

Music helps celebrate start of Christmas

By Carol Sloper

With an impressive display of local talent, Cheyenne county residents of all ages joined together in two Christmas programs this past weekend. The final year of Christmas in the Country was held at Salem Lutheran Church on Saturday evening and Christmas Memories at Peace Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoon.

to living in Littleton Colorado part-time and will not be coordinating Christmas in the Country in 2014. Glenn said that he has fond memories of the church because he grew up just three miles south of it, on the family farm where he and Louanne live now.

"My paternal grandparents, Georg Isernhagen and Elizabeth Zweygardt were the first couple married in the original church, on Oct. 11, 1908, during the Sunday morning service," Mr. Isernhagen said. His parents were also married there in 1940.

Louanne said, "I have grown to love Salem Lutheran Church since Glenn and I have been married... Over the years we have attended services at Salem and spent time in the cemetery hearing Glenn's mother tell about her family members who are buried there."

Mrs. Isernhagen said she loves seeing Salem so full of people and music, and to hear the Christmas gospel read in German and English.

After the program, all were invited to the church basement for a light supper prepared by the Salem Lutheran Church women.

Christmas Memories

Under the direction of Neala Carmichael and accompanied by pianist Debbie Fiala and organist Sandy Bandel, the Community Chorus and Women's Chorus presented to a full house on Dec. 15, at the Peace Lutheran Church.

In addition to a large number of songs by the Chorus', several soloists performed. Jenna Confer sang O Holy Night, Talley Morrow entertained with Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song), and Chad Miller performed The Birthday of a King. A piano solo was performed by Tema Trumbo.

Adding variety to the program was a grandmother and granddaughter duet on the clarinet by Carol Ross and Sarah Guthmiller. A group named RSVP (Randy Nelson, Scott Carmichael with Violin by Louanne Isernhagen, and Piano by Neala Carmichael) entertained with Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne.



SINGERS OF ALL AGES join together in the Christmas Memories program held at Peace Lutheran Church.

Herald staff photo by Carol Sloper

The highlight of the program was a presentation of thanks to two very active community members. Mrs. Carmichael introduced the pair as the "long and the short of it" when it comes to doing great deeds in support of Cheyenne County as she introduced Art Krueger and John Finley. She presented them with a plaque to recognize all they have done to improve the community.

Mrs. Carmichael said she was thrilled to have so many young people in the program this year. "Mrs. Fiala had a hand in getting the younger people involved," she said. "It's nice to have the young voices in the Chorus."

Following the program, attendees were encouraged to stay for a social hour including homemade Christmas cookies.



LOUANNE AND GLENN Isernhagen are thanked by Roger Orth of Salem Lutheran Church for coordinating A Country Christmas for the past nine years.

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