

BDECAN REPORT FOR FALL PRESBYTERY MEETING

Romans 8:28 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

Here at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church have had a busy summer. The food pantry has been giving out about 60-80 food boxes each month with the cost of food going up at the grocery stores. We also are finding that the Great Plains Food Bank has had less to offer at a higher price. We certainly could use any donations. Our budget has had to increase about double and meat products are harder to get. We received a \$2,000 grant from Devils Lake Community Action for help with the food pantry which we bought meat and paper products with.

On July 3rd a memorial service was held for Hilda Garcia with about 50-60 present. A worship service was given and a potluck followed, with the family gift give away.

Rochester Presbyterian Church came on July 9th and did VBS for us with 6 volunteers, and we had 14 children that attended for 3 days. It was a big success and we hope to be able to do it again next year as it is well received here. The kids had lots of fun with new songs learned, and bible stories, and lots of craft time. They attended from 9:30-2:30 each day. Many more would have liked to come but with the covid pandemic we had to limit the number as Rochester could only send 6 workers. We are looking forward to next year and pray we will be able to host some mission groups. We are in need of some repairs to the Food Pantry Building and the roof on the church. Rochester is already planning for a bigger Bible School program for next year.

At present we are trying to teach the younger kids in church new native American songs. Jesus Loves Me is the new priority with them singing it every Sunday with Louis leading and explaining the words to them. They seem to be catching on pretty fast. We have been able to get our Sunday School going again in the September as we have quite a few kids between ages 5 and 10 coming up now. We have three ladies to trade off with the teaching. The kids are very excited to be back in Sunday School. We have about 10 attending.

We had the school backpack give away on the 18th of August in conjunction with the food pantry day give away so that only one trip had to be made. Since the cost of gas has gotten so high, we are trying to spare the friends of Bdecan so many trips here. We did it this way last year and it was a success with over 100 back packs given out. We gave out about 120 this year.

The Winter Wear drive is taking place now and we plan to give out the collected and ordered items the first week of November. We spent about \$5,000 last year so you can see there is a big need once again for donations. We gave away about 100 outfits last year so I am sure there will be lots in attendance again for the give away this year. The Rec Center is gracious and lets us do it there so we have lots of room for displaying items. A group called "The Friends of Jesus" will have a give away of winter wear in Ft. Totten on Oct. 1st and have asked if they can drop off anything that is not given out. This will be another blessing God has given us.

The Dakota Presbytery will meet here at Bdecan Presbyterian October 7th- 9th. The Dakota Presbytery will also have CRE training for members of the Dakota Presbytery that week to train people who wish to become lay pastors. Our moderator Jr. Hemenger has come to visit a couple of times this summer and conducted session meetings for us. We have had several baptisms which Donna Monteith has done and

also Pastor Hemenger has done some. When they are here we have been able to have Holy Communion. We have invited the Presbyterian Women of the Northern Plains to attend on Saturday October 8th. We have been doing fund raising for this event since we provide all the food for the 3 days for the attendees. We had a bake sale, Indian Taco sale and a raffle. We have also had donations from The First Presbyterian Church of Fargo and from Westminster Church of Devils Lake to help with the cost.

We are very appreciative of all the clothing and blanket donations we have received this past year. We have our clothing closet open on pantry day and put many of the items outside on tables so it has been well received. Lots of clothing goes every month. With the closing of the Dakota Boys Ranch in town we are also receiving many local donations. Thank you all for your generosity.

We have spruced up the front of the church with new flowers this year and also planted flowers around the front of the manse. Everyone coming here has really liked the new look. It keeps Bob busy watering and also mowing this year. God has blessed us with the continuing support we receive from Westminster Presbyterian of Alexandria, Virginia and all who so generously give donations to us from our Northern Plains Presbytery and others, so we can continue the work here at Bdecan. Acknowledge you to all who have been so generous this past year. We pray that God will also bless your churches for the mission work you do here.