

# KINDLE LIFE

## A Grace-filled Place in Wisconsin

August 2011



Fostering & Multiplying  
Christ-like Servant Leaders

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For some, it was a reunion. For others, a chance to get away and relax. Still others came as a favor to their spouse. For everyone, the second “KINDLE Associate-Grace Place Learning Event,” at Heartwood Conference Center in Trego, Wisconsin on July 18-22, turned out to be a week of spiritual refreshment and renewal.

As twelve KINDLE Associates, most with spouses, joined together Monday afternoon, no one was really sure what to expect. Dean Sue Steege, chaplain Joel Symmank, and instructors John Eckrich, Dave and Kathy Ludwig soon put everyone at ease.

Prayer and worship began and ended each day. In between, sessions focused on well-being, and the seven aspects of the wellness wheel. These components helped expand each individual’s understanding of how vital stewardship of self and faith are to a Christ-like servant leader’s life.



Sessions during the week centered around various elements of the wellness wheel (above).

For couples and singles, this week will continue to be a shared journey in following Jesus into a life of hope, joy, and greater service. A final word: Hearty thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, once again, for making this event possible through a special grant to KINDLE.



*Christine Eid serves as Director of Children’s Ministry at Cross View Lutheran Church in Edina, Minnesota.*



Outside worship was held near Heartwood’s Hoinville Lake.

As with any retreat, it wasn’t all “work.” Recreational activities abounded during the long, restful afternoons: canoe trips, a hay ride, swimming, kayaking, hiking, or shopping in area towns. Evening events included a musical concert featuring Joel Symmank and a game night of “Minute to Win It.”

Even though the learning event is over, the commitment to grow as servant leaders is not. Clusters of six will continue to “meet” three times over the next six months to encourage one another in their ministries and personal lives, and to discuss how they are addressing their wellness goals.



The group gathered for a final photo after the closing service.

“For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you . . . .”

2 Timothy 1:6



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## Mother-Daughter DCEs share a KINDLE Connection

Marilyn and Julianna Shults are not the first mother and daughter to be in the DCE ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod but they are the first to be KINDLE Associates. Marilyn is from the class of 2009, and Julianna is completing her Classic KINDLE Learning Cycle this August.

Their reasons for entering Classic KINDLE differed. Marilyn sought an experience that would renew her passion and energy for ministry. Julianna came in search of a stimulating continuing education process.



**Mother and daughter: Marilyn Shults, Director of Children’s Ministry at Faith Lutheran, Topeka, Kansas (left), and Julianna Shults, Director of Children and Youth Ministry at St. Paul Lutheran in Chicago, Illinois.**

Not surprisingly, KINDLE has enriched their already deep relationship. According to Marilyn, “KINDLE gives us another common language for ministry. Both of us are servant leaders. We do love to equip people. Because we have this similar experience, we are able to share with each other new ideas for multiplying servant leaders who minister within our congregations.”

Julianna’s words echo her mom’s: “It is nice to be able to have an in-depth conversation about KINDLE without having to explain the ins and outs of the program. It’s been great for me to see what Mom does as she continues Classic KINDLE Next Steps in her congregation. It has given me a lot of great ideas for how I can continue to use KINDLE in raising up congregational leaders. I also think it is pretty unique how honest we can be with one another about how we are working through and even struggling with being good servant leaders.”

A final observation is Julianna’s: “I am so proud to be Marilyn’s daughter, especially in KINDLE circles. She is an outstanding example of what I want to be as a DCE and as a servant leader. I cannot thank her enough for her support and guidance. I am so glad she suggested I do KINDLE. It has been a ministry-changing experience for me.”

## A Classic KINDLE Learning Cluster’s Continuing Story

Unique. That label can appropriately be applied to the Associate Learning Cluster known as the Kleinedler Cluster, fondly named after its now sainted facilitator, Sharlene Kleinedler.

During their final learning event in 2004, the six Associates explored meeting one more time. Six years later, the cluster is still meeting annually in settings like Kansas, Colorado, Texas, Indiana, Minnesota, and, just a few weeks ago, at the KINDLE Associate-Grace Place Learning Event in Trego, Wisconsin.

Remaining focused on servant leadership, the cluster’s three-day gatherings include presentations based on the four strands: Leadership of Leaders, Leadership of Groups, Stewardship of Self, and Stewardship of Faith, that offer useable ideas, tools, and resources for their back-home ministries. Enriching each meeting are thoughtful times of worship, prayer, mutual sharing, and encouragement.

