

Taking Time to Connect ... and Then to Grow!

Two hundred and ninety-three (293) years of marriage were represented among the 10 couples who participated in the first **KINDLE: Couples** learning event that took place April 23-26, 2017 in Winter Park, Colorado. Couples spent time together leaning into practices from the **Cultivating Faith** and **Cultivating Health** strands. They created a couple's timeline and a couple's growth plan, prayed together through the Lord's Prayer stations, worshiped KINDLE-style, shared delicious meals, laughed during fellowship time, and listened deeply to each other's stories and challenges.

Deb (2002 Classic KINDLE Associate) and Ryan Hartje, married 13 years, found the time at the learning event to be helpful for looking intentionally at their life, future, ministry, and the legacy they want to leave for their family. Their *Couple's Growth Plan* focused on the **Cultivating Health** practice, "Stay Connected."

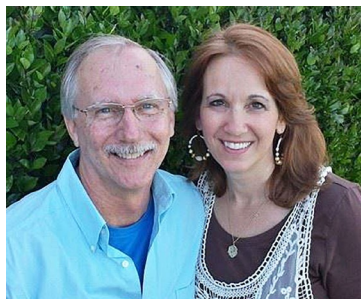
According to Deb, "Being busy with our family, we realized we have limited time to spend with other Christian couples and families, so we made this one of our goals. We have been intentional about spending quality time with both family and friends that have been strong connections of Christian support and encouragement."



Ryan and Deb Hartje are pictured here with their two children.

Deb and Ryan also replicated the timeline activity with their kids at home. "This helped us focus on what we want to make sure we do as a family while our children are still at home, before they head off to college and careers of their own." What a great way to foster Christ-like Servant Leaders in the home!

Rich (2002 Classic KINDLE Associate Year, KINDLE: Finishing Well Training Team) and Nyla Gutekunst thought participating in **KINDLE: Couples** would be a memorable way to celebrate their 37th



Rich and Nyla Gutekunst

wedding anniversary. The process of creating and implementing a growth plan helps Christ-like Servant Leaders seek God's direction and move forward as He leads. Rich and Nyla chose the **Cultivating Health** practice, "Pursue Wellness." Rich shared, "From that plan we joined Omada, through Concordia Health plans. We have started to exercise together and eat a more healthy diet."

Describing the KINDLE experience to others, even your spouse, can be challenging. **KINDLE Couples** gave Nyla a deeper understanding. "I realize why there is such commitment and accountability within KINDLE. The bond they share truly encompasses the support and dedication to grow and serve as a Christ-like Servant Leader. They model and support each others' efforts to foster and multiply Christ-like Servant Leaders within the body of Christ. I have a greater perspective and appreciation of the KINDLE ministry commitment and am enriched by the people with whom we shared this amazing event."

Special thanks go to Dean Sandy Wendelin, Chaplain Tim Wendelin, and Instructors Korey and James Wysocki, for designing and leading this Christ-like Servant Leader learning event.

ANTICIPATED DATES:

September 18-21, 2017
2016-2018 Classic KINDLE
Learning Event #3
Mundelein, Illinois

September 18-21, 2017
2016-2018 KINDLE:
Finishing Well
Learning Event #3
Mundelein, Illinois

September 18-21, 2017
2017 KINDLE:
Recent Graduates
Mundelein, Illinois

September 19-20, 2017
KINDLE Finance Team
Face-to-Face Meeting
Mundelein, Illinois

October 17-18, 2017
KINDLE Advancement &
Development Teams
Face-to-Face Meeting
Farmington, MN

October 18-19, 2017
KINDLE Board of
Directors Meeting
Farmington, MN

Singing the Song of Christ-like Servant Leadership

When I was asked to join **KINDLE: Finishing Well** last year, I was intrigued through my conversation with Bill Karpenko and the documents of information I received in the mail. After the first Gathering in September, I was thanking the Lord for this wonderful provision in my life.



Christ-like Servant Leaders engage around God's Word

The Holy Spirit placed it on my heart to lead our music ministry through this same study in the summer, in place of the weekly choir and handbell rehearsals. I decided to make this summer a spiritual emphasis with no rehearsals, just Bible Study. Since our pastors went through the study with me in the spring, they were my cheerleaders for the summer study. We opened it up to the congregation, elders, and the church council, and some of those folks are attending. Fifty-three people are going through this study *in the summer!*

Since I'm a musician, I've added opening and closing songs and hymns to the study that are thematic for the week. On the week we studied "Pray Unceasingly," the power of God's Spirit moved people to share some beautiful stories about how this study has encouraged them to be in prayer as much as possible. One dear soul was weeping as she described how her prayer and faith life have been impacted by this study, how each scripture assigned for reading has molded her heart and mind to a very deep relationship with Jesus.



