

Appreciating Christ-like Servant Leaders

This is a true story. Five months ago, I was involved in a DCE intern supervision visit at St. John's Lutheran Church in Buffalo, Minnesota. Part of the visit entailed meeting with various lay leaders of the congregation to ascertain how the intern was doing.

Picture this: I am interviewing the President of the congregation, August "Augie" Mussell. Midway into the meeting I notice that his right wrist has a blue band on it. I look closer. It is like one that I am wearing.

Here is what followed. "Augie, where did you get the blue wrist band?" He replied, "It was given to me by a youth in our congregation during the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio."

Why did he receive it? I'll let Augie speak for himself:

"When Brittany gave me the band, I didn't think too much about it until I read what was on the band. I was humbled that someone thought I had Christ-like Servant Leader qualities. First thing I did was wear the band so the words were readable by others. I also never thought the band would last as long as it did. Nor did I realize how much I felt appreciated by her gesture and how much I wanted to keep living like a Christ-like Servant Leader."

Back in the summer of 2013, Brittany did something that is encouraged in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13:

"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!" The Message

Truly, Augie is one of many marvelous Christ-like Servant Leaders that populate congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and other Christian denominations. Praise God for them!

What a joy it is to tell a person that God is using his or her Christ-like Servant Leader actions and attitude to positively impact you or someone you know. Whether you have a wrist band to give or not, why not take a moment today, or this week, to tell a Christ-like servant leader in your life how much you cherish his or her life witness?

When you do so, that person will feel appreciated. God will be pleased. And you would have done something that is natural for a Christ-like Servant Leader to do.

William O. Karpenko II is the Operations Director of KINDLE.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 9, 2015

April 30, 2015

May 4, 2015

**Classic KINDLE
Reboot Video Chats**

May 16, 2015

**KINDLE: Servant
Leader Workshops
Trinity Memorial
Lutheran Church
Merrillville, IN**

June 1-2, 2015

**KINDLE Finishing Well
Redesign Meeting
Mundelein, IL**

June 2-4, 2015

**KINDLE Board of
Directors Meeting
Mundelein, IL**

June 25-28, 2015

**KINDLE Presence at
LWML Convention
Des Moines, IA**

June 30, 2015

KINDLE Fiscal Year End

August 17-20, 2015

**Classic KINDLE
Learning Event #3
Mundelein, IL**

Learning Circles Live On at the NADCE Conference

On January 7-9, 2015, *Collaborate*, a biannual conference of NADCE (National Association of Directors of Christian Education), took place in Colleyville, Texas. As DCEs from all over the country gathered to learn with and support one another, KINDLE participated in four special ways:

Prior to the start of *Collaborate*, KINDLE sponsored two workshops for conference participants. For Associates having completed Classic KINDLE, Dean Sue Steege shared the updated curriculum and resources that are now being used. Eighteen DCEs came together, shared their stories on how KINDLE continues to make an impact in their ministries, and heard about the exciting training additions, specifically the strand of Coaching to Multiply.

Next door, Jim Bargmann and Les Stroh welcomed those interested in getting “A Taste of KINDLE.” The room was full, and energy grew as DCEs learned more about how KINDLE training can equip them to empower others to be Christ-like Servant Leaders.

The third presence -- KINDLE’s exhibit -- was a hub of activity throughout *Collaborate*, as friendships were renewed, questions about program initiatives were answered, and resources were distributed.

And, in a way, the conference served as a KINDLE reunion for past Learning Circles, as Scott Brown’s group met in Houston before traveling to Colleyville together. In addition, and the 2007 Kleinedler Circle came together to celebrate relationships that have continued over the past decade (see adjacent photo). These and other Circles continue to encourage and support one another, as individuals grow in ministry and equip others to become Christ-like Servant Leaders in their homes, workplaces, congregations, and communities.



Some members of the Kleinedler Circle (Christine Eid, Sandy Wendelin, Jim Bradshaw, Dave Rahberg) gathered together one evening after the conference activities concluded.

Early Alert: Re-envisioned KINDLE: Finishing Well moves to 2016-2018

This exciting two-year Learning Cycle, designed for LCMS commissioned ministers and practitioners who are 50 years old and have served in a congregational role for at least 10 years, will launch on September 26-29, 2016. If you, or someone from your congregation is interested or wishes to register, contact Bill Karpenko at bill.karpenko@gmail.com.

Apprenticing Future KINDLE Program Leadership

KINDLE has been teaching commissioned ministers how to apprentice lay leaders to be Christ-like Servant Leaders for over 10 years. As KINDLE brings on Associates to serve as leaders within KINDLE initiatives, it is only natural that the apprenticeship model be utilized.

At this time, Classic KINDLE is working through an intentional apprenticeship plan. Scott Brown is apprenticing under Joel Symmank to serve as Chaplain. Lisa Hellyer and Michael Harvey are apprenticing under Sue Steege as Apprentice Instructors for Classic KINDLE. After their initial Learning Event, Scott and Lisa were asked for their thoughts:

“I see this benefiting KINDLE in many ways. First, it’s practicing what we preach. Utilizing apprenticeship sends a clear message that KINDLE is committed to this model of leadership development. Second, it helps KINDLE leaders better understand the nuances of apprenticeship, which, in turn, can only improve the quality of experience for future Associates. Third, the apprentice model fosters consistency of practice and content year after year.” **Scott Brown, Youth Director, Bethel Lutheran Church, Morton, Illinois**



“The apprenticing role helps to build my confidence as a Classic KINDLE Instructor and affords me the opportunity to interact with some of the finest people in church work. I am so blessed by this opportunity!” **Lisa Hellyer, Director of Senior High, Community Service, & Adult Ministries, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Leawood, Kansas**

As Scott indicates, KINDLE strives to utilize the practices it teaches. Through intentional apprenticing, KINDLE is growing its leadership pool so there will be ample program initiative leadership in the coming decade, which will further KINDLE to continue to foster and multiply Christ-like Servant Leaders.

Classic KINDLE Reboot Video Chats Scheduled

There are some new and exciting KINDLE resources we want you to know about! If you want to learn about the new strand (Coaching to Multiply) and related curriculum, we hope you can join us for one of the three Classic KINDLE Reboot Video Chats. These interactive chats will be led by Dean Sue Steege. You may register by emailing her at ssteege@firsttrinity.com. You will need a webcam, headphones, and microphone. We hope one of these dates works for you!

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 12:30 - 2:00 pm (CDT)

Thursday, April 30, 2015, 9:00 - 10:30 am (CDT)

Monday, May 4, 2015, 9:00 - 10:30 am (CDT)

Highlights From the Winter KINDLE Board of Directors Meeting

The major focus of the February meeting centered on the Board addressing future Executive Leadership issues. Based on a document developed by the Executive Leadership Succession Committee, the Board reviewed 12 givens and several future staffing options. More work on this vital issue will ensue during the Spring meeting in June. Other highlights included:

- A review of KINDLE's 2011-18 Financial Forecast.
- An update of KINDLE's policies and strategic direction.
- An affirmation of KINDLE's endowment allocation approach.

Richard W. Bimler Living Legacy Launches

With great pleasure KINDLE announces the launch of the Richard W. Bimler Living Legacy. Rich continues to be an agent of hope and encouragement in the lives of many people. From his early days of ministry with children and young people in congregations, through his years as an Executive in District and National offices of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, then as President of Wheat Ridge Ministries, and now his efforts in ministering to the aging, Rich consistently reflects the attitude and actions of a Christ-like Servant Leader. KINDLE is delighted to recognize this remarkable follower of Jesus.



Rich Bimler

Support KINDLE Through AmazonSmile

Amazon Smile is a program offered by Amazon.com through which Amazon will donate 0.5% of all applicable purchases to non-profit organizations. If you are utilizing Amazon.com, please sign up through their Smile program and choose KINDLE as the beneficiary of this donation program. Here's how: Instead of simply going to www.amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com. Sign in to your account, if you are not already signed in.

1. On this page, go down to the box labeled "pick your own charitable organization."
2. In the box, type "Karpenko" and then click search. There you will see KINDLE, with the acronym spelled out.
3. Click on the select button, and you will return to the amazon shopping page.
4. It's that easy. And KINDLE will now be associated with your account from this point on.

Your Gifts to KINDLE

Gifts to KINDLE may be sent to KINDLE, 8608 Poplar Bridge Curve, Bloomington, MN 55437 or visit the website (at the Donate tab) for instructions on how to:

- Designate or renew Thrivent Choice Dollars to KINDLE by going to Thrivent.com or by calling 1-800-847-4836.
- Sign up for an automatic monthly donation through the Simply Giving program.
- Make an immediate and secure online donation, using your credit card, to KINDLE's Annual Fund; one of its 13 Living Legacy Funds; its General Endowment Fund; or its Maintaining Excellence Fund.



Fostering & Multiplying
Christ-like Servant Leaders

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MISSION
KINDLE fosters and multiplies
Christ-like servant leaders
to enhance the ministry
of congregations, in their
communities and the world.

Please Pray For:

- KINDLE's Board of Directors, as it lays a foundation for KINDLE's Executive Leader Succession process.
- Those being considered for KINDLE's Board of Directors membership.
- The fifteen 2014-2016 Classic KINDLE Associates, who are offering Servant Leader Clusters and Gatherings in their congregations.
- Those planning the KINDLE: Servant Leader Workshop to be held at Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church in Merrillville, Indiana on May 16, 2015.
- The 15 KINDLE: Finishing Well Associates, as they conclude their two-year Learning Cycle on May 31, 2015.

Please Give Thanks For:

- The ongoing impact of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation grant that continues to underwrite KINDLE's program initiatives.
- The work of the KINDLE: Finishing Well Training Team -- Dean Bill Karpenko, Chaplain Gary Bach, Coaches Jill Hasstedt and Lyle Heggemeier -- as they conclude their 2013-2015 Learning Cycle.
- The marvelous generosity of donors who continue to support KINDLE's ministry.
- Congregations who underwrite expenses of Associates as they attend KINDLE events.
- The 2014-2016 Classic KINDLE Training Team -- Dean Sue Steege, Chaplain Joel Symmank, Coaches Myron Harms, Brent Howard, Michelle Pavasars, and Mary Stafford -- as they continue to model Christ-like Servant Leadership.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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