



COMMUNITY CHOIR, composed of over 50 people, was impressive as they sang several numbers under the direction of Neala Carmichael. The choir was just one of the groups providing Christmas carols at Salem Lutheran's 'Christmas In The Country,' held Saturday evening. *Herald staff photo by Leslie McCormick*

Christmas celebrated at country church

The old white church north of St. Francis was filled with Christmas spirit Saturday as the eighth Christmas in the Country program was held.

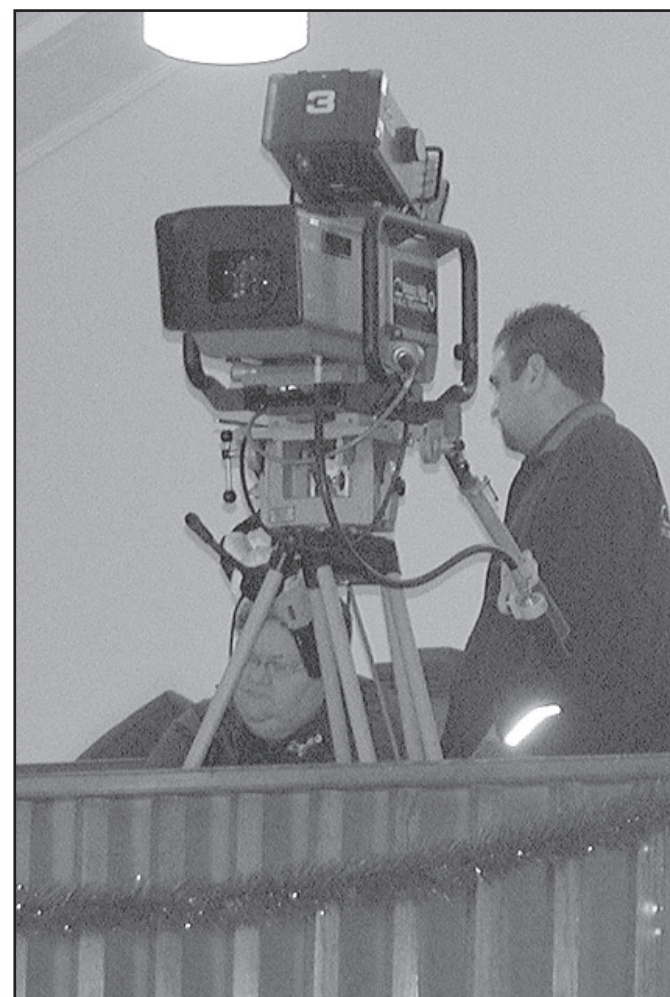
The prelude began at 4:30 p.m. with recorder duets by Talley Morrow and Cornelia Paulsen in the chancel area and the Once Again Sound Band in the balcony.

The service was made up of music and the Christmas Gospel read in English and German to honor the Germans from the Black Sea area of Russia who settled northwest of St. Francis in the late 1800s and established Salem in 1901. Favorite carols were sung by the congregation in English and German.

Some of the numbers were performed by the Community Christmas Chorus under the direction of Neala Carmichael and two United Methodist Church hand bell choirs directed by Jennifer Krien. Sarah Whitmore and Talley Morrow played a flute duet with Lila Whitmore as accompanist.

Food and fellowship followed the service in the church basement.

This year's program was filmed by Smoky Hill Public Television for use on their channel next Christmas. Look for more information when the program will be televised in 2013.



'Christmas In The Country' at Salem Lutheran Church found many people and groups providing Christmas music. Top right is part of the United Methodist Church bell choir (l to r) Robin Burr, Debbie Grace, Judy Reynolds, Joyce Faulkender, Sue Gorthy, Dennon Flemming and Cindy Ham. Counterlockwise, Talley Morrow and Sarah Whitmore entertained with flute music; director Neala Carmichael is ready to direct; and, Smoky Hill Public Television camera crew was set up in the balcony of the church.