

Defective gas meter leaves Bonne Terre church with big gas bill

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Laclede looked into the church's problem and discovered a defective gas meter was the cause of the large bill. (Credit: KMOV-TV)

BONNE TERRE, Mo. (KMOV.com) - Members of the small "Church of the Narrow Gate" in Bonne Terre were recently surprised to find their monthly gas bill was much higher than normal.

"I nearly had heart failure," said church member, Linda Wright, recalling the moment she first saw the bill.

"It was such a shock because last month's bill was 92-dollars and something cents. Then I get this month's bill and it's \$3,063 and something cents and I'm like 'whoa...what happened there?'"

Wright told News 4 the church is only occupied about three hours a week for Wednesday and Sunday services, and said that when the church isn't in use, the furnace isn't either.

She called Laclede Gas, and says she was told the church had a defective meter that wasn't giving accurate readings and that as a result Laclede was charging the church for previous gas usage it hadn't been billed for.

"That doesn't make any sense," she said.

News 4 contacted Laclede Gas and was technicians discovered an issue with the way the church's meters were working.

That problem was fixed but another issue arose that created the big bill.

After the company was contacted, Laclede took another look, acknowledged its mistake and informed News 4 this very rare issue would be corrected.

The church will not have to pay the erroneous \$3,000 bill.

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