

The Flame

Shekinah Christian School ~ Plain City, Ohio
May 2025 Volume 41/Issue 9



Photo Credit: mandilynn captured.com

Shekinah's 46th annual graduation ceremony took place on May 23, 2025 at Shiloh Mennonite Church. The 17 members of the Class of 2025 bring the total number of graduates to 459. Three other classes in Shekinah's history (2011, 2016, and 2023) also had 17 members which remains the record size for a graduating class at Shekinah. Our commencement speaker, **Anthony Conte '19**, asked the graduates to define success and spoke about the importance of obedience. Before the seniors received their diplomas, Valedictorian, Jacob Newman, and Salutatorian, Mia Pierce, each gave speeches of challenge mixed with memories and blessing. The worship team led in worship, and the high school choir sang "I Sing Because I'm Happy" "Modimo" and "The Blessing of Aaron." The 2024 Student of the Year, Alinea Slabaugh, presented the award to the 2025 Student of the Year, Max Kilzer, Jacob Newman then presented a class gift of two copy printers. Mr. Kallis prayed a prayer of blessing and Isaac Showalter presented the Class of 2025.

(Read more about the graduates on pages 8-9.)

SENIOR SONNETS & OTHER POEMS

These poems were written for the Romantic Era Unit in American Literature, taught by Mrs. Lynette Schrader. They needed to contain rhythm and rhyme, and the sonnets had to follow a specific rhythm and rhyme pattern.

A Reflection on Childhood

by Isaac Showalter

The times were so much better,
The colors much more vibrant,
Didn't know how to write a letter,
Negativity was all so silent.

We'd use our imaginations,
Turn sticks and rocks into weaponry,
Fight dragons and abominations,
And come out in total victory.

Food and shelter was provided,
After a day of hard house work,
We siblings never felt divided,
Unless one of us were a jerk.

We siblings acted in vexation to each other,
But really there was a deep love inside,
Subconsciously teaching us to care for one another,
Our parents were filled with pride.

The innocence of my distant past,
Stays with me, haunting my present remorse
I wish I'd go back, be innocent at last,
But life has run its course.

I'll never be able to return to those days,
And time is running as fast as it can,
As my mind slowly decays,
I am preparing to meet the Son of Man.

Mist

by Cassidy Wise

Go forth into the mist of early morning
Lilliputian drops of water compose this breathtaking delight
Why not have I known that it holds a forewarning,
As we too are formed not only by external sight

Some parts will leave our tears to be cascading like fountains,
From the sadness, sin, worry and strife
The mist is a veil that can cover great mountains
And can have the same means in one's very own life

Make thee to hide & seek a veil
As a sheath burying edges of a newly sharp blade
We determine our veilings while faced with nature's ail,
Yet are merely reliant on how heavy it weighed

But our earth with mist is not forever overtaken
As the warmth of light reaches out, it flees for the azure
It's beads of river, as if our tears, we leave forsaken
Bygone are our vanished worries, which are cast rather

Onto the one who has torn the veil,
To whom all thing shall point from which nature has taught
He is our light in the midst of a gale,
Who removes that which we veil with just a mere blot

Free Trial of Life

by Alex Bauermeister

I spend my days reminiscing about so long ago
When I was just a little child, life had a playful glow
The days were longer, nights were shorter, nothing on my mind
But now I worry far too much, my joy is hard to find
I'd wake up happy, full of cheer, and I'd anticipate
"What new things will I discover?" "What will this day await?"
With every step I take, I feel my joints begin to seize
But as a child, I'd run for miles with no pain in my knees
I'd topple down a flight of stairs and land hard with a crash
But like a spring, I'd hop right up with no harm but a scratch
The colors shone with vibrance, nature played a symphony
Life had a rose gold filter more foods tasted good to me
No bills to pay, no chores to do, my life contained no stress
But now I worry all the time, my head's a cluttered mess
I longed for when I'd grow to be independent and strong
But looking back at those fine times, I realized I was wrong
The time I was so young and free, my mind had zero strife
I wish I realized childhood is our free trial of life
So don't look too far forward and appreciate the time
Where life is easy, calm, relaxing, stress-free, and sublime

The Road Home: A Sonnet

by Mia Pierce

"Home" is not a concept that I know well.
Defined as the place where one does reside,
I have no single place in which I dwell.
I have no constant house nor home beside
the road. I live within the in-between.
To one place, I'm not bound by finite chains
But rather split between two worlds. The scene:
Two separate lives yet I hold the reins.
Home may not be a place but where you miss.
Keep running until you look back and see
what you were seeking is lost. Don't dismiss
That which you miss but then return to thee.
My car's my vessel, my safety, my means,
To explore life's beauty and chase my dreams.

An Ode to (my dog) Gus

by Max Kilzer

Something so threatening within;
That thought keeps nagging at my heart.
Something horrid beneath that grin,
A stranger nearing in his car.

To ward off any threat to them
Of every job that's mine to keep.
What saved me from that cursed pen
Is scaring off a coming creep.

A grumble within me I groan.
I yelp, I scream, I cry, I bark!
Leave! For this is our sacred home!
I miss the peace. I miss the park.

He pounds the door THREE TIMES today
Laid down the mail, then drove away.

A LIFE CHANGING TRIP

by Max Kilzer '25



On Wednesday April 23, the seniors who went to Costa Rica March 19-26 had an opportunity to share about their trip. After the worship team led us in three songs of praise, Dr. Luttrull presented a video in which he asked seniors a few questions like “What was your most inspiring moment?” and “How was the trip different from your expectations?” The video also included many photos and videos showing scenery and service projects. Following the video, Dr Luttrull shared how the trip developed character and changed perspectives. Then, he invited the seniors to lead the entire student body in singing a Spanish VBS song: “Soy una taza!” The seniors said this trip was inspiring and life changing in a way they had never experienced before!

END-OF-THE-YEAR CHAPELS - APRIL 30

by Elijah Yutzy '25

Secondary—Preston Yoder



In chapel April 30th, secondary students got to hear from Shiloh’s Lead Pastor, Preston Yoder. Preston shared on the greatest command spoken about in Matthew 22:34-36. The command is this, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This passage also tells us that the second greatest command

is to love your neighbor as yourself. Preston stated that Jesus set the perfect example for how we can live these commands out in our lives. Jesus prayed to His Father often, and lived out the word that His Father had spoken to Him. Jesus also loved His neighbors as exemplified in Mark 1:35. This passage shows Jesus taking time to interact with and love a group of children who had come to see Him. Jesus’ life gives us practical ways that we can fulfill these two commands

Elementary– Gwen Stevens



Immediately following a time of worship with 6th-12th in the gym, the K-5th grades met in the cafeteria to hear from a fifth-grade student, Gwen Stevens. Gwen shared on not envying others for the way that God made them,

and to be content with the things that God has given us. If God made you tall, then that is how God made you, and you should be content. If God made you short, then that is how He made you, and you should be content. He made us all different for a reason, and these differences have a purpose.

GOD'S LIFELONG STUDENTS

by Jacob Newman '25

May 14 – Zach Miller



The Shekinah student body heard from Zach Miller, Shiloh's associate pastor, on May 14th. Zach opened his sermon by pouring encouraging words over the seniors for how he has seen God working in and through them at Shekinah. As a senior myself, it was very uplifting to hear such heartfelt and personal encouragement from a

respected and Christ-like authority. Zach then reminisced with us about our upcoming summer vacation. He reminded us that even though our roles as students in academics will be put on hold, our roles as students of God should remain strong. Zach turned to John 15:1-8 for instruction. In these verses, Christ is portrayed as the vine, the Father is the Gardener, and we are the branches. We are told, as branches, to remain and abide in Christ, the vine. Without Him, we

will bear no fruit. Zach reminded us that we do not abide in Christ to "get clean." Christ's sacrifice on the Cross has already cleansed us of all the guilt of sin. We abide in Christ to bear Christ-like fruit so we can live a God-honoring life. Zach informed us that this is where we will find our ultimate joy and satisfaction and then looked at practical ways we can abide in Christ. Zach encouraged us to get into God's Word daily, to spend time in worship and prayer, realizing this looks different for everyone, and to invite Christ into our daily activities. He reminded us that this requires self control, and that it requires discipline. If we only did these things when we wanted to, we would not be abiding in Christ, and we would not be growing. Zach closed by reminding us of God's character. God is inviting us to abide in Him, calling us His friends and lovingly helping us to flourish.



KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION—MAY 21

by Emma McDowell '25



May 21st, marked the last day of the 24-25 school year. It was also a very special day for the Kindergarten class. They graduated to First Grade. Congratulations, Class of 2037!



Kindergartener, Nora Leeka, was nominated by her classmates to receive the Shining Star Award!

2025 RBC Choral Festival—April 26-27

by Aaron Humphries '25



In April, the High School Choir had the privilege of participating in Rosedale's Choral Fest. Throughout the weekend Shekinah's choir, along with three other choir groups from around the country, rehearsed a total of six songs to perform together in a mass choir on Sunday, April 27th, in the chapel building at Rosedale. The mass choir was directed by Jonathan Shoff from Lititz, Pennsylvania and accompanied by Katrina Gingerich from Westerville, Ohio.

NIGHT OF FINE ARTS



On May 1, Shekinah hosted the sixth annual Night of Fine Arts to showcase art and music at Shekinah. Shekinah's secondary music instructor, Mrs. Abbey Bechtol, Shekinah's Spanish/elementary music teacher, Mrs. Saray Hacker, and Shekinah's art teacher, Mrs. Delores Groh, put on the Night of Fine Arts to showcase students' skills and give students the opportunity to share what they have been working hard on all year long. As people entered the front lobby, they were met by strains of beautiful music played by a string trio: Abigail De Telder (10th), Eliana Wanty (9th), and history teacher, Mr. Daniel Jones.

The junior high band and choir performed. Then to finish out the night, the high school band performed a few songs for those who attended followed by the high school choir. Throughout the evening, participants enjoyed delicious snacks provided by Yutzy's Farm Market and Local Roots. A big thanks to those who put in extra hours and effort to make the Night of Fine Arts a spectacular success this year!



2025 SOFTBALL SEASON SUMMARY

by Max Kilzer '25

This year, Shekinah's Lady Flames softball team had a record of 2-13. Although the results of this season weren't what they had hoped, lots of the players improved and grew as both players and Christians. Unfortunately their season ended with a loss against Fisher Catholic in the sectional finals, but everyone had lots of fun and enjoyed this season no matter the outcome. Congratulations to senior, Grace Ferguson, who was named the MVP. Sophomore, Lydia Masula, received the Flame Award, senior, Emma McDowell, was given the Most Improved Award, and freshman, Chloe Groff, received the Coaches' Award.



2025 BASEBALL SEASON SUMMARY

This year was the strongest season the baseball team has had in a long time. The team, which was filled with both young and old talent, ended the season with a record of 12-6. All of the players made each other better and encouraged each other to make sure the team was always improving. We were hoping to go on a good run in the post season and aiming to bring home a district plaque. The goal was to crescendo to the start of the tournament, peaking in the district final. That goal was cut short when Shekinah lost 3-2 against Danville in the OHSAA District Semi-Finals. We tied for first with Granville Christian in the MOCAL. Congratulations to junior, Jayce Yoder, who was named the MVP. Senior, Peyton Purdy, received the Flame Award, sophomore, Noah DiCarro, was awarded the Most Improved Award, and sophomore, Camden Miller, received the Coaches' Award.



2025 SENIOR NIGHT

by Joseph Henson '25

Softball - May 8

Congratulations, Seniors!

L to R, Mia Pierce, Grace Ferguson, Emma McDowell



Three senior softball players were recognized on May 8 before Shekinah's home game against Delaware Christian. Coach Jennifer Hudnutt said this about the season: "We had a phenomenal group of young women who cared for each other on and off the field. They worked hard and persevered through all kinds of weather conditions, And although we didn't have a winning season, the girls played from the heart and were an inspiration to watch develop and grow throughout the season. I can't wait to see what this team becomes in years to come." Coach Hudnutt was assisted by Natalie Harris.

Baseball - May 16

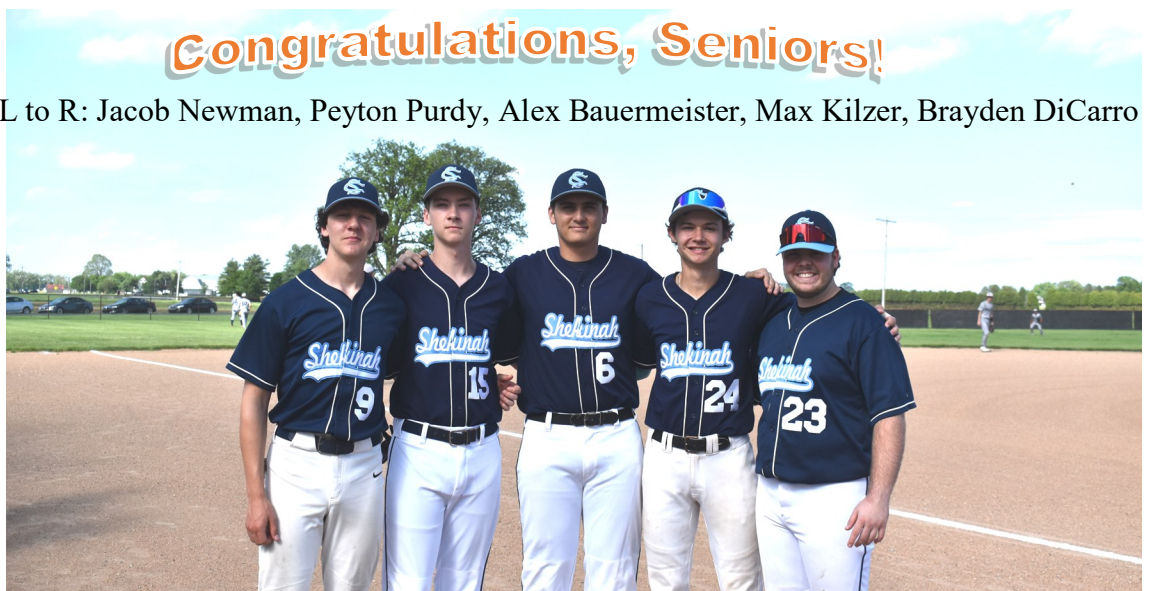
May 16 was the night to honor the five seniors on the baseball team for their hard work and dedication. The team was coached this year by head coach, Josh Oxley and assisted by Paul Kilzer, Jonathan Purdy, and Ian Purdy. The baseball team was also expertly coordinated by team manager, senior, Isaac Showalter, and Zach Rightler, assistant team manager,

Shekinah's opponent on Senior Night game was Tree of Life. Shekinah won the game 10-8.



Congratulations, Seniors!

L to R: Jacob Newman, Peyton Purdy, Alex Bauermeister, Max