

The Flame

Shekinah Christian School ~ Plain City, Ohio
March 2025 Volume 41/Issue 7

Grandparents Are Grand!



Friday, 3.14, was π day at Shekinah, a great day for the K-5th grade students to celebrate their grandparents with pie and a program.

(Read more about this event on page 10.)

HOW DO WE GLORIFY GOD ?

by Elijah Yutzy (12th)

February 19– Dr. Luttrull



Shekinah's 6th-12th grades heard Dr. Luttrull speak during their weekly chapel. He began by asking, "How do we honor and glorify God?" He shared from Colossians 3:5 which lists the earthly characteristics that we put to death when we come to Christ. Next, he shared Colossians 3:12-16 which lists the characteristics that

we put on when we accept Christ as our Savior. The question then is how do we achieve salvation? The answer is God. After we confess with our lips that Christ is Lord, God does the rest.. Dr. Luttrull shared Colossians 2:8-15, which states that God is the one who makes us alive in Him, and that He is the one who has forgiven our trespasses. Furthermore, Ephesians 2: 8-9 tells us very clearly that none of this

is a result of our own works, in order that we can not boast.

The 4th and 5th grade students glorified God in elementary chapel by presenting the drama they've been working on taken from Max Lucado's book *You Are Special*. Senior, Isaac Showalter, played the part of Eli, the carpenter.



OCU DRAMA TEAM

by Isaac Showalter (12th)

February 26– OCU Drama Team

On February 26th, the drama team from OCU came to chapel to give the Shekinah students an amazing performance. First, they performed their usual Old Testament in 10 minutes. Then they showed us a waiting room with different characters from the Bible, one of which was Saul, soon to be Paul. The message was that God has a plan for everyone, and not one person is more righteous than another. They then gave us a game show called "Picking the Perfect Persian Princess" where King Xerxes chose his wife, and Esther was the reluctant winner. We are thankful they were willing to give us one of their Wednesday mornings!



SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK : OUR LOVING GOD

by Jacob Newman (12th)

March 3-7— Dr. Luttrull/Mr. Kallis

During Spiritual Emphasis Week, Shekinah students and staff were blessed with worship and chapels every day, Head of School, Dr. Luttrull, and Bible teacher, Mr. Kallis, spoke Monday through Thursday. On Friday, we met in our mentoring groups for the first hour of the day, and then gathered in the gym for worship. The theme of this Spiritual Emphasis Week was *Our Loving God*. Each chapel talk touched on an aspect of this theme and encouraged students towards a Biblical view of the love of our Lord.

On Monday, Dr. Luttrull spoke about the theme of our school year *Behold our God*. He dove into the Hebrew word “hesed” sometimes translated as “steadfast love.” He explained that “hesed” is a deep and multifaceted word that describes God’s loyal and covenantal love, mercy, and kindness, and he pointed to scriptures where we can see and be grateful for God’s hesed.



On Tuesday, Mr. Kallis walked the students through the first two verses of Ephesians 5, giving a word by word instruction on how we are to live as imitators of God, walking

in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

On Wednesday, Dr. Luttrull reminded the students of the transformative and eternal power and significance of the gospel. He urged the student body to consider the gospel and its effect on their lives anew every day. He prompted us not to become unengaged or numb to Christ’s eternal sacrifice and atonement.



On Thursday, Mr. Kallis spoke on sin. He told of a paradox that the more mature we are in our faith, the more we notice our own sinful natures. He spoke of wrong ways to deal with this recognition of sin, and used scripture to remind the student body of the right way, repenting and trusting in God’s forgiveness. He reminded us that Christ is our righteous advocate. God is faithful despite our sin, and if we confess, He is faithful and just to forgive. Mr. Kallis closed with a wonderful quote from Robert Murray M’Cheyne. “For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.”

(Read more about the week on pages 8 & 9.)

