

# THE CONTACT

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*WISE WORDS FOR LEADERS*



*AFLC YM NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE IN CONTACT WITH YOUTH  
WINTER 2021*



# COFFEE SHOP

*A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.*

-- Proverbs 24:5-6

When did we become allergic to advice as a leader?

Maybe we can point the finger at our information age. Our discernment monitors are turned up high, since the flood of info makes us navigate many details each moment. Maybe we can lay some blame on the difficult situations around us. Our struggles from local to global are real and they take their toll on our hearts and minds. Maybe we can accept that sometimes the leaders that we learned from aren't the greatest at seeking guidance from others. Our resulting pattern is to stay "solo" on the ministry efforts that we pursue.

But maybe...just maybe...it is us.

Proverbs 24 highlights this wisdom, knowledge, and guidance are each connected to knowing what is true and who you can trust to discern what is best. Our selfish old nature each day declares, "Today is the day that I take over!" As we deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Jesus, we hit a situation. Although we can deny ourselves for our spiritual walk with Christ, we can elevate our self for our spiritual service of Christ. "I've got this!" is not the declaration of a growing leader.

Forgive me, Lord! I want to keep growing in the advisors that I interact with, both by experience and by expertise. My pursuit is to have an abundance of advisors that are following and serving Jesus, so that I am effective at discerning biblical leadership in my ministry context.

**Rev. Dr. Jason Holt**  
Director of Youth  
Ministries





## Registration Options:

Saturday Seminar \$60

One Night \$120

Full Weekend \$150

College Student \$30

January 14-16, 2022

## Buy One, Get One Half Off

(from the same congregation)

» Register Now!

Best Rate by

Dec 21, 2021

# YM Video Connection

50-minute offerings for volunteer and vocational youth leaders

**Tuesday, December 21 at 3PM (Central)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/3BjYcYO>

Meeting ID: 758 4623 6121

Passcode: YMTues

**No Thursday offering in December**



# 20 PIECES OF WISDOM WE WISH WE KNEW AT 20

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*REV. ERIC & ANDREA CHRISTENSON*



## Editor's Introduction:

Pastor Eric and Andrea are terrific writers for this edition of The Contact as veteran voices in youth and family ministry.

Andrea is a former youth leader, former chair of the AFLC Ambassador Publications board, and a published author, which you can read more about at [andreachristenson.com](http://andreachristenson.com).

Pastor Eric is a former youth director, former congregational pastor, and current Facilities Director at FLBC, which you can find out more about at [flbc.edu](http://flbc.edu).

When I was walking the second-year FLBC students through leadership lessons in "Youth Ministry Methods of Jesus," I asked the Christensons to offer this class to these growing leaders, who are all around 20 years old. The insights were so helpful that I sought and was granted their permission to print the "20" for our caring adult youth leaders, pastors, and parents in the AFLC fellowship.

After you read and reflect on these axioms, I'd enjoy hearing your top five from their list...or the top five list that you are developing!

- Pastor Jason Holt

## 20 Pieces of Wisdom We Wish We Knew When We Were 20

1. Leadership looks different in different people/situations/positions.
2. You don't have to be in charge to be a leader.
3. Find a mentor.
4. Youth don't want relevance, they want relationship.
5. Connections look different student to student.
6. Showing up matters.
7. The most successful things you do won't happen on a Wednesday night.\*\*
8. Success is seen in decades, not days. (3 John 1:4)
9. We are called to be faithful, not fruitful. (Matthew 25:23)
10. You have to say, "no" to a lot of good things in order to say, "yes" to the best things.
11. Own the mistakes, share the accolades.
12. Be quick to repent and quick to forgive.
13. Stats are important, but stories move the heart.
14. Keep your pastor, council, and youth parents informed.
15. Always be looking to bring people in.
16. Always be a learner. (Context of "disciple")
17. You will never know everything.
18. Show up prepared.
19. Being a youth leader is different than being a youth parent.
20. You will always care more than anyone else.

\*\*The main youth gathering night in the Midwest is Wednesdays. From national conversations with our local congregations, I am aware some also meet on Sundays, Mondays, or Tuesdays, but you get the picture.



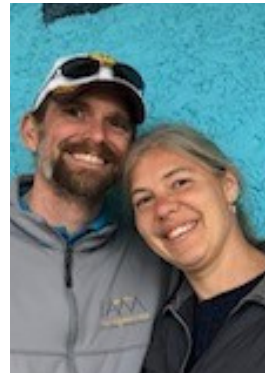
### Reflection Questions:

Which 3 lessons are you specifically dealing with in this season?

