

BELIEFS Values



STAFF PHOTO BY STEVE CANTRELL

All in the family: From a vantage point in the balcony, Pastor Jon W. Reusch views the newly dedicated Gordon H. Light Family Life Center, named in honor of a former pastor of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills.

Cross of Christ dedicates new, needed family center

BY RENA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

A crowd of 500 gathered for the June dedication of the newly built Gordon H. Light Family Life Center in Bloomfield Hills.

For Cross of Christ Lutheran Church members, who are used to worshipping in shifts, it was a celebration that brought the entire congregation together under one roof for the first time in years.

The 23,000-square-foot Light Center houses a gymnasium with three basketball courts, and a kitchen, balcony, shower facilities and storage areas.

Built by an aging congregation at a cost of nearly \$2 million, the multipurpose center represents an investment for the future of the church and the Oakland County communities that surround it.

"It was totally built at a time

"In the advent of the completion of the Family Life Center, everyone is starting to see that it's real, it's happening, and we're moving forward ... And they're even more committed to the sanctuary phase."

Donn Ulmer
Chair, building committee

in our church when we didn't have anybody to use it," said Pastor Jon W. Reusch, who heads the 600-member congregation.

"They wanted to do something for the church and the community for the future ... for those coming after them."

Betty Kelsey, a Bloomfield Hills housewife, mother and grandmother, is one of many church members planning for the generations to come.

She spends her free time working with the church building committee and the fund-raising efforts, which have already drawn a \$2.7-million commitment from the congregation.

"I believe that our people have responded far beyond any expectations we had," said Kelsey, a church member for 20 years. "We're not a large congregation, but we are interested in our community growing."

The Light Center represents Phase I of the new master plan at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church.

It was named in honor of Pastor Gordon H. Light, who served the church from 1974 until 1993.

See **FAMILY CENTER, B8**

COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Messenger features spiritual announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Write: Community Messenger, c/o Beliefs & Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

■ **INTRODUCTION SEMINAR**
Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph,

Bloomfield Township, is offering "Introduction to Judaism," a 15-week seminar for prospective converts, non-Jewish partners of Jews and Jews seeking a better understanding of Judaism. Led by Rabbi David Castiglione, the seminar will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings beginning Oct. 9. The fee is \$50 for members, and \$75 for non-members. Couples are

encouraged to attend together and will be charged only one fee. To register or obtain more information, call the Congregational Education Office at (810) 851-1100.

■ **MEMORIAL CONCERT**
"The Thirst, A New Work for Jew and Clarinet" will be pre-

See **COMMUNITY MESSENGER, B9**

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