



Grain

“We are to learn together with native nations and build relationships to hear their voices for wisdom, and learn from them how to accompany others who are different from ourselves.” Vance Blackfox, ELCA Desk Director for American Indian Alaska Native Tribal Nations

Field

3. I thank my God every time I think of you, 4. constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5. because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. 7. It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, you who are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8. For God is my witness for how I long for all of you with the affection of Jesus Christ. 9. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10. to help you to determine what is best, 11. so that in the day of Christ you are filled with the fruit of justice that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:3-11

Thoughts by Reverend Mary Kay Baum, JD, Ridgway, WI

It had been nine hours of waiting to speak at the one public hearing scheduled on Wisconsin redistricting maps. Many legislators seemed bored or distracted. I was prepared to show the current maps would continue to divide and dilute our Native Nations in Northern WI. When called I rushed to show on their map screen just one example of how the extreme gerrymandering adopted ten years ago would, if maintained as proposed, continue to virtually eliminate voices of our indigenous citizens. Time was called before I finished, and I referred to maps they would have in their office.

But I thank my God every time I think of what happened next. Unexpected by me were two speakers who had traveled from the northern most part of Wisconsin, one from the Red Cliff Reservation and one from the Bad River Reservation. They carried on where I left off, telling their compelling story. And when time was called, they announced they were continuing to speak. With just anger they named the Legislature for not paying attention to the people. They truly overflowed with knowledge and insight. They were filled with the fruit of justice.

I learned a lot from these women. And as Vance Blackfox teaches us, “we are to learn together with native nations and build relationships to hear their voices for wisdom and learn from them how to accompany others who are different from ourselves.”

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best...” Happy Monday!

For more info and prayers, click [here](#).

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org

All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many Blessings upon you,

Reverend Mary Kay Baum