

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

For the third consecutive year, the Ministerial Association of Southwest Nebraska will be organizing a Christmas Day dinner in Imperial.

The dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Imperial Eagles Club on East 5th Street. Pastor David Kahle said the dinner has been attended by many area residents the past two years.

"It's held to make sure that if people have a need, they have a place to go to eat" on Christmas Day, Pastor Kahle said.

He said they don't want anyone to be alone for Christmas, but emphasized the meal also is available for people who may have their families home for Christmas and would like to eat there.

It's open to the public, and free of charge, he said.

At least 10 churches in Imperial and Champion are taking part in providing food for the meal. The Eagles Auxiliary will also be helping provide some of the food.

Parishioners from local churches will help prepare, serve and clean up afterwards. Last year, the event drew 30 helpers.

Jody Bopp is coordinating the event and lining up the food.

He said the menu will include turkey, ham, tamales and green chili, mashed potatoes/gravy, sweet potatoes, dressing, corn, dinner rolls, salads and pie.

People can attend the dinner anytime during the two hours, Bopp noted.

Those wishing to donate any food to the event can contact Bopp, Pastor Kahle or Pastor Todd Burpo for information.