

A “living picture Easter pageant” will be presented in Curtis at the Medicine Valley High School gym at 303 Crook Ave. on Easter Sunday, April 4.

The pageant, which has been in existence since 1958 and originally similar to the passion plays of Germany and South Dakota, underwent format changes to its present form of “living pictures.”

The pageant includes 17 scenes of familiar events, famous paintings and statuary, including “The Last Supper” by Leonardo DaVinci, Peter Paul Rubens’ “Descent from the Cross” and “The Pieta” by Michelangelo.

The crown of thorns used in the production comes from an original crown of thorns plant in Mexico.

The helmet, chest plate and leather protector portion of the Roman soldier uniforms were acquired from MGM Production and were used in the movies “Ben Hur,” “Julius Caesar” and “Quo Vadis.”

All scenes have been constructed and painted by local artists. The song “Kyrie” was written by David Cole while he was a student at Medicine Valley High School and in 1999, the song, “How Could We Know?” written by Shirley Carpenter, pastor of the United Methodist Church was added to the production.

The cast includes 65 members, and 50 members make up the chorus.

In 1981 Governor Charles Thone signed legislation designating Curtis as Nebraska’s official “Easter City.”

The pageant is considered to be the Curtis area's Easter gift to Nebraska.