

Annual Report

July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014



Fostering & Multiplying
Christ-like Servant Leaders

In *Wishful Thinking*, Frederick Buechner observes, "True repentance spends less time looking to the past and saying, 'I'm sorry,' than to the future and saying, 'Wow!'" In other words, while being sorry for our sins is an essential part of a life of repentance, it falls short unless we are willing to look at the next moment and recognize what God has called us to be and to do in His kingdom. And, recognizing what God intends to do through us with the gifts He has given us, the only appropriate response is, "Wow!"

KINDLE is dedicated to "**fostering and multiplying Christ-like servant leaders to enhance the ministry of congregations in their communities and the world.**" And, as part of the KINDLE community, you are helping to make that happen.

More and more people are gaining knowledge, learning new skills, and developing a greater awareness of the call that each and every Christian has to be a Christ-like Servant Leader. For your involvement, KINDLE says "Thank you." You are making a difference!

Take a moment and listen to some lay people from Trinity Lutheran in Clinton Township, Michigan, testify to the impact of KINDLE clusters in their lives. Just go to kindleservantleaders.org to watch the short video (on the home page).

While on this continuing KINDLE journey, we encounter new opportunities and continued expenses. Your generosity in this last year helped KINDLE to:

- finish in the black for the 14th year.
- train 19 new Associates in **Classic KINDLE** and 16 in **KINDLE: Finishing Well**, who will lead congregational lay people to greater understanding and commitment to Christ-like servant leadership.
- gather 145 participants in **KINDLE: Servant Leader Workshops**.

Best of all, some 1,200 lay people were involved in 2012-2014 Classic KINDLE congregational experiences.

You made all of that possible this last year and I would be so bold as to ask you to make it possible in the current year—the 14th programmatic year of KINDLE.

Grace, Peace, and Joy,

Les Stroh, Executive Director



KINDLE's Financial Condition 2013-2014

Operating Income and Expenses

Beginning Balance 7-1-13	\$ -0-
Operating Income Received	\$ 165,686
Expenses incurred	\$ 158,673
<i>Note: By policy, a budget surplus is transferred to the Maintaining Excellence Fund in the Endowment.</i>	
Ending Balance 6-30-14	\$ -0-

Endowment Fund

Endowment Fund Value 7-1-13	\$ 1,360,611
Deposits to Endowment	\$ 36,951
Distributions from Endowment	\$ (22,656)
Net Expenses from Endowment	\$ (11,011)
YTD Gain/Loss	\$ 226,243 (15.7%)
Ending Fund Value 6-30-14	\$ 1,590,138

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 7, 2015
"A Taste of KINDLE"
1:00-3:00 p.m.
NADCE Conference
Colleyville, TX

January 7, 2015
"Classic KINDLE Reboot"
1:00-3:00 p.m.
NADCE Conference
Colleyville, TX

January 7-8, 2015
KINDLE Exhibit at
NADCE Conference
Colleyville, TX

January 19-22, 2015
KINDLE: Finishing Well
Learning Event #4
Mundelein, IL

January 19-22, 2015
2014-16 Classic KINDLE
Learning Event #2
Mundelein, IL

February 9-10, 2015
KINDLE Operations
Council Meeting
Mundelein, IL

February 11-12, 2015
KINDLE Board of
Directors Meeting
Mundelein, IL

February 26-28, 2015
KINDLE Exhibit at Best
Practices Conference
Phoenix, AZ

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\$7,500+

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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A Word from the Firm Reviewing KINDLE's Financial Records ...

"We have compiled the accompanying statements of financial position of the Karpenko Institute for Nurturing and Developing Leadership Excellence ('KINDLE', a Minnesota not-for-profit organization) as of June 30, 2014, and the related statement of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentations of the financial statements. Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants."

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"My experience at **KINDLE: Recent Graduates** was a very uplifting experience. It helped me to grow as a Servant Leader and refreshed me so I could go back to the ministry with a renewed sense of who I am in Christ. In Christ, we all are loved and forgiven children of God."

Ashley Wenndt attended KINDLE: Recent Graduates in September 2014. She is Deaconess at Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Edwards, Wisconsin.



"With more than 25 KINDLE groups now under our belt here at Faith Lutheran Church, I can see its impact daily. People are connecting with people and caring for each other through the small group format. Those who never before committed themselves to daily Bible study have new-found love for the way God works through the Word. Emerging and tentative leaders are growing in confidence and skill. Many on the "sidelines" of ministry are becoming actively engaged in Christ-like service not only within our congregation but at home, at work, and within the broader community. Praise God for such blessings!"

Rev. Paul Dunbar is Senior Pastor and Director of Ministries at Faith Lutheran Church in Hastings, Nebraska where 2012-2014 Classic KINDLE Associate Vicki Fisher is on staff.

"**Classic KINDLE** is more than a conference where you learn a bunch of pretty, new, exciting ideas that never make it in your ministry when you return. After one learning event I am challenged and held accountable weekly by my cluster group to make sure I am understanding and implementing the concepts we have learned. Since I am held accountable, I know KINDLE concepts will make it into my areas of responsibilities at church. And that is what excites me because I already see the KINDLE concepts enhancing and transforming Bethany Lutheran Church."

Randi Petrik is an Associate in the current 2014-2016 Classic KINDLE Learning Cycle. She serves as Director of Christian Education at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



"**KINDLE: Finishing Well** has given me an opportunity to develop a ministry plan to impact the congregation I serve. As retirement is approaching faster than I would like to think about, I was looking for something that would provide a process to encourage discipleship and Christ-like servant leadership. **KINDLE: Finishing Well** is an answer to the questions I was asking God, such as 'How will I finish my ministry career? What is the legacy that I will leave?' I truly appreciate the vision that has kept KINDLE going for these 14 years."

Rich Gutekunst is a 2013-2015 KINDLE: Finishing Well Associate and a 2002 Classic KINDLE Associate. He is Director of Christian Education at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Humble, Texas.

"**KINDLE: Servant Leader Workshops** came at a great time for me to 're-ignite' my heart with desire to serve. **KINDLE** inspired in me some much needed confidence to 'get up and go be the hands and feet of Jesus.' Being with the people in the workshops who have the heart to serve our Lord is an uplifting experience and much needed fellowship. I look forward to the next workshop."

Michelle Buchanan is a lay leader at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, Washington. She attended a KINDLE: Servant Leader Workshop at Redeemer in February 2014.



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