



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

It was a huge success.

That's how organizers rate last Thursday's Community Christmas Day dinner, which served an estimated 220 to 230 people.

The dinner was coordinated by the Ministerial Association of Southwest Nebraska, and numbers were up considerably from last year.

It was designed so no one would have to spend Christmas alone, but many families chose to attend, as well. They were all welcome, said Zion Lutheran Church Pastor David Kahle

There was plenty of food for everyone in attendance, and a few meals were delivered within the community and to the hospital, as well.

"While enjoying this sensational banquet, people could be seen talking and laughing and enjoying one another's company over the two hours," Pastor Kahle said.

The menu featured turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, stuffing, rolls, salads and pies.

They figured the food pretty close, Pastor Kahle noted. What was left over was donated to the Imperial Community Center so it did not go to waste.

Nearly every Imperial church participated in the effort, by donating food and supplying workers. The Eagles Club provided the facility, and Jody Bopp served as organizer.

An added plus was the free will donations received at the dinner that totaled \$1,485, Pastor Kahle said. The Ministerial Association will be using those funds in future for its service work, including the indigent care fund, which provides assistance to needy individuals or families traveling through the area. The Association took over that fund from the pantry.