

BDECAN REPORT FOR SPRING PRESBYTERY MEETING

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be Strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Here at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church the food pantry has been giving out about 60-90 food boxes each month. With the cost of food going up at the grocery stores there is a great need. We also are finding that the Great Plains Food Bank has had less to offer at a higher prices. 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 again this year which will be a big help with the budget.

Rochester Presbyterian Church plans to come again in July for VBS and help with the Food Pantry. Youth Connection will also be coming for VBS and help with the Food Pantry. A group out of Nebraska has also placed interest in coming in June. We are looking forward to summer and pray we will be able to host other mission groups that are interested now that Covid is not such a worry. We are in need of some repairs to the Food Pantry Building and the roof on the church.

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 Louie 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 young kids put on the nativity for Christmas Eve. They were so excited to do it in full costume which a lot of animal and angel costumes were borrowed from Westminster in Devils Lake. Thank you for your help to make it a success. Arctic Star Group Sales donated all the back packs and Christmas games and books to the Chandeska Cicana College in Ft. Totten and they delivered them to us for the kids for Christmas. We also had several donations of underwear and socks, and hats, gloves, and mittens from churches in the Presbytery. Thank you to all who helped make it a fun time for the kids here on Christmas Eve.

We had the school backpack give away on the 18th of August in conjunction with the food pantry day food distribution 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 a year ago and we increased our back pack give away to 138 this year. We have increased our help at the pantry by giving out \$25 gas cards to help those who drive here to help unload the truck. We usually have about 8 people who come to help now. We have also changed the give out food day to the third Saturday so we can have help packing boxes and handing out food to those who need help carrying it to their cars. This helps us get more help from those who have jobs, and also helps those who work be able to come to the pantry for groceries.

The Winter Wear items were given out 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. Everything is going up in price so we will have to possibly do some fund raising. We gave away about 134 outfits this year so I am sure there will be lots in attendance again for the give away this year. We had a few coats and boots left and donated them to the Minnewaukan School for children in need who did not come here. They were very happy to get

them as they had children who were in need. The Rec Center is gracious and lets us do it there so we have lots of room for displaying items.

The Dakota Presbytery met here at Bdecan Presbyterian October 7th- 9th. Dakota Presbytery also had CRE training for 5 members, classes give by CRE Gerald Hemminger and Fern Cloud that week to train people who wish to become lay pastors. We have had several baptisms which Donna Monteith and also Pastor Hemenger have done. When they are here we have been able to have Holy Communion also. We invited the Presbyterian Women of the Northern Plains to attend on Saturday October 8th, and had a real good turn out from them and also about 40 in attendance for the Presbyterly Meetings. We been did fund raising for this event since we provide all the food for the 3 days for the attendees. We had a bake sale, 2 Indian Taco sales 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. Lots of clothing goes out every month. With the closing of the Dakota Boys Ranch in town we are also receiving many local donations. We have had several donations from East Grand Forks and Grafton churches, so our clothing closet has been well stocked with winter wear for all sizes. Thanks to Yvonne Georgeson, Delphine Mckay, Jessie Littlewind, and Alberta Redfox, they keep the pantry and the clothing closet clean and in order. Thank you all for your generosity to those who have donated and the Ladies from the church who help with those 2 buildings.

We have spruced up the front of the church with fall decorations and the Christmas Nativity and a Star. I'm afraid it will still be there at Easter this year since we have so much snow. Everyone coming here has really liked the new look. It keeps Bob and Terry our neighbor busy with snow removal this winter. 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. We thank you all who have been so generous this past year. We pray that God will also bless your churches for the mission work you do.

I personally want to thank everyone who has been praying for me with my cancer diagnosis. I had a good report in March that the tumors in my liver are shrinking and 3 of them have disappeared. God has truly answered the prayers of many. Keep them going up, He hears all of us who are praying for that miracle from Him. Bob and I will be retiring in May and the Ministry Team has been interviewing for my position. I pray that everyone will support and help the new person they hire, and be as welcoming as they have been to Bob and I. We plan to still attend church here as we would miss all the friends we have made and maybe there is still some volunteer work we can do if we feel we can handle it. We will miss our work here and want to continue to be on the Ministry Team and do what we are able to do to help out. I know Louie will miss us being at the Manse as he comes for coffee and goodies in the afternoons a few days a week when he is not busy at the college. I think he misses Hilda's cooking and baking and company. He has taught us much about the Native American Culture in our afternoon coffee time. We will continue to see you at Presbytery and PW Gatherings as long as our health holds out so we can come. God bless you and I hope the snow melts so we can make it to this years meetings.

Respectively submitted,

Rosie Helland, Youth Director and Outreach Coordinator