Paul Wendt, one of the cluster members who serves as Director of Christian Education at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Crown Point, Indiana, shared the following about his cluster,

*“As for me personally, the relationships I share with these five people are very precious. These fellow servants of Jesus have and continue to have a profound impact on my life as we model grace to one another.”*



**The cluster members (back row) Jim Bradshaw, Dave Rahberg, Paul, Wendt, (front row) Chris Eid, Sandy Wendelin, and Heidi Lewis gather in November 2010.**

## KINDLE Life Being Offered Electronically

Would you like to receive your issue of KINDLE Life electronically? If so, please send your email address to

**Diane Schuessler at [kindle@kindledce.org](mailto:kindle@kindledce.org).**

## New Board Gathers for Landmark Meeting

As the summer began, KINDLE's Board of Directors welcomed Les Stroh to his first Board meeting as Executive Director. The three-day meeting featured times of policy development, worship, education, and approval of the 2011-12 budget.



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Led by Jack Giles, the book, *The Next Christians*, by Gabe Lyons stimulated vigorous discussion among Board members. Dr. Giles also renewed the Board's awareness of KINDLE's "training DNA," particularly its servant leader Strands, Practices, and Outcomes.

Since it was a May meeting, there was ample dialogue about KINDLE's core values, its mission, and vision. One major change resulted in a revised mission statement: "*KINDLE fosters and multiplies Christ-like servant leaders to enhance the ministry of congregations in their communities and the world.*"

Classic KINDLE Associates, who have been leading various initiatives, enlightened the Board as to how KINDLE is enhancing their ministry as well as ways it could further serve their congregations.

The passing of the 2011-12 budget offered the Board a chance to celebrate the many ways that Associates and friends of KINDLE continue to be generous in their support of this ministry.

As one Board member mentioned, "*What a blessing to gather and what a blessing to serve KINDLE's mission.*"



**KINDLE Board of Directors**

**Back Row:** Les Stroh (Executive Director), Elvin Harms, Jr., Les Schmidt (Vice-President), LeRoy Wilke  
**Front Row:** Sandy Jett, Melissa Luepke, Kim Deterding (Treasurer), Dave Rahberg (President), Michele Karpenko (Secretary), Bill Karpenko (Operations Director)

### Why not take the opportunity to ...

**Order a copy of *Kindling the Heart of the Servant Leader* for congregational lay leaders?** Sales of this devotional resource continue to be used by congregations of various denominations. Orders may be placed at [strobian.com](http://strobian.com). Cost is \$8.50.

**Boost KINDLE's Annual Fund?** This fund provides monies to underwrite the everyday, ongoing expenses of KINDLE. Thank goodness for the many people who simply say, "Use my gift as you wish," or "I want to support KINDLE's Annual Fund."

**Gifts to KINDLE should now be sent to:  
Kim Deterding, KINDLE Treasurer, 1316 Cobblestone Road North, Champlin, MN 55316**

### How About Contributing Your Thrivent "Choice Dollars" to KINDLE?

KINDLE would welcome your decision to designate it as the recipient of your "Choice Dollars." Please do the following:

1. Log into the Thrivent website at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).
2. On the opening page, look for "Thrivent Choice" under the heading Thrivent Community.
3. Look for "How Do I Direct my Designated Choice Dollars?" and press "Get Started."
4. Type in KINDLE after Organization;
5. Type in Champlin, Minnesota (MN) for city and state;
6. Select "Other Lutheran Organization;"
7. This should get you to a page with KINDLE information and a "Direct Now" link.

Many, many thanks for including KINDLE in your discretionary giving!



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How to contact KINDLE:

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## *KINDLE's Prayer & Thanks Calendar*

### *Please Pray For:*

September 19-22, 2011	Those planning to attend “KINDLE for Recent Graduates” in Mundelein, Illinois
September 20-21, 2011	The Classic KINDLE Re-envisioning Task Force also gathering in Mundelein, Illinois
October 6-8, 2011	KINDLE Finance Team Meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota
October 22-23, 2011	Classic KINDLE Next Steps, Second Event, St. John's Lutheran in Alexandria, Virginia
October 24-26, 2011	KINDLE Program Team Meeting in Mundelein, Illinois
October 26-27, 2011	KINDLE Board of Directors Meeting in Mundelein, Illinois
January 12-14, 2012	KINDLE Next Steps, Final Coaching Event, Hope Lutheran, Wake Forest in North Carolina

### *Please Give Thanks For:*

The generosity of donors who support non-profit organizations like KINDLE.

The 147 Servant Leader Workshop participants who are providing leadership in their congregations.

The five congregations who have agreed to host future Servant Leader Workshops.

The 123 Classic KINDLE Associates who minister throughout the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The critical grant support from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation.