

Generations of Christ-like Servant Leaders

When you meet Lydia, a senior in high school, you'll notice how she comfortably engages in conversation with friends, old and new, affirms those around her, and shares a smile with those with whom she interacts. You might also see a turquoise wristband peeking out under her sweatshirt sleeve. In 2016, Lydia was part of the LCMS National Youth Gathering held in New Orleans, attending with a group from her church, St. Paul Lutheran in Dubuque, Iowa, where she stopped by the KINDLE exhibit and took part in the "Thank a Christ-like Servant Leader" activity.



This activity, focused on recognizing Christ-like servant leaders, provided participants with the two wristbands with the words "... the attitude of Christ... the form of a servant," one to keep and one to give to someone they identified as a Christ-like Servant Leader in their life. Along with the wristband, they shared a structured note and prayer, telling this person how they had encouraged them in their faith and thanking God for this Christ-like Servant Leader in their life.

It didn't take Lydia long to decide with whom she would share this wristband and note: her grandma, Lynn. *"She was such a spiritual mentor to me,"* Lydia shared. *"She was a great example of what it means to be part of a church, to have faith, to volunteer."*

According to her granddaughter, Lynn lived a life of serving others - from caring for family members in times of need, to supporting mission work through the church and in the community, to heading up their congregation's support of the local food pantry (something Lydia and her mom now do), and beyond.

"My grandma is a big part of who I am. She had a lot of qualities I hope to have. She was strong, resilient, faithful, and when I see my bracelet it reminds me of her example." Lydia

Just months before the Youth Gathering, in April 2016, Grandma Lynn had received a cancer diagnosis and died in April 2017. Lydia, who had always been close to her grandmother, helped to care for her as she had continually witnessed her grandma's care for others. *"My grandma is a big part of who I am,"* said Lydia. *"She had a lot of qualities I hope to have. She was strong, resilient, faithful, and when I see my bracelet it reminds me of her example."*

Following in Grandma Lynn's footsteps of service, Lydia plans to go into the nursing field with a focus on oncology, explaining that her goal is to provide care and comfort for patients and their families who battle cancer.

At KINDLE, we thank God for the Christ-like servant leaders of all ages in our congregations, homes, workplaces, and communities. We look forward to meeting many more and hearing stories like Lydia and her Grandma Lynn's this July at the 2019 National Youth Gathering: Real. Present. God. in Minneapolis!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 11-13, 2019
KINDLE Board of
Directors Meeting,
Mundelein, IL

July 11-15, 2019
KINDLE Exhibit at
LCMS National
Youth Gathering,
Minneapolis, MN

Thank You for Choosing KINDLE!

In 2018, KINDLE
received \$4,336 in
Thrivent Choice
Dollars funding.

Each and every
one of these
dollars helps
foster & multiply
Christ-like
Servant Leaders.

We appreciate
you designating
KINDLE as the
recipient of your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars. You may
learn more at
Thrivent.com.

Happy 60th Anniversary, DCE Ministry!

Over the last six decades, Directors of Christian Education (DCEs) have served in many capacities – including being part of KINDLE’s beginnings. In celebration of the work God has done in and through this role, meet six members of the KINDLE family and see how they have experienced mentoring and unexpected blessings in their DCE calls and beyond.

Bill Karpenko

Commissioned on September 12, 1961.



How have you been mentored in your role as DCE? I was 22 years old, attending Valparaiso University. A professor asked me one day if I could drive him to a speaking engagement he had in Indianapolis. [He] didn’t need me to drive, [but] used our time in the car to mentor me. He saw in me certain gifts that could bless others.

How has DCE ministry changed since its inception?

Some things haven’t changed. DCE ministry is still, at its heart, a relational ministry. It’s a ministry that is still structured around groups. At its center, DCE ministry is still Christ-centered. And this ministry has always been based on equipping the saints to do ministry. [It] is still very much a second-chair ministry. What’s new is the presence of social media. The glass house is even more transparent. This means that communication is key.

Cindy Twillman

Commissioned as a DCE on September 22, 1996.

Currently serving at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Kansas City, MO.

How have you been mentored in your role as DCE?

I was given so many opportunities to learn and serve in the youth ministry at my home congregation before becoming a DCE, [including the opportunity] to attend the 1989 National Youth Gathering in Denver, CO.



What is one unexpected blessing that you’ve experienced as a DCE? Great colleagues! It’s great to be able to come together, support one another, help each other out – being able to cry, scream, laugh!

Jeremy Pera

Commissioned as a teacher in 1972 and **field certified as a DCE** in the 1980s.

Currently serving at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clay Center, KS.

How have you been mentored in your role as DCE? I learned a great deal [from] DCEs such as Ben Freudenburg, Rich Soeken, Al Gunderman, and Jim Bradshaw [and] from each pastor with whom I’ve served.

What is one unexpected blessing that you’ve experienced as a DCE?

My wife and I never dreamed we would serve in Clay Center the length of time we have. It is fun to recall past events, marvel at how times change and how the Lord has worked in the lives of His people.



Tim Kaufmann

Commissioned as a DCE in 1993.

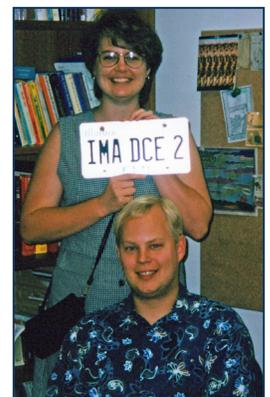
Currently serving at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Orange, CA.

How have you been mentored in your role as DCE?

From my early days in college, I’ll never forget the impact DCE Jack Giles made in my life. Years later, I would work with Jack in various KINDLE planning teams.

He would invite us into his home. We would be welcomed as part of the family.

