

***From the Land of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
News from Pastor Julie Belew:
Walking with Our Indigenous Neighbors Task Force***



The hills are alive with the sound of music! The sound of the drums...the heartbeat of the Anishinaabeg. It's been over twenty years since this sound was heard on the hill of Assinins. Tribal use of this land ceased in the mid-90's and was once the site of one the earliest Catholic Missions in the Upper Peninsula. To the right of Chief Jondreau "Boyzie" Memorial Field (below) lies the ruins of the Old St. Joseph Orphanage and School which at one time housed over 900 children, both Native and European.

The echo of children's laughter vibrated through the trees on Assinins hill as families of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community gathered on Father's Day to play kick ball and baaga'adowewin (lacrosse), feast, and dance.



"This is the land of our ancestors," Rodney Loonsfoot (Tribal Council Member) said to commence the Grand Entry of the Children's PowWow. "Today we dance with the children, our future generation."



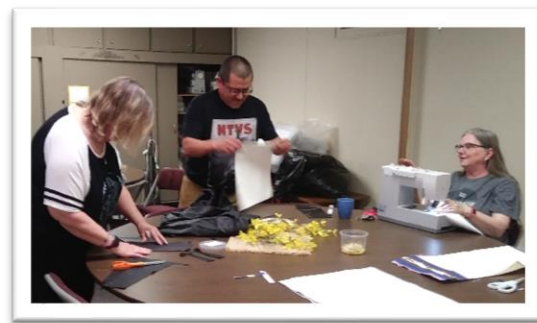


Midway through the PowWow, Pipe Carriers Steven Perry and Rodney Loonsfoot prepared the ground with blankets to receive a collection of children's regalia brought forth by KBIC tribal members, local tribes, and quilters from Holy Cross, Baraga and Good Shepherd, Houghton.

OH WHAT JOY!



A heartfelt THANKS goes out to all in the Northern Great Lakes Synod who helped make this day a special moment in history! "Miigwech aapiji" from several KBIC tribal members and especially Rodney Loonsfoot who repeatedly expressed so much gratitude for your labors of love and support!



Holy Cross, Baraga Quilters: Karla Holm (left) and Melissa Treadeau (right) with Rodney Loonsfoot.
Not pictured – Dorothy Mayo, Karen Mayo and Gloria Niemisto



Good Shepherd, Houghton Quilters: Karen Carr (left) and Carol McCloskey (right) with Rodney Loonsfoot and Rev. Julie Belew



Thank you

Rev. Dave and Arlene VanKley and Rev. Bucky Beach for clearing and prepare the grounds and the quilters of Good Shepherd, Houghton MI and Holy Cross, Baraga MI for sewing amazingly beautiful regalia for the children of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community!