Youths bring Scripture to life

By MILLICENT WORRELL

"Bringing Scripture to life" is the approach to better understanding of the Bible adapted by Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills, during this Lenten season.

Initiated by Walter Klenke, minister of youth and education, the current program has met with approval and general enthusiasm according to Pastor Gordon Light.

By selecting and re-enacting a minute segment in a day of Christ's life prior to His death and resurrection, the congregation is able to visualize more clearly what scripture has taught. Each drama is written by Klenke in the vernacular to today, and all actors are members of the church youth group, about 40 students representing seven area schools.

Klenke also produces and directs all scripts. Lead roles are rotated each week so each student has an opportunity for a speaking part at least once. Two practice sessions are usually sufficient and makeshift costumes are used so there is more emphasis on intrinsic material rather than the extraneous accoutrements.

THE SPONTANEITY of ad-libbing lends itself to the seal generated by the group of youngsters, according to Klenke.

The trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate and King Herod was the subject of a recent Wednesday's production. All action took place on the altar of the church before the congregation, which had come for regular weekly worship. There was no scenery, no music nor sound effects — merely the serious histrionics of eager boys and girls who were telling the gospel as they knew it to be.

Dave Van Zile, 14, from Berkshire Junior High School, said that being part of this weekly memorium to Christ has made the New Testament "more meaningful" to him. Jesus, garbed in a white robe, was played by Bill Wilkening, 17, a senior at Andover. Bill said that his active participation in this project has enabled him to equate Christ's message in terms of today's values. He also likes the friendships he has formed since becoming active.

"Working together," he said, "has been fun as well as a learning experience."

A RABBLE-ROUSING Barabas, played by Mike Langé, 16, a student at Seaholm, evoked ambivalent reaction from the viewers. They admired Mike's spirited acting which spurred "the mob" to shouts and roaring ridicule, but they disliked the character he portrayed.

As King Herod, Tom Wright from Groves High School, was properly imperious. Tom said his association with Cross of Christ youth group has added a "whole new dimension" to the life of Christ as he learned it.

Janet Wilkening, Joyce Beslock and Pat Weaver, all from Bloomfield Hills Junior High School, were part of the mob scene played in front of Pilate. Others in the cast included students from Lahser, Berkshire Junior High and East Hills.

Another innovation conceived by Pastor Light was the question-answer portion of the production. At certain intervals, one of the youth assembly interrupted the action to ask pertinent questions concerning the character and personality of the people who surrounded Christ.

Pastor Light then conducted a brief discourse, explaining reasoning and motivation. Questions like: "Why did Judas betray Christ?" "How can we know the truth?" and "Herod seems like a strange man, why was he so different?" were typical.

Pastor Gordon Light with Martha Weaver of the church youth group

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Respectfully,

Edward J. Lynch

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Sunday School
11:15 A.M.
Senior Minister, Frank B. Cowick
Minister, Roger W. Treson

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Dr. Robert G. Middleton, Minister
Rev. David W. Reisch
Dr. Homer J. Armstrong, Emeritus
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11:00 A.M. Worship Service

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The Church With The Friendly Heart

Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church
3600 Telegraph Road
9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Service
7:30 p.m. Youth Groups
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.
Mens Prayer Breakfast
7:30 p.m. Wednesday Meeting
Church Phone: 647-3051
Elmo Tahran, Pastor 626-8148

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Woodward at Long Pine
Bloomfield Hills 647-3380
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Church School—Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Douglas R. Trebilcock 332-2752

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1 Mile North of E. Long Lake Rd.
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
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Duane F. Schafer, Pastor
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SUNDAY EVENING ..... 6:00 P.M.
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478-2080

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Wednesday Prayer 7:30

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Carl H. Schulz, Minister

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Nardin Park United Methodist
28087 W. Eleven Mile Rd. 476-8080
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Sunday School 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.
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Minister Education — James P. Thomas
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Sunday School 9:30 and 11 a.m.
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