What is one unexpected blessing that you’ve experienced as a DCE? I could never have guessed during my college days that would have spent the past 10 years leading mission teams to Haiti. I am humbled by the faith the people of God demonstrate in Haiti in the midst of real trials and tribulations, experiences I will never have to face. The faith of God’s people in Haiti is active and alive.



Julianna Shults

Commissioned as a DCE in August 2005.

Currently serving as Program Manager of the Lutheran Young Adult Corps, St. Louis, MO.



How have you been mentored in your role as DCE? I have an outstanding example in my mom, Marilyn Shults, [along with] Jim Bradshaw, Al Gunderman, Paul Scheopp, Mark Blanke [and] Sue Steege. One person who mentored me was my father. Though he isn't a church worker, he lives out his faith at home, in his work, and within his congregation in quiet, beautiful ways.

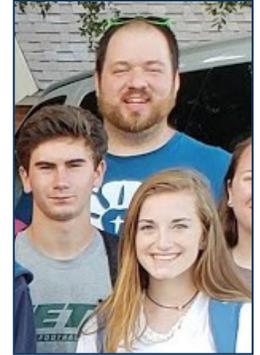
What is one unexpected blessing that you've experienced as a DCE? I have experienced some powerful moments where my youth, and now young adults, have been present for me in times of stress and difficulty. Often, we think about how we are called to care for our church. Yet there are sometimes wonderful humbling moments where they care for you.

Learn more about and from these Christ-like Servant Leaders, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of DCE ministry the week of June 23-29, 2019 on the KINDLE Servant Leaders Facebook page and on Instagram @kindle_social!

Ryan Howard

Commissioned as a DCE in February 2015.

Currently serving at St. James Lutheran Church in St. James, New York



How have you been mentored in your role as DCE? I had two wonderful DCEs when I was in high school - Cheri Selander & Brandon Heath. Both of them mentored me in many ways during those formative years, and it really was a team effort.

What is one unexpected blessing that you've experience as a DCE? Even in my short time as a DCE, it's been amazing to connect with other DCEs and church workers from all over the country. Being able to get to know some wonderful pastors, teachers, and even volunteers in ministry has been a real blessing.

KINDLE Partners with NADCE

The National Association of Directors of Christian Education (NADCE) Conference was a wonderful way to kick off 2019, in sunny San Diego. There was plenty to celebrate, as Directors of Christian Education gathered to learn more about what it means to be *Anchored*. It was a great reunion for so many in the KINDLE community, with a social on the first night where friends reunited, and spouses got to finally meet!

The exhibit was abuzz with excitement for the next rounds of KINDLE Initiatives, where many new faces learned about what KINDLE had to offer them. KINDLE was represented in breakout sessions, led by Audrey Duensing-Werner (time management) and Jill Hasstedt (intentionality in ministry).

Jill shared valuable insights from her years in ministry and nudged participants to really focus on relational ministry. Jennifer Hills, 2009 Classic KINDLE Associate, was thrilled to connect with Jill. *"Jill reinforced the need to develop community. This spoke to me as we are in a season where our community sense is strained and needs attention."*

It's wonderful to be reminded of all there is to be thankful for in this community, and the opportunities to gather for encouragement and continued Christ-like servant leadership development.

KINDLE Board of Directors Winter Meeting Highlights

- Learning about the "Strategy Kernel" process, which is being employed by consultant Jim Galvin as he leads the Strategic Task Force revisioning process.
- Affirming the decision to hire Katy (Munson) Crawford as a Communications Assistant during 2018-2019.
- Rejoicing that KINDLE is apprenticing Diane Junge as Treasurer, to follow Kim Deterding who has served brilliantly over the past decade.
- Discussing the implications of KINDLE's 2019-2022 Financial Forecast.



Fostering & Multiplying
Christ-like Servant Leaders

KINDLE
8608 Poplar Bridge Curve
Bloomington, MN 55437

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

KINDLE
**Karpenko Institute for
Nurturing and Developing
Leadership Excellence**

EMAIL
Diane@
KINDLEServantLeaders.org

VOICEMAIL **FAX**
952-657-5664 952-657-5214

WEBSITE
KINDLEServantLeaders.org

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



As You Pray For KINDLE ...

- For church workers and congregations to say “yes” to registering for Classic KINDLE, KINDLE: Finishing Well, KINDLE: Recent Graduates, & KINDLE: Couples.
- For KINDLE’s Training Teams, as they prepare materials and plan for upcoming initiatives.
- For the Board of Directors, as they continue the Revisioning process, consider the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget, & officer elections.
- Preparation for KINDLE’s presence at the LCMS National Youth Gathering, July 11-15.
- Give thanks for outgoing Treasurer Kim Deterding’s many years of service and for Diane Junge, who will be KINDLE’s new Treasurer starting July 1.

Registration Open!

2019-2021 Classic KINDLE (Begins September 16-19, 2019)
2019-2021 KINDLE: Finishing Well (Begins September 16-19, 2019)
Register by May 15, 2019!

2020 KINDLE: Recent Graduates (February 17-20, 2020)
Register by November 1, 2019!

KINDLE: Couples (January 9-12, 2020)
Registration opens April 24, 2019!

KINDLE Initiatives are open to non-ordained 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.

More information is available at kindleservantleaders.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leah Anderson, Jim Bradshaw, Carsten Falkenberg, Craig Kaschube, Rick Herman, Sandy Jett, Bill Karpenko (Secretary), David Rahberg (President), Paul Schneider, Mary Stafford-Nunez (Vice President)

KINDLE STAFF

Michelle Pavasars (Executive Director)
Diane Schuessler (Operations Coordinator)

EDITORIAL TEAM

Katy Crawford, Tommy Moll, Emily Phoenix, Michelle Pavasars, Diane Schuessler

