This will be sixth year for Ministerial Association effort

By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

Those in the Imperial area who will be alone this Christmas or are looking for someplace to share a holiday meal won't have to go far.

For a sixth consecutive year, the Southwest Nebraska Ministerial Association, in cooperation with nine local churches, will be providing a Christmas Day dinner at the Imperial Eagles Club.

The "come and go" dinner, with turkey and ham as the main courses, will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 25.

Jody Bopp, who heads up the planning committee, is watching the weather closely. He noted in two of the past five years the dinner has been held, Imperial had heavy, blizzard-like conditions.

A look at the forecast shows a 60 percent chance of snow on Christmas Day.

But, that doesn't halt the planning, he said. The churches and parishioners are splitting up the food preparation for other staples of the meal including potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, dressing, salads, rolls and pies.

The turkeys and hams have been donated, Bopp said.

Last year, 220 people were served, in addition to 30 carry-out meals. Thirty people volunteered to set up and serve the meal.

There is no charge for the meal. Donations can be made, however, which will be used by the Ministerial Association for transient care.

Bopp said they could still use a few volunteers at about 8 a.m. that morning to help get ready for the dinner. Contact him at 882-4406 if interested.

Anyone needing rides can contact Sara at 883-1505 by 12 noon Dec. 24.

Any food leftovers Tuesday will be donated to the Imperial Community Center for their meal the next day.