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

March 12 -Jonathan Purdy

by Max Kilzer (12th)



On Wednesday March 12, after Shekinah’s student worship team led the songs “10,000 Reasons,” “God So Loved,” and “Great Are You Lord,” board chairman and pastor, Jonathan Purdy, preached on “seeking first the Kingdom of God.” He read from the Sermon on the Mount focusing on Matthew 6:33. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” He mentioned the idea that sin is one of the things Jesus does not tell us to seek. Then, Mr. Purdy told the whole chapel that he had hidden two \$100 bills somewhere in the gym, and that we had one minute to find them. During that minute, in the midst of the mad rush for the money, freshman, Leah Newman, found one and got to keep it, and no one else found the second bill. He used that as an example how in real life we tend to seek things like the \$100 bills more than we seek His righteousness and the Kingdom of God. Furthermore, he shared how to seek things worth seeking. The first step is to pray. Only 45% of American Christians pray daily and, out of that 45%, 68% pray for less than 5 minutes on average daily. This was a pressing statistic that noticeably moved the audience. Often when

praying we try to get God to change His mind and do what we want, but really prayer is a tool that is to conform our own will to His. A second step to seek Christ is to meditate on scripture. Jonathan specifically focused on the idea of not only reading the Bible but also meditating on it. Finally, the third point he gave was to live a life of daily repentance. He pointed at how the Bible says we must learn to be humble and repent, live a constant lifestyle of repentance, and to seek Him not because we can’t find Him, but because He first sought, loved and sacrificed for us. Because of this we not only should do all these things, but we should *want* to do all these things. The bell rang, and Mr. Purdy had to conclude. I asked him about the second \$100 bill, and he told me that there was no second \$100 bill. He ran out of time, but the point he intended to make was that we eagerly search for things in our lives when in reality they aren’t even there. As it says in Matthew, we are to seek heavenly things that last forever, not earthly things that fade.

During the K-5th grade chapel, Matt Hamer, father of Drew (8th), asked students to help him illustrate the parable about the workers in the vineyard.



BOYS' BASKETBALL SEASON RECAP

by Alex Bauermeister (12th)

Junior High

The 2024-2025 junior high boys' basketball season was a good season in terms of team culture, skill improvement, and character growth.

A key ingredient in team culture is each player having a positive attitude, which was true for this team.

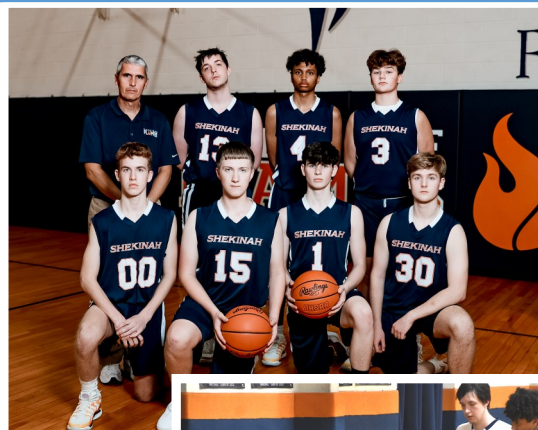
The guys really improved in shot mechanics, ball handling and decision making. They really grew from their mistakes, responding to instructions, and having positive body language.

~Coach Arnold Shetler



The team coached by Arnold Shetler and assisted by Connor Slabaugh '22, began the season with 12 players and ended with 9. They won four games—one in overtime. They also lost some close contests—one in overtime.

Junior Varsity



The JV boys finished their season with a winning record of 12-8 this year. They always kept a positive attitude enduring getting



destroyed practice after practice when functioning as the scout team for the varsity boys. Although sickness and injuries hurt them for a few games, it was a successful season. This year was successful in the sense that the athletes improved their skills and had fun doing it.

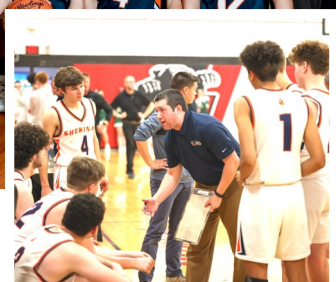
Coach Josh Ellis, who has been coaching at Shekinah for five years, will not be coaching next year. Hopefully, he will come back to coach again in some future season. We are grateful for all that Coach Ellis has done in his time here, and we wish him the best as he continues to make an impact in this new chapter.

