



Switchgear Replacement Project

Updated: August 25, 2025

Overview

Cross of Glory has been informed that the church's electrical hub (the switchgear) needs to be replaced. This presents a large, unexpected expense of about \$350,000. The following describes the cost in more detail, the Leadership Team's plan, answers to some questions you may have, and how you can join the effort to raise the funds for this project.

Project Summary

In December 2024, our insurance company, Grinnell Insurance, informed Cross of Glory that to maintain coverage on the building the switchgear needs to be replaced. The switchgear is the “electrical brain” of the church that receives electricity from Xcel Energy's power grid and then transfers it into and throughout the building (see the pictures at the end of this document). The current switchgear is original to the building which means it's fifty-two years old, technologically outdated, and presents some liabilities.

On receiving this news, our Facilities Manager, Steve Richter, obtained quotes from Hunt Electric and A.I.D. Electric. Hunt Electric stood out for their expertise, abilities, and attention to detail. Their bid is competitive but jarring—\$329,773. The cost is this high because, among other things, Hunt will have to (1) cut the electricity to our building for several days and carefully dismantle the current switchgear, (2) custom build a new switchgear specific to our building, (3) install a new transformer on the northeast corner of our property in partnership with Xcel, and (4) connect the new “electrical brain” to Xcel's power grid and our electrical system.

In April 2025, the church had about \$190,000 in savings and an additional \$35,000 in the 2025-26 fiscal year budget for capital projects. This left us \$125,000 short of the cost for this project. The Leadership Team did not want to borrow this money and thus indebt the church, rather, they wanted to raise the full amount needed, about \$350,000, so that we can complete this project and still have funds available for other ones. As of August 2025, we have signed an updated contract with Hunt Electric for \$349,512 and, by God's grace, we have raised about \$150,000!

While it may seem that replacing the switchgear has little to do with the on-going ministry of the church, having a safe and reliable source of electricity is vital to everything we do. For example, we need electricity to amplify our voices and instruments in worship, preaching, and teaching. We need electricity for Dinner Out and other Wednesday night activities. We need electricity to host special events, outreaches, and homeschool groups. In short, we need this Lighthouse called Cross of Glory to continue shining in Minnetonka, Hopkins, and surrounding cities. And we need your prayerful participation in this project—your time, talent, and treasure.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why do we have to complete the switchgear project now?
 - First, our switchgear is fifty-two years old and technologically outdated, which poses risks like system failure or fire.
 - Second, due to its age, parts are difficult to obtain and more recently trained electricians don't have the expertise to service it.
 - Third, delaying this project could lead our insurance company to drop our coverage. According to our research, contracting with another insurance company will cause our premiums to rise and we will still need to replace the switchgear.
 - Finally, if we delay, the cost of the project will increase not decrease.
- Why should we raise \$350,000 and not just \$125,000?
 - The switchgear replacement is one of over twenty capital projects the church needs to complete in the coming years. Therefore, the Leadership Team wants to complete this one and still have funds available for others.
- How will we raise the funds needed for the project?
 - The Leadership Team thinks it's best to raise the money internally without borrowing from a bank or hiring an outside fund-raising firm. Therefore, (1) they are appealing to the congregation to give above and beyond their regular giving toward this project, (2) they will invite the groups that regularly use the building to contribute toward it as they're able, and (3) they may seek gifts from outside groups that help churches with projects like these.
 - If you would like to give toward this project, please give via the giving page on our website, our church app, or by check. Please designate your gifts to the "Facility Fund."
- Why aren't we hiring an outside fund-raising firm?
 - Contracting with an outside firm will add time to the project, and more importantly, it will add about 10% to the total cost.
- Will we form an internal team for this capital project?
 - Yes. At their regular meeting on May 20, the Leadership Team will form a small capital projects team. If you would like more information about this team, please contact Todd Berkley, the Leadership Team chair.
- Why did the church only obtain two bids for this project?
 - Few electrical companies have the expertise and equipment necessary to complete this kind of project. The Leadership Team may solicit another bid this summer, but they do not expect a significant downward change in the cost.
- How much was the second bid from A.I.D. Electric?
 - A.I.D. Electric's bid was \$200,060, but it did not include several vital elements like the installation of a new transformer. Therefore, if we accept this bid, we will also have to contract with Xcel and other companies to complete the project, the total cost of which will be about the same as Hunt Electric's bid.

- What is the switchgear project timeline?
 - Now that we have raised about \$150,000 and signed the contract with Hunt Electric, we will continue to raise money until we've reached the full \$350,000.
 - We will work with the electrical contractor, Xcel Energy, and the cities of Minnetonka and Hopkins to schedule and complete the project.
 - The timing of the project itself depends on the arrival of materials and the frost level. Most likely, it will be completed in late spring or summer 2026.
- How long will the new switchgear last?
 - There's no way to know for sure, but it should last for several decades. Furthermore, it will increase the electrical capacity of the church so that if other electrical needs arise, we won't have to pay for additional electrical capacity.

Figure 1: Switchgear and Electrical Meter



Figure 2: Switchgear and Underground Conduit Entrance Area



Figure 3: Proposed Site for the Transformer



Figure 4: Proposed Site for the Transformer

