

Denominational Leadership Recommendations

Most teenagers who make commitments to follow Christ do so in the context of camps and/or local church youth ministries. The most important component of these contexts is both the message and who is communicating it. Erik is visibly a student of the scriptures and the teachings of Jesus and communicates the Gospel in a fresh and relevant ways. He doesn't water down anything, yet effectively communicates deep truths in the language of the students. I would invite him back to speak to my students in a heartbeat!

Erick Ewaskowitz

Youth Pastor at Wesley Church :: Waukegan, IL

Youth Ministry Liaison for the North Central Conference of the Free Methodist Church

Why would I recommend Erik?

His abilities to be **HEARD** (He preaches and teaches in a way that connects) and to **HANG** (With people of all ages and stages of life. It's part of what earns him the right to share), His desire to live a **HOLY** life and to challenge others to do the same. Most of all I would recommend him because of his **HEART** for God and others.

Rev. Randy Parmer

Director of College-Age/Young Adult Ministries :: Georgia District Church of the Nazarene.

Erik did a wonderful job speaking to and leading our students in a time of worship. I believe Retreats are a major part of Student Ministries and Erik helped make that event what I wanted it to be. A fresh voice speaking to your students and helping them grasp a new look at the scriptures is what Erik can give you.

Gary Gerstenberger, Youth Pastor

22 years in Youth Ministries | NYI Director

Indianapolis Westside Church of the Nazarene

Having known Erik since very early in his walk with the Lord, it has been inspiring to watch Him grow against all odds in "wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man." He is a shining example of what God can do through a little church in a little town who takes a little kid under it's wing and shares Jesus with him.

Erik is working hard to make good on their investment. He is a competent scholar, a compelling communicator, a compassionate friend, and a charismatic personality.

You can trust Erik's sincerity and integrity. I have trusted him with my church.

Scott Sherwood, Senior Pastor & District Camp Director

Church of The Nazarene | Bloomington, IL

I have had the privilege of working with Erik Willits for the past five years. Erik is gifted in his ability to communicate the Gospel and is able to speak to both teens and adults. He is a student of the Bible and articulates his thoughts in relevant and creative ways. His communication skills allow him to minister to small groups, seminars, camps and conferences.

When I served as the Illinois District Youth president, we brought Erik in for two events. At our district youth camp, he was the camp speaker, and at our Spiritual Life Retreat, Erik served as our primary Bible teacher for the weekend. I enjoyed Erik so much I invited him to speak at my local church during our Revolution revival services. In each venue, Erik was an outstanding speaker, minister and servant. I would recommend him for any event without hesitation.

Todd Holman
Student Pastor :: Casey Community Church
Illinois District Youth (N.Y.I.) President

Real and relational are not just words I throw around; they are characteristics that Erik embodies. At a district youth event we had in Northwest Indiana, Erik spoke openly and honestly to our students about needs and suffering around the world. He also addressed how we as Christ followers should respond to this suffering. Students left with new insight and a passion for justice. Through Erik's teaching, they understood better what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Aaron VanStrien
Youth Pastor :: Frankfort First Church of the Nazarene
District 30-Hour Famine Coordinator

I have known Erik's ministry for 9 years. I have watched him grow into an excellent communicator of the Gospel. I have always been impressed with his way of connecting to students, both in the down times and while speaking. I would say that his ministry to my students has been one built upon the relationships that he forms each year. I have continued to have Erik speak at our Spring Renewal. This has enabled him to form a level of accountability with the students, so he is able to speak directly with them about their faith journey. I have also had Erik speak at numerous district events, which have included churches from across the state. Even with a large group he does not lose his effectiveness. His stories, illustrations and reading of God's Word draw the students into his message of the love and hope found in Christ. He is definitely one of the great youth speakers for this generation and the ones to follow.

Cory Stipp
Pastor to Youth & Families :: Central Church, KS
District Camp Director

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