Varsity

Although an unexpected injury caused some hardship this year, the varsity boys had a strong year. They came up short in Shekinah's third ever district finals, but they still finished the season with an impressive 19 wins and 4 losses. Several boys' hard work paid off as they received numerous all conference, county, and district awards.

"I'm really going to miss the laughs we had when we went out to eat after games. Every single guy on this team played a different significant role in our season, and I will never forget this team."

-Alex Bauermeister



GIRLS' BASKETBALL SEASON SUMMARY

by Mia Pierce (12th)

Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls' Basketball

The girls' varsity basketball team finished with a 15-10 record. The team faced a season of growth and development after losing seven seniors last year. This year the only senior on the roster is Ruby Gossard.

"This basketball season was a lot of fun!" said Abigail De Telder, a junior on the team. "We learned a lot and grew together, both on the court and as people. Playing in the district championship was an awesome experience, even though we lost. The team environment we got to create was very energetic and encouraging, from real conversations during van rides to hyping each other up on the bench during games. I look forward to seeing how far we can go next year as a team!"

Overall, the team had a good year. This was the third year that the varsity girls made it to district finals in the 17 years Shekinah has had a varsity girls' basketball team. Unfortunately, in the final game at the ODU Alumni Hall, the girls lost to Fisher Catholic.

The junior varsity team only had 7 games this season with the record of 2-5.



Junior High Girls' Basketball

The junior high girls' basketball team also went through a season of growth and development. The girls finished with a record of 3-14.

"This JH basketball season was definitely a building one for this team," said Anna G, an 8th grader on the team. "The majority of the girls had never played before, and even though we only won three games, I think that everyone improved. All 12 girls. This season was a fun one, from singing on van rides to Dalton's Stanley and everything in between."

"A highlight of this season was our game against Delaware Christian," Anna continued. "Everyone who got out on the floor played hard and all the girls on the bench cheered just as hard. From getting a majority of our shots up and the good defense, it was a good game. I think these girls will make a good team in the future and I can't wait to see how everyone will grow in the years to come!"

This year's team was a young team. Over half of the team were 5th and 6th grade girls. One of the five 7th and 8th grade girls suffered a broken bone in her arm after only seven games and wasn't able to play the rest of the season.



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Flame

Basketball Awards Night

March 17 was Awards Night for winter sports. All of the basketball teams celebrated their hard fought seasons with a presentation of the awards and recognition of individual achievements followed by ice cream. Congratulations to all of the teams and coaches for another successful season of basketball!

JH Girls



Coach: Dalton Beachy

Assistant Coach: Mark Hudnutt

Coaches' Award:

Kenna Showalter

Flame Award:

Anna Gingerich

Most Improved Award:

Charlotte Hill

JH Boys



Coach: Arnold Shetler

Assistant Coach: Connor Slabaugh

Coaches' Award:

Logan Beachy

Flame Award:

Isaiah De Telder

Most Improved Award:

Brody Slabaugh

JV Girls



Coach: Brock Yutzy

Assistant Coaches:

Todd Charles

Madison Stutzman

Coaches' Award:

Rachel Eichorn

Flame Award:

Chloe Groff

Most Improved Award:

Kylie Schlabach

MVP Award:

Rebecca Eichorn

JV Boys



Coach: Josh Ellis

Assistant Coaches:

Keith Lambert

Mario Brunicardi

Coaches' Award:

Evan Sensenig

Flame Award:

David Gingerich

Most Improved Award:

Rillian Payne

MVP Award:

AJ Yoder

Varsity Girls



Coach: Brock Yutzy,

Assistant Coaches:

Todd Charles

Madison Stutzman

Coaches' Award:

Eleya Beachy

Flame Award:

Maggie Lyon

Most Improved Award:

Nava Showalter

MVP:

Haylee Beachy

Varsity Boys



Coach: Keith Lambert,

Assistant Coaches:

Josh Ellis

Mario Brunicardi

Coaches' Award:

Austin Helmuth

Flame Award:

Max Kilzer

Most Improved Award:

Camden Miller

MVP:

Elijah Yutzy

(See District and League Awards on page 7.)

