

# **Bdecan Presbyterian Church**

**Report for April – August of 2024**

**Fall 2024 Presbytery Meeting**

*<sup>24</sup>Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup>And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. - Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)*

It has been such a busy summer, that it's hard to believe it was only four months!

In April we jump-started things by welcoming our newest member of the Mendieta family, Santiago! And in saying that, I have to add a side note in here, because honestly, it takes a village! And not just any village - a village of God's people. And, boy oh boy, does God always provide! I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the crew who came together while I was in the hospital! They took charge in April and handled unloading the food truck AND handing out food on pantry day! I just want to say, we really couldn't do all the things we do out here - from the physical things like volunteering time and muscle, to the financial things like all the people who help us keep our community and children fed and clothed - if we didn't have such a great community of people helping us! So THANK YOU ALL! We served 66 families on pantry day, and 3 families received emergency boxes during the month of April.

In May we helped 99 families receive food, clothing, and household items. I'd like to point out that while numbers like 66 and 99 may seem small or insignificant, out of those 99 families – there were 184 adults, 244 children, and 21 seniors. In total, we were able to help 449 people who are in need of the basic necessities to keep their families surviving. This is just a small example that the need is great. Later in May, Rosie Helland sadly passed away and her prayer service was held at Bdecan the following month in June.

In June we handed out food to 101 families during pantry day, and 5 families received emergency boxes throughout the month. We were also able to send 4 children from church to FaHoCha Bible Camp in June.

In July we served 35 families. The date of pantry conflicted with other events, and coupled with the need for vehicles and rides to the pantry, the number of families served reflected that. We were able to send 2 more children from church to FaHoCha Bible Camp. We were very grateful to have Rochester's mission team join us July 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. They joined us for worship, brought and cooked food for potluck, and played bingo with the kids. They held Vacation Bible School for two days and had an average of 15 children attend. Rochester also donated a tree in memory of Rosie Helland and we planted it on church grounds.

In August we were blessed with two mission teams visiting our Church! Renville's mission team joined us August 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. They joined us for worship, toured the reservation with Louie, and held Vacation Bible School for three days, with an average turn out of 17 children. They also helped in the clothing and food pantries. Willmar's mission team joined us August 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. They got straight to work decorating

the church for Vacation Bible School the night they arrived, and they held VBS for three days, with an average number of 18 children. Willmar was gracious enough to arrange their time at Bdecan to also include the day of our Backpack Giveaway. They helped hand out backpacks while we also had the pantries open for food and clothing. We handed out food to 114 families on pantry day, and had 3 emergency boxes for the month. We handed out 245 backpacks with school supplies for grades K-12. With a few extra supplies that were donated, and families still in need – we also handed out 15 bags of just school supplies.

We are currently looking forward to a visit from Virginia's Westminster Church, the holiday parties for the children at church, the Winterwear and Blanket Giveaway, and of course – Christmas!

Blessings,

**Chandra Mendieta**

Youth Director and Outreach Coordinator