

Builders' Showcase

That's one big project; Scholl builds house of God



Jerry Kuyper

LAKEWOOD – Peter Scholl normally is oriented toward earthly matters, such as building single-family houses. Such projects are his bread and butter as he is the president of Scholl Construction and wants to keep his staff (eight, including six carpenters) and favorite tradesmen busy.

Scholl is primarily a new-home design-and-build business based in Crystal Lake, but it takes on other construction projects as well.

Earlier this year, Scholl turned his sights heavenward and began to make plans to build parishioners of Crosspoint Lutheran Church, a sanctuary in which to worship. It was Scholl's task to convert several units in a retail building at Ackman and Redtail roads into 2,300 square feet of worship space, 1,300 square feet for "coffee hour" space and 1,500 square feet devoted to offices, nursery meeting room and bathrooms.

The plans were executed and the building process was completed May 1. A Mother's Day service, the first in the new facility, attracted 215 people.

Scholl's handiwork was in evidence that day as were the roses he donated to mothers at the service.

Before and after that Sunday service, though, Scholl was busy at work on a 4,000-square-foot house on Seeman Road in Union. The bread and butter of his construction company is new-home construction, and Scholl wants to complete this project for owners Jim and Deb Clarkson soon.

"We began construction in November of 2010 and expect to close by the end of June," Scholl said.

Both the church and the Union house came to Scholl by referral. "In this business, referrals really help and that means there are people who like your work and trust what you do."

Currently, Scholl and his company crew are also finishing construction on a custom house in Chicago, continuing work on a storage building in Delavan, Wis., and a barn in Capron. A custom house in Skokie made this year's agenda, too.

The custom house at Union is on a five-acre parcel which includes about two acres of woods, a one-acre hayfield and a 100-foot conservation easement in front.

Scholl said the owners opted for a Southwest theme. That means, he said, a combination of terra cotta tile and hardwood flooring, maple Shaker-style



Two retail units were combined to form the interior and exterior of Crosspoint Lutheran Church at Ackman and Redtail roads in Lakewood.

doors, pine millwork for baseboard trim and window casing and beech cabinetry.

"The 'lodge room' has an expansive ceiling with the rear wall filled with Pella windows overlooking their property and pond, nick-named Frog Lane," Scholl said.

The Crosspoint church at 8505 Redtail Drive in Lakewood had its beginnings at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Palatine. Since 1971, when it was organized, the church has grown in terms of membership, staff and facilities.

In 2008, the 1,100-plus members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church adopted a long-range strategic plan that included "planting" a new congregation. A committee explored the demographics of Chicago's western suburbs and zeroed in on Lake in the Hills, Lakewood and Crystal Lake.

In 2009, John Scott was hired as outreach pastor to lead the planting effort. He and his family settled in a house in Lake in the Hills, a municipality adjacent to Lakewood.

Village officials and Scott began talks. Eventually the village planner and board members were brought in on Scott's proposal for a church. Rezoning was requested and approved for remodeling two retail units into a church next door to Lou Malnati's restaurant. Scholl was hired, and by early January, the remodeling process was underway.

"We were contracted to do the work, steel stud framing, dropped ceiling, plumbing, electrical, heating, drywall and installation of doors and hardware," Scholl said.

"The church had a great group of volunteers who we worked along with. They did the tile work, painting, trim carpentry, hung electrical fixtures and installed cabinets," he added.

Church doors are open to the public 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. A church service begins at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

Crosspoint's worship space can seat 175, but the church leadership is prepared to evaluate sites in Lakewood to build a free-standing facility when the church outgrows its space.

If church membership growth is tricky to predict, The Rev. Scott has reassuring words. "All things are possible with God," he said.



A rounded cement porch partially wraps around the exterior of a custom 4,000-square-foot house in Union.



The interior of Crosspoint Lutheran Church in Lakewood includes a kitchen and meeting room.

For information,
call (815) 893-0888 or visit www.crosspointlakewood.org.

For information on Scholl, who has an office at 5908 Edgewood Road in Crystal Lake, call (815) 479-0910 or visit www.schollconstruction.net or www.facebook.com/SchollConstructionCompany.