Basketball Awards

Congratulations!

Central District D 4 (Media)

1st Team All-District:

Alex Bauermeister

2nd Team All-District

Elijah Yutzy

All MOCAL

1st Team:

Alex Bauermeister

Austin Helmuth

Elijah Yutzy

Honorable Mention:

Jayce Yoder

1st Team

All-Madison Co.

Alex Bauermeister

Austin Helmuth

Scholarship Society

Award Gold

Alex Bauermeister

Ruby Gossard

Max Kilzer

Elijah Yutzy

Scholarship Society

Award Silver

Haylee Beachy

Abigail De Telder

Austin Helmuth

Nava Showalter

Noelia Wanty

Jayce Yoder

DISTRICT 10 AWARDS:

Player of the Year

Haylee Beachy

D3-D7 Super Team

Haylee Beachy

Central District D 4 (Media)

1st Team All-District:

Haylee Beachy

Honorable Mention:

Nava Showalter

Noelia Wanty

All MOCAL

1st Team

Haylee Beachy

Nava Showalter

Noelia Wanty

Honorable Mention:

Eleyna Beachy

Abigail De Telder

1st Team

All-Madison County

Haylee Beachy

Noelia Wanty

Max Preps OH

Athlete of the Week

Haylee Beachy

Third Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Zebulon A., Alex B., Eleyna B., Reagan B., Redd B.
Tanner B., Quinn B., Ava B., Maci C., Gaetano C.
Gino C., Paighton C., Tatum C., Abigail D.
Isaiah D., Rachel E., Anna G., Benjamin G.,
David G., Liam H., Drew H., Chloe H. Graci H.
Titus H., Ellie Hi., Lillian H., Olivia H., Quinn K.
Max K., Judah K., Cade L., Jude L., Liam L.
Carter M., David M., Josiah M., Ryker M., Jacob N.
Shauna N., Ava O., Jacoby O., Mia P., Noah P.
Peyton P., Quintin P., Owen R., AnaSophia S.
Lydia S., Samuel S., Beau S., Mira S., Darlene S.
Noah W., Chase Y., William Y., Finley Sm.
Finley Sp. Alexavier W., Eliana W., Cassidy W.
A.J. Y., Kalleigh Y., Elijah Y., Hannah Y.

Merit Honor Roll

Joshua A., Ember B., Trevor B., Aria B., William B.
Suzanna B., Jaxon C., Joshua C., Lindsey C.
Brody C., Jakob C., Kade C., Hadassa D.
Kenneth D., Zachary D., Raphael D., Brayden D.
Noah D., Ian D., Cecilia E., Rebecca E., Grace F.
Malina F., Ruby G., Chloe G. Drew H., Ava H.
Ila H., Zane H., Austin H., Kate H., Charlotte H.
Zeke H., Hope H., Ellie Ho., Moriah H., Aaron H.
Logan H., Ariel I., Saraphina K., Elaina K.
Bristol K., Jenna L., Lydia M., Emma Mc.
Gideon Mc., Andrew M., Avery M., Camden M.
Elise M., Judah M., Michael M., Logan M.
Hope M., Leah N., Dominick N., Sophia N.
Chelby O., Becca P., Brody P., Brody S. Kade S.
Morgan S., Isaac S., Gwen S., Harper S.
Emmersyn S., Hannah S., Tabitha S., Selah S.
Sianna T., Maci T., Kailyn T., Mathias V-C.
Noelia W., Jayce Y., Nancy Y., Natalie W.
Preston Y.

