify for rebates covering 60% of costs, just like Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Humble, TX, which qualified for 60% in federal reimbursements. These are the rebates available through 2032 if qualified:

30% Non-Profits

10% Domestic Materials

10% Energy Community

10% Low Income

### **2. Does our church building have enough space for solar panels?**

Every church can implement solar panels on its property, whether on the roof or elsewhere. If your roof needs repair, don't worry - the roof replacement cost can be factored into the solar energy system expenses. Lamb of God Lutheran Church even built a carport to create additional space and provide covered parking for church members.

### **3. Who will ensure all forms are completed correctly to receive the federal rebates?**

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Rest easy - Baker-Tilly, a top-ranked national accounting firm, has agreed to handle all documentation and submit necessary forms for rebates.

## 4. How do I get funding for this project?

Texas Church Extension Fund, the banking branch of the LCMS Texas District, is here to help. They stand ready to review your congregation loan request to help fund this potential cost-saving initiative. Check out their current rates at [texascef.org](http://texascef.org) or call them at 1-888-951-1233.

## 5. How complicated is this project & will I have time to set this up with my congregation?

In collaboration with Lutheran attorneys and Green Energy Engineers with Exxon/Mobil, Pastor Tony Kobak at Lamb of God crafted a turnkey roadmap alongside a dedicated group of solar partners. Your congregation is warmly invited to receive the assistance they need.

The Solar team, featuring the expertise of Steve Khan, CEO of Texon Solar, Baker-Tilly Accounting Firm, and Becca Jones from the Texas Church Extension Fund, is ready to assist. Additionally, Pastor Tony Kobak, Sr. Pastor at Lamb of God Lutheran Church, is offering his guidance to your congregation at no cost. He is eager to share detailed insights on how he has led two communities, one in Texas and one in Missouri, to complete this solar project successfully. Discover how your congregation can tap into more available funds for ministry with this solar project initiative.

For more information, please contact

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