

**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

After a 10-year absence, the performance of Handel's Messiah is returning to Imperial this month.

Next Sunday, Dec. 14, a newly formed community chorus of about 25 singers will present the popular Messiah as part of the Abendmusik series at Zion Lutheran Church in Imperial.

The performance will begin at 3 p.m. at the church.

Chase County native Joel Grosbach of Enders, a May, 2008, graduate of McPherson College in Kansas, will direct the performance. He graduated from Chase County High School in 2004.

Featured soprano soloists will also include two other CCHS graduates, Stephanie Spady Varilek and Lacey Beemer Franzen.

Dr. J. Gordon Christensen will accompany Messiah.

Grosbach graduated from McPherson with a BS degree in ag management and a minor in music with emphasis in pipe organ. He has returned to the family farming operation.

Grosbach said he was asked by Dr. Christensen more than a year ago if he'd be willing to direct Messiah. He has experience directing the college choirs at McPherson as he worked on his music endorsement.

"I think I agreed then and there," Grosbach said.

The choir is largely from the Imperial area, Grosbach noted, in addition to five or six singers from Wauneta.

They have been rehearsing for the Dec. 14 performance every Sunday afternoon since mid-September.

The last time the Messiah was performed in Imperial was 1998 under the direction of James Brewer, grade 5-12 band director at the time at Chase County Schools.