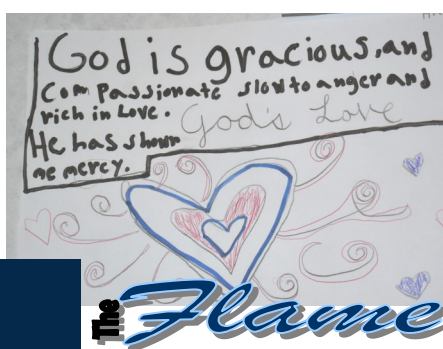
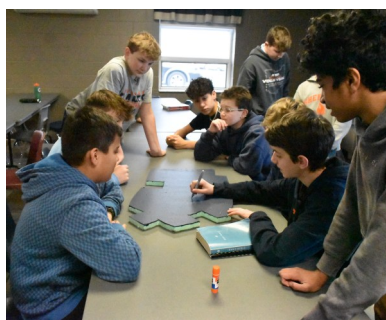


Behold Our God!



Elementary students joined the secondary students for chapel on Monday, but the rest of the week, Mrs. Clark had some special things planned for the elementary. Students from each grade made a poster for the hallway illustrating what they learned through the week. On Wednesday the K-5th students had their own chapel service in the cafeteria where they presented their posters with PowerPoint slides.

Friday, March 7th was the final day of our Spiritual Emphasis Week. On that day, 6th-12th grades met in their mentor groups during the regular chapel time. They used that time to discuss what they had learned throughout the week. Each group had a piece of a puzzle to write what they remembered. At the end of the day when the whole school met in the gym for a worship time, students put the pieces of the puzzle together. The week was both memorable and inspirational.



Food Drive for DNA

March 3-7 2025

by Emma McDowell 12th)

During Spiritual Emphasis Week, Shekinah partnered with the Plain City Food Pantry, run by DNA, for a food drive! The initial goal was to raise 500 shelf-stable food items during this week; however, students surpassed this goal by bringing in 800 items of shelf-stable foods. This totaled to 546 lbs. of food. In honor of reaching our initial goal, students had a dress down day on Thursday, March 13.



Shekinah Christian School Presents



Songs by
NACIO HERB BROWN
&
ARTHUR FREED

Screenplay by
BETTY COMDEN
&
ADOLPH GREEN

Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.

Music Published by EMI
(Original Movie Choreography
by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen)

Produced by arrangement with Maurice Rosenfield,
Lois F. Rosenfield and Cindy Pritzker, Inc.

Friday, April 11th Saturday, April 12th
7:00 PM 12:00 PM
7:00 PM

SENIOR ATHLETE SIGNS FOR MVNU



Congratulations to senior, Max Kilzer who signed a letter of intent to join MVNU's baseball team in the fall. The signing took place front of the whole school on February 19. Three of Shekinah's coaches, three MVNU coaches as well as Max's family members were witnesses of the signing.

Grandparents' Day 3/14

by Aaron Humphries (12th)

On Friday, March 14th, students, staff, and volunteers spent the morning highlighting and recognizing how amazing grandparents are. Grandparents began to arrive around 10 AM and took their seats at elaborately decorated tables lining Shekinah's gymnasium. Shortly afterwards, grades K-5th took turns performing either a song or poem on stage in front of all the guests. Second grade students amazed everyone with their recitation of our Bible memory passage, Isaiah 25. The third grade did an acrostic recitation saying what they appreciated about grandparents, and then finished with a song that Mrs. Conte had taught them. Fourth and fifth grade students performed a skit they had presented earlier in an elementary chapel. The fifth grade students ended the time by leading the audience in two songs. Students were then united with their grandparent(s) to enjoy the brunch charcuterie boards along with slices of pie since it was π day (3.14). After that, grandparents visited classrooms and took pictures. Students were then allowed to go home with grandparents following the festivities. A big thank you to the PTO who made this possible, and to teachers and staff who took time out of their busy schedule to make this event a delightful success.



Right: Shekinah's entryway was well-decorated as a prime picture spot.



Above: Isaac Showalter (12th) & Liam Luttrull (4th) perform in a short skit done by the 4th and 5th grades.



