By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

A choir of 25 area singers are working hard in preparation for a Sunday, Dec. 9, concert featuring sacred music of the Christmas season.

Site for the concert will be the Zion Lutheran Church in Imperial with a start time of 3 p.m.

However, people arriving early can also take in some pre-concert music provided by Zion's Bell Choir that will start at 2:45 p.m.

Director Joel Grosbach said eight pieces of music will be sung, featuring, among others, familiar Christmas carols such as "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Silent Night."

Also to be featured will be several new Christmas pieces by English composer John Rutter including "Angel's Carol" and "What Sweeter Music."

Grosbach said the audience will also have the chance to join in singing some of the songs.

The choir includes singers from Imperial, Wauneta and the surrounding areas, Grosbach noted.

This will be the third local concert that Grosbach, Zion's director of music, has directed. He is a 2008 graduate of McPherson College, earning a degree in ag management and a minor in music. He works with the family farming operation in the Enders area.

Serving as accompanists for the concert will be Tina Grosbach on piano and Agnes Strand on oboe.

The free concert will be followed by a reception in the church's fellowship area. A free will offering will be taken to help with expenses, Grosbach said.