Which 2 do you want to communicate this month to volunteer adult leaders and influential senior high students?

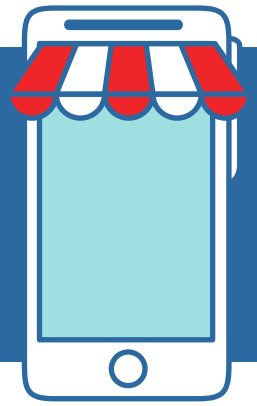
Which 1 are you not sure about? Who could you discuss it with to increase your advisors (Prov. 24:5-6)?

What would your list of leadership lessons look like?



Rev. Eric & Andrea Christenson

# Convenience Store



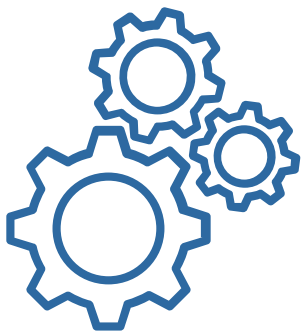
## "Being the Church Isn't Enough" by Karl Vaters

<https://karlvaters.com/go-to-church/>



## "Evangelizing GenZ" by Mike McGarry

<https://www.youthpastortheologian.com/blog/evangelizing-genz>



## "Joining Social Media Before Age 11" by HomeWord's Culture Post

<https://homeword.com/jims-blog/culture-post-joining-social-media-before-age-11-is-associated-with-problematic-digital-behaviors/#.YZMT92DMIsU>



## "Leaders & the Purpose Pivot" by Kara Powell

<https://www.barna.com/powell-purpose-pivot/>

# AFLC Youth Ministries Opportunities

**December 21 @ 3PM(CT)**

Video Connection  
National Zoom gathering

**Jan. 14-16, 2022**

Youth Workers Weekends  
National youth leader getaway

**Spring 2022**

Apprenticeship Program  
Annual applications open

**April 20-22, 2022**

D6 Family Conference  
Family ministry training

**April 22-23, 2022**

FLBC Campus Days  
High school college visit

**July 17-21, 2022**

FLY Beyond: Upward  
National youth equipping week

**July 3-8, 2023**

FLY Convention  
National youth gathering

**AFLC Youth Ministries**

Download our app  
[www.aflc.org/youth](http://www.aflc.org/youth)



Video  
Connection



Youth Workers  
Weekends



YM  
Apprentices



FLY Beyond



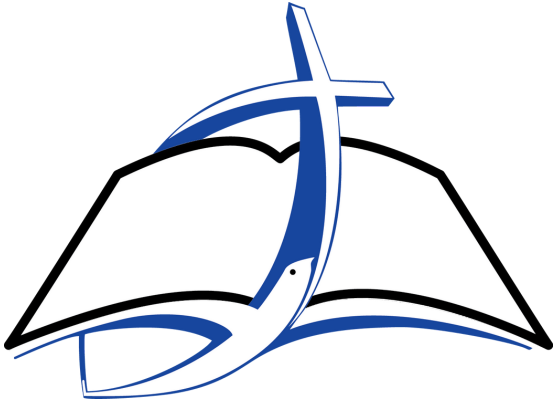
D6



Campus  
Days



FLY



# AFLC Youth Ministries



**PASTOR JASON HOLT**  
DIRECTOR OF  
YOUTH MINISTRIES



**MRS. CHRIS RASMUSSEN**  
YOUTH MIN ADMIN  
COORDINATOR



**MR. DANIEL KEINANEN**  
FLY CONVENTION  
COORDINATOR



**MR. JORDAN LANGNESS**  
YOUTH MIN TRAINING  
COORDINATOR



**PASTOR DAN HURNER**  
YOUTH MIN NETWORKING  
COORDINATOR



**MS. LIZ MCCARLSON**  
AFLC RECEPTIONIST

## For Youth Workers

The Contact is issued twice a year to encourage and engage youth workers of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC).

## For Congregations

The AFLC is a fellowship of 250+ congregations whose members believe that the Bible is true and that everyone needs Jesus.

## For Teenagers

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win teens to Christ, build them in God's word and God's love, to equip them to live and share their faith, and to multiply maturing teen disciples of Jesus.