

# Your Partner in Ministry

Greetings from Portico!

When it comes to managing church finances, every dollar counts. The IRS recently issued a reminder that eligible small employers may still qualify to claim a tax credit offered by the Affordable Care Act prior to 2014 by amending prior year tax returns. As your partner in navigating the ACA, we want to bring this financial opportunity to your attention.

## Who can claim this tax credit?

The ACA offered the small business health care tax credit from 2010 – 2013 to small employers that provided health insurance for their employees. Many ELCA organizations claimed this credit — some saving thousands of dollars. Organizations that did not claim this credit may still be eligible if, during 2010 – 2013, they:

- Had fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees
- Paid an average wage of less than \$50,000 a year
- Paid at least half of employee health insurance premiums

## How much money is at stake?

The maximum credit is 25% of premiums paid. For example, a congregation that spent \$20,000 on ELCA health contributions in 2013 could potentially recover up to \$5,000 from the IRS, depending on its number of employees and average wage.

## What should we do next?

Please share this email and the following resources with those responsible for your organization's finances.

- [Overview of how this tax credit works for church employers](#) — Portico (then called the Board of Pensions) provided this document to our sponsoring organizations in 2011.
- [More from the IRS about this tax credit](#)
- [How to amend your organization's tax returns for years prior to 2014](#)

At Portico, we're here to help you get the most for your benefit dollars. We hope this information helps your organization consider whether this tax credit could help strengthen your organization's financial health and, in turn, your ministry.

Peace,



**Rachel J. Dexter**

Director, Customer Care  
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**Have any questions?**

Contact Portico Customer Care  
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A Ministry of the ELCA

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