

Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you

We have had a lot of things going on here at Bdecan. The Lord has provided for us and never left our side. During my cancer diagnosis Louie Garcia was kind enough to take over the worship services that I had to miss. I am back preaching every Sunday now since my treatments and surgery have ended. Prayers were answered and they said they got all the cancer. Unfortunately they found live cancer cells in 3 of the 7 lymph nodes they removed and are now suggesting immunotherapy. I have had 2 treatments and some really bad side effects so I'm not so sure I will be able to continue. Some of the healing process still has me limited as to what I can do in the food pantry. No lifting is the greatest thing but, Marlys Jetty has taken over with directing the helpers on food truck day and the truck gets unloaded and everything put away in record time. We have between 8-10 volunteers that help with that process. We are serving about 70 families a month and with the cost of food going up I'm sure that number will increase. We no longer do emergency boxes but they are getting used to it and choose to use the pantry in Tokio when we are not available. So we do pantry only on the 3rd Thursday of the month. We had one of our freezers go down and so the Ministry Team purchased a new and larger one so we can order more meat now when it is available from Great Plains. We have also seen an increase in the cost of food from them. With the cold weather the clothing pantry has been open but it takes more work to keep it straightened out. We have three ladies who are very helpful to keep working at it, and we try to have it open on Pantry day.

Church attendance has been down with the snow and cold weather and we have been unable to have Sunday School due to my illness this year. We did have a Halloween Party which was well attended and a Valentines Party with Bingo. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday. The kids always enjoy these special days. Lenten Services this year will consist of a Bible Study on the Book of Philippians for the adults and a study of what Lent is all about with a work book provided by Mac Lynn of the Rochester Church for the Children. We had the first service on Ash Wed. and it was well attended. We served a soup and sandwich supper at 6 and followed with our lessons.

Once again this year we were unable to have any mission teams come due to the covid 19 Pandemic. The Rochester group has begun planning for next summer to come again for VBS and have had their meetings to do the planning. We pray that people will get the vaccine so that will be possible. We have had a couple of families from the church that have had to quarantine due to catching the virus, but happily they were not hospitalized and have since recovered.

We gave out about 130 backpacks in August and outfitted 129 Children with winter wear. It was a big success. We held it at the Rec center in Tokio and had lots of volunteers to help with that project. We also gave out blankets and quilts provided by several churches that day and all of them went.

There have been many funerals on the reservation this year due to illness, accidents, and the pandemic. Lots of relatives of people here at the church. Larry Theile from the Lutheran Oyate Church has been very busy helping with those. We had a visit from J.R. American Horse to do a service in Nov. while I was in the hospital in Rochester. He is part of the Dakota Presbytery. He is a cousin to the Redfox family. There will be a session meeting on March 6th with the moderator coming from Sisseton, SD.

Christmas Eve we had a candlelight service which was well attended and everyone received gifts donated from the Headstart Program and candy and peanut bags. We had Indian tacos and a birthday cake for Jesus.

I'm sure most everyone has now heard of the break in and vandalism we suffered the first part of January. As of now the church has been cleaned up thanks to Sharon Georgeson's family, Louie and Bob, and a new steel door has been ordered. Louie told us today the cost will be about \$1,000. No one has been arrested for this but we continue to pray for them that God will forgive them for desecrating His house, we were so fortunate there was no damage to the Sanctuary. The Presbytery of Prospect Hill in Des Moines in North Central Iowa, has generously offered to send a donation to help pay for the new door. We thank them for this and thank Elona Street-Stewart for the e-mails sent out to the Dakota Presbytery to let people know of the break in.

God continues to bless the people of the Bdecan Church with kindness from everyone. Bob and I thank everyone for the prayers that were offered on our behalf. Sometimes goodness comes from bad things happening. We praise our Risen Savior for all His goodness to us.

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