

# YOUTH *beat*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AMC YOUTH GROUP  
MARCH 2018

## What's the Deal with Lent?

**Luke 4:1-13** "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted<sup>a</sup> by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. "

Lent is a season of fasting and self-denial that we observe as Christians for 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday. The word "Lent" comes from a word meaning "lengthening days". Did you ever notice that in early spring, our days become longer? AND Lent is not commanded or implied in the Bible, but it is a tradition that developed slowly over the first several centuries of church history. How exactly you ask? There are many opinions on it. But let me share with you why I think it's important for us to process.

Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights. While He was there, he was tempted, but he kept his mind and body pure during this time. Since Lent is 40 days and 40 nights, I like to think of this as God's invitation to us to retreat and spend time with him. Some people choose to "give up" something for Lent, such as soda pop, a iPad, an activity. Some people choose to add something to every day; such as a time of silence and solitude with God, or a daily devotional reading, or 5 minutes everyday just talking to an older, wiser family member who may not be around for much longer.

The point of whatever you may choose to do during this time is that you are recognizing an idol in your personal life that you have been serving, such as technology or money or food or other people, etc, and you are choosing to do one thing everyday to remind you that God alone is your King, He alone is the one you want to praise and give glory to...and through giving up those things, we find the Freedom that Jesus died on the cross to give to us.

Where we find freedom is in Jesus Christ! He removes our sins from us, He removes the guilt and the shame that our sins have had us feeling. You may ask, but how am I suppose to do that, just through prayer? Yea, prayer straight to Jesus is the best way, but sometimes, our sin is uncomfortable and we don't know what to say first, so we can ask a trusted spiritual guide (pastors, parents, sponsors) to lead up into that time.

Don't forget, that passage also says that Jesus was hungry at the end...so don't be fooled into thinking a time of fasting won't be difficult. It will be, TRUST me. But it brings us into another chapter of our Bold Faith journey, so it's worth it!

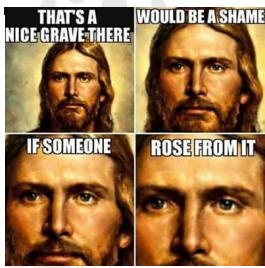
## HS Events

- **March 2** Fellowship  
25 Acts of Kindness  
Meet at Church at 5pm
- **March 11**  
Congregational Meeting  
Meet at Church at 6pm.  
Fingerfood meal after.
- **March 18** Bible Study  
KF: Shealtiel-Zadok  
Ashley's @ 6pm
- **March 25th** NO YOUTH
- **March 29** Winter Jam  
Meet at Church Van at  
3pm to leave for Peoria

**Reminder:**  
**April 1st is our Easter  
Morning Breakfast  
Fundraiser!!**  
**You should be to the  
church kitchen by 7am!**



**LOVE IS AN OPEN DOOR**



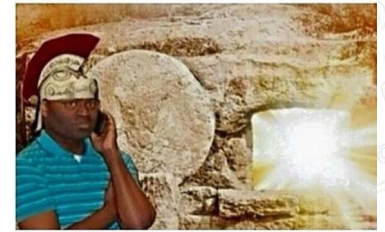
When someone shows interest in you, but no interest in God. @GodlyDating101



strangeparker:  
christian memes are a thing I wasn't ready to stumble upon

The Roman soldiers guarding Jesus tomb was like

"yeah...he gone" #MemeHistory

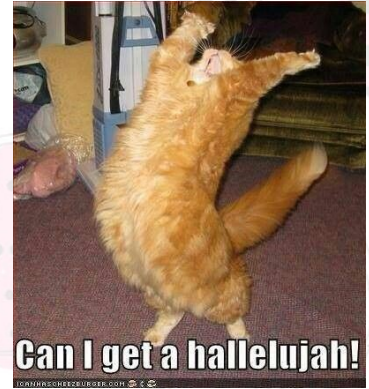


**Yes it is**



**I BE LIKE "THAT SHOULD SCARE YOU!"**

When you realize your best friend is sitting behind you in church.



**Can I get a hallelujah!**



Joel Nobis @joelnobis

"i want to reach for God the way i reach for my phone. when I'm bored, when i'm uncomfortable, when i need answers or entertainment, when i'm lonely and need someone to talk to." - cory asbury



"You don't qualify for a military discount"

First of all, I'm a soldier in the army of the Lord



When someone asks "how did you become a Christian?"

NOW THIS IS A STORY ALL ABOUT HOW MY LIFE GOT FLIPPED-TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN

**ATHEIST: YOUR IDEA OF TRUTH IS BASED ON AN ANCIENT BOOK WRITTEN MORE THAN TWO THOUSANDS YEARS AGO**

## Jr High Events

**March 4th** - Fellowship: 25 Random Acts of Kindness  
- Since it's Pastor Ashley's Birthday, we are going to join her yearly challenge of doing 25 (her new age) Random Acts of Kindness around Arthur/Arcola area. We will meet at the Youth House at 3pm and return at 5pm.

**March 18th** - Bible Study: Death & Dying  
No one likes to talk about this subject...but it happens, right? In every single one of our lives, death has played a role. Confused? Come & hear what that means! Youth House at 3pm! Let Pastor Ashley know if you want to bring snacks!



"Can we listen to something else besides Silly Songs With Larry?"