Left: Students and grandparents grabbed food after the program ended



Students of the Month



Ruby G.
**Secondary Student
of
the Month**

Senior, Ruby G., was nominated as the 6th-12th Student of the Month for March.

Ruby's classmates describe her as a "very nice and sweet person." One of her basketball teammates says, "She is so amazingly nice and an awesome leader! I absolutely loved playing basketball with her! She is always so willing to help anyone in need!" Congratulations, Ruby! We will miss you next year.



Josiah M.
**Elementary Student
of
the Month**

We nominated Josiah M. as the K-5th Student of the Month for March. Josiah was nominated because "he is trustworthy, always kind to everyone no matter who they are, brave, creative, and sensitive to the needs of others." He is also described as "respectful, funny, not afraid to try new things, a hard worker, smart, flexible, gentle and includes others."

Congratulations, Josiah, on being nominated as the Elementary Student of the Month!

STUDENT VALUES

**Responsibility, Kindness, Excellence,
Respect, Persistence, Integrity, Team
Player, Empathy, and Commitment**

The School Publications Class wants to recognize these values each month. Students can drop their nominations (one from K-5th and one from 6th-12th) into the blue bucket in the cafeteria. Besides naming a person, students need to write why they are nominating that person. Don't forget to sign your name in case we need to ask for more details.

Alumni News and Notes

Births:

Kyle '11 and Kami Miller) **Yutzy**;
Rylee Sage born March 20, 2025;
third child, second daughter.

Jordan '11 and Laci (Smelzer) **Gingerich**;
Jake Oliver born March 22, 2025;
fourth child, third son.

Attention Alumni !!

We want to hear from you. Send updates about your lives to lshetler@shekinahchristian.org. Tell us about births, marriages, promotions, new jobs, ministry opportunities, and anything else you'd like to share.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, we would love to send it to you through email. We would like to save funds on postage and printing.

Help us to keep our database up-to-date by letting us know if you have a change of address or email address. Thank you for staying in touch!

Mark your calendars.....

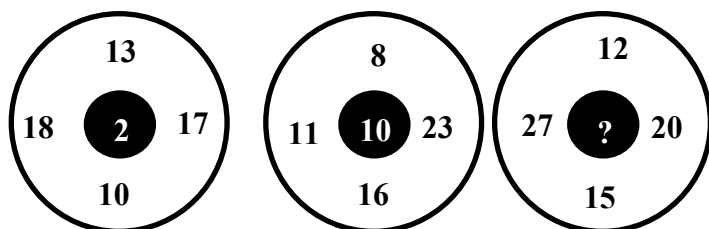
March

19-22—7th-8th Grade D.C. Trip
19-26—Senior trip to Costa Rica
24-28—NO SCHOOL Spring Break

April

11-13—"Singin' in the Rain" Musical
18-21—NO SCHOOL Easter Break
25-27—Rosedale Choral Festival—HS Choir

March Challenge



What number replaces the question mark? Send the correct answer to 614-873-3143 to enter a drawing for a \$10 gift card to The Red Hen.

The Student Activity Booster Club would like to thank our Sponsors for their generous support!

GOLD

Clean Cars Ohio, Country Closet
IT made REAL, Jessica Photography
Miller Cabinet Co., Mill West Amish Furniture
P.C. Animal Hospital, P.C. Village Market
Red 1 Realty, R & T Yoder Electric,
TL Builders, WJ Plumbing & Heating
Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

Cooley Custom Cabinet, Integrity Door Sales
Lyon & Sons Body Shop, Purdy Farms
Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

February Challenge Winner

If M plus N equals 25 and M times N equals 66, what is M minus N? The correct answer is 19. Congratulations to Emma Kramer who won the drawing for a free 2025 yearbook!

* Editor : Linda Shetler * Student Editors: School Publications Class

Phone 614-873-3130 * Fax 614-873-3699 * E-mail schooloffice@shekinahchristian.org * web site www.shekinahchristian.org

Shekinah Christian School
10040 Lafayette-P.C. Road
Plain City, OH 43064