

Welcoming a New Cohort of Christ-like Servant Leaders

These days Christ-like servant leaders live in a very perplexing and complicated world. In fact, some are mocked for their convictions, others are shut out of opportunities to contribute, while thousands, particularly in the Middle East, are persecuted for their beliefs. Truly, the devil is on the prowl, creating misunderstanding, animosity, bitterness, and division. To intentionally follow Jesus is not easy.

A new group of LCMS church workers understand the times and challenges facing Christians. They represent the 2014-16 Classic KINDLE cohort, who on September 29 will gather in Kansas City to begin a two-year process designed to strengthen their ability to equip lay people to be Christ-like servant leaders in their homes, workplaces, congregations, and communities.

The bedrock of their training rests on their living out three actions through which a Christ-like servant leader helps others ...

... **celebrate their baptismal identities**, (restored, gifted and called);

... **grow more Christ-like manifesting the grace-filled marks of obedience, health, purpose, community, and generosity** (a reconciling servant in the world who follows the example that Jesus set); and

... **multiply the development of other Christ-like servant leaders in their homes, workplaces, congregations, communities, and the world** (helping others recognize themselves, accept the role, and actively engage as reconciling, Christ-like servant leaders).

Coming from large and small congregations across the LCMS, the 2014-16 cohort includes:

Brian Amey, Holy Cross, Wichita, KS	Matt Harwell, Good Shepherd, Glencoe, MN
Amanda Bundy, Grace, St. Petersburg, FL	Megan Loomis, St. Peter's, Conover, NC
Cassie Drenkow, Redeemer, Willmar, MN	Emily Phoenix, Galilee, Pasadena, MD
Angel Gillespie, St. Paul's, Bourbonnais, IL	Randi Petrik, Bethany, Cedar Rapids, IA
Aaron Grube, Zion, Kalamazoo, MI	Sally Schuster, King of Kings, Roseville, MN
Myra Schraeder, Christ, Overland Park, KS	Doug Weinrich, Redeemer, Spokane Valley, WA
Jessica Dixon, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI	
Ruth Woltmann, Peace in Christ, Hermantown, MN	
Bobbie Worley, Redeemer, Spokane Valley, WA	



Guiding these church workers' training will be a seasoned team led by Dean Sue Steege, Chaplain Joel Symmank, and Instructor Lisa Hellyer. The fifteen Associates will be placed in circles of four and coached by congregational DCEs Myron Harms, Brent Howard, Michelle Pavasars, and Mary Stafford. What a marvelous learning and serving experience awaits these 22 individuals.

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 25-26, 2014
KINDLE Program
Team Meeting
Minneapolis, MN

September 15-16, 2014
KINDLE: Finishing Well
Learning Event #3
Mundelein, IL

September 23-25, 2014
KINDLE Exhibit
at Wiki Conference
Katy, TX

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2014
2014-16 Classic KINDLE
Learning Event #1
Kansas City, KS

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2014
KINDLE: Recent
Graduates
Kansas City, KS

October 15-16, 2014
KINDLE Board of
Directors Meeting
Farmington, MN

October 16-17, 2014
KINDLE Finance
Team Meeting
Farmington, MN

Young People Growing in Christ-Like Servant Leadership

Chris Drager, Director of Christian Education at Bethel Lutheran in Gurnee, Illinois, and a 2012-14 Classic KINDLE Associate, is using servant leader clusters in his ministry with youth. He also trains teens to be cluster coaches through an apprentice process.

During the cluster experience, the youth participants create a personal Growth Plan, built upon feedback from a Servant Leader Inventory that they and several peers, parents, or teachers complete. Youth are assigned accountability partners, as well as a cluster coach, who hold them accountable through weekly phone calls (not texts or emails). Some of the accountability questions include: How's the daily Bible reading going? What steps are you taking to realize your Growth Plan? The trained coaches know how to gently encourage and challenge participants from alongside.

The result of this approach? The servant leader clusters are fostering a level of spiritual growth, deeper relationships, and intentional service in Bethel's ministry to its youth.



Some of the youth with whom Chris works.

Interview of Chris Drager conducted by Cori Woltmann, 2012-2014 Classic KINDLE Associate, and Director of Christian Education, serving at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna, Minnesota.

KINDLE: Helping People Write Their Faith Story

KINDLE has played a very significant role in my faith story and, in March of 2014, KINDLE practices and teaching methods opened up a whole new world to over 20 members of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Rochester, Minnesota.

On a Saturday morning, two dozen members entered a comfortably appointed room wondering what they were going to do for the next six hours. As we started the day off, a common sentiment from these "lifelong" Lutherans was, "I have lived a common and unexciting life. Who would want to hear my faith story?"

As the morning progressed, we journeyed through their lives, utilizing many of the practices from *Leadership of Leaders*. The *Vision was Voiced (Practice 3.2)* often and in clear ways. An *Example was Set (Practice 3.1)* so they knew what to do. They were *Equipped (Practice 3.3)*, and *Encouraged (Practice 3.5)* as we looked at some very challenging parts of their lives.

Before they started writing out their faith story, they experienced a "sticky note" timeline activity that Classic KINDLE utilizes during its first Learning Event. The reaction was unanimous and powerful! Through this journey, every single person in the room discovered that they had a vibrant and powerful story of how God was, and is, living and breathing through their lives. Many entered as servant leaders but discovered that they had been formed into Christ-like Servant Leaders. Many were very vocal about their excitement to share their story in hopes of fostering and multiplying other Christ-like Servant Leaders!

For more information and resources for leading your own faith story retreat please visit: kindleservantleaders.org/KL2014-2.

Michael Harvey is Director of Christian Education at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Rochester, Minnesota and is a 2008 Classic KINDLE Associate.



Dr. Jack Giles--Baptized and Beloved Child of God

On August 11, 2014, Jack passed into the arms of Jesus Christ. After an extensive battle with cancer, he succumbed to complications related to the disease. Jack served as both KINDLE's first Board President and its first Dean of Classic KINDLE. His legacy of Christ-like servant leadership will ripple through generations for many years to come.

A Fond Farewell and a Warm Welcome

In its Spring 2014 meeting, the Board of Directors ...

- Engaged in a humorous, celebrative, and worshipful farewell for LeRoy Wilke as he concluded his 10 years of service, which included three years as Secretary/Treasurer and four as KINDLE's Treasurer.
- Elected Dr. Leah Anderson, a family physician from Bozeman, Montana, to the Board. One of her most recent governance experiences was serving on the Wheat Ridge Ministries Board for nine years.
- Approved its 2014-2015 budget which now reflects all KINDLE initiative income and expenses.
- Elected Elvin Harms to a third term on the Board.
- Retained its current officers for 2014-2015: Dave Rahberg, President; Elvin Harms, Vice President; Michele Karpenko, Secretary.
- Acknowledged with thanksgiving, the \$5,000 gift that was received for the Jack and Celeste Giles Family Living Legacy. It also noted the upswing in congregational giving to KINDLE.
- Appreciated hearing of KINDLE's congregational impact *via a video* from Trinity, Clinton Township, Michigan, where Associate Sue Von Fange serves and a *Skype presentation* by Jill Hasstedt (Zion, Belleville, Illinois).



Leah Anderson

LCEF Scholarships Encourage Christ-like Servant Leader Training

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund is committed to fostering and multiplying opportunities for LCMS church workers. How natural then that the Minnesota South District, under the visionary leadership of LCEF Vice President Kurt Fuhr, created a three-year scholarship for individuals desiring to participate in a KINDLE training initiative.

The first two recipients of this scholarship had this to say about their upcoming involvement in 2014-16 Classic KINDLE:



"Until engaging with KINDLE, I thought I had a solid grip on helping live out servant leadership and modeling that. Well, I know there is much to still learn. I am blessed to know that financial support was available through a gift from LCEF to make this dream a reality!" Matt Harwell, Director of Christian Education, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe, Minnesota

"The scholarship was very valuable! My pastor and congregation were already on board with the idea of doing KINDLE, but the scholarship made it a no-brainer to do it NOW!" Sally Schuster, Director of Christian Education, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Roseville, Minnesota



KINDLE salutes, and thanks, Kurt Fuhr and LCEF for their bold leadership, and commitment to fostering and multiplying Christ-like servant leadership training.

Your Gifts to KINDLE

Gifts to KINDLE may be sent to KINDLE, 8608 Poplar Bridge Curve, Bloomington, MN 55437 or visit the website 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 12 Living Legacy Funds; its General Endowment Fund; or its Maintaining Excellence Fund.

A Grand Devotional Resource is Available to You

The second edition of *Kindling the Heart of the Christ-like Servant Leader* contains 50 thought-provoking devotions that may be used for personal edification or for board, committee, and small group inspiration. Written by Susan Steege, these devotionals open up for the reader the 25 practices of a Christ-like servant leader; The book is available for purchase through Strobickan Publishing (strobickan.com).





Fostering & Multiplying
Christ-like Servant Leaders

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

Please Pray For:

- Those considering a financial gift to KINDLE.
- The fifteen 2014-2016 Classic KINDLE Associates, who will begin their two-year Learning Cycle this September.
- The 12 KINDLE: Recent Graduates, who will attend the four-day event in September in Kansas City.
- The 16 KINDLE: Finishing Well Associates, who are equipping their third group of Christ-like servant leaders for service in home, workplace, community.
- KINDLE's Recruitment Team as they focus their efforts on identifying participants for 2015-2017 KINDLE: Finishing Well.

Please Give Thanks For:

- Leah Anderson, the new member of KINDLE's Board of Directors.
- The marvelous generosity of donors who continue to support KINDLE's ministry.
- Congregations and organizations that continue to sponsor KINDLE program events.
- The KINDLE Board of Directors who provide stellar strategic and fiscal leadership.
- The ongoing impact of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation grant that continues to underwrite KINDLE initiatives.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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