Christ-like Servant Leaders encourage each other as they develop their Growth Plans



I am thankful for all the time so many have given to develop KINDLE's Christ-like Servant Leader resources. They have impacted me personally, and I can see how others in our congregation are being encouraged and growing as Christ-like Servant Leaders.

Bobby Schroeder serves as Director of Music Ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnold, Missouri. He is an Associate in the current 2016-2018 KINDLE: Finishing Well Learning Cycle.

Register Online for KINDLE Initiatives

2018-2020 Classic KINDLE and 2018-2020 KINDLE: Finishing Well registration will open in the Fall. Do you know someone who you could encourage to become a KINDLE Associate?

Both initiatives are open to commissioned and non-commissioned professional church workers, to help them establish a Christ-like Servant Leader development process to enhance the ministry of their congregation and to support them as they grow personally as a Christ-like Servant Leader.

Classic KINDLE welcomes those with five or more years of ministry experience. **KINDLE: Finishing Well** has a special focus for those over age 50 with at least ten years of ministry experience.

More information is available at kindleservantleaders.org.

Board of Directors Spring Meeting Highlights

The KINDLE Board of Directors held its annual spring meeting on June 13-15, 2017 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. Memorable moments in the meeting included:

- Welcoming Jim Bradshaw as a new Board member.
- Approving the 2017-2018 budget.
- Defining KINDLE's leadership structure going forward.
- Having each Board member create a Growth Plan around the strand of *Cultivating Health*.
- Blessing Michele Karpenko as she leaves the Board after nine years; five of which she served as Secretary.
- Addressing KINDLE's responsibility to register its fund-raising efforts in states around the United States.
- Listening to an LCMS District Executive's perspective on the contribution of KINDLE's training initiatives to the life and ministry of Commissioned Ministers.



Michele Karpenko received a KINDLE flame at the Board meeting.

Living Legacy Fund Focus: Richard Soeken

For over 41 years, Rich, as he was called, faithfully served Jesus Christ as a Commissioned Minister of the Gospel while serving five congregations -- two in Kansas, two in Indiana, and one in Michigan. Certified as both a Director of Christian Education and as a Family Life Director, he was a graduate of the Valparaiso University Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP) in 1967.



Richard Soeken

Ever willing to "do what needed to be done," his gracious, dependable, and self-effacing manner was deeply appreciated by those he sought to serve. He was also known as an ideal staff-mate, ever open to affirming others and building up the team. His ministry was enriched by the devoted support and partnership of his wife Rita, whose theological insight and spirited prayer life added depth and focus to their mutual ministry together.

Rich's living legacy is supported by people of varying ages and backgrounds. Currently, it is KINDLE's largest legacy, totaling some \$44,000.

We Thank Those Who Generously Support KINDLE

KINDLE's 2017-2018 budget anticipates \$240,240 will be needed to support the mission of "*fostering and multiplying Christ-like Servant Leaders.*" Through the year, KINDLE will offer learning events for Classic KINDLE, KINDLE: Finishing Well and KINDLE: Recent Graduates, create resources for *Exploring Christ-like Servant Leadership* studies, begin designing the next KINDLE: Couples learning event, have a vibrant presence at several conferences, and communicate through publications, Facebook, and the website!

We are thankful for the support that is provided through:

- One-time and recurring individual gifts, of many sizes
- Congregational support
- *Thrivent Choice Dollars* and *AmazonSmile* funds designated to KINDLE
- Program registration fees
- Endowment and Living Legacy distributions

All gifts are valuable to KINDLE and deeply appreciated.



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:

- The 12 **KINDLE: Recent Graduate** participants and the training team as they gather to learn about being healthy Christ-like Servant Leaders.
- The 18 **2016-2018 Classic KINDLE** Associates as they learn more about creating a ministry environment that nurtures Christ-like Servant Leaders.
- The 16 **KINDLE: Finishing Well** Associates as they prepare to lead the *KINDLE Christ-like Servant Leaders in the Workplace Gathering* in their congregations this fall.
- The search for a Development Director to support KINDLE's ongoing and future efforts to build financial support for KINDLE's vision and mission.

Please Give Thanks For:

- For KINDLE ending the 2016-2017 fiscal year in the black, and for the generosity of all the donors who make ministry happen.
- For a vibrant and productive Program Team face-to-face meeting on August 6-7, 2017.
- For the dedication, hard work, support, and ongoing vision of KINDLE's Board of Directors.
- For the impact KINDLE Associates have in the development of Christ-like Servant Leaders in their congregations.
- For the many lay people who grow as Christ-like Servant Leaders through their engagement in Christ-like Servant Leader Gatherings and Clusters.
- For the creative work of KINDLE's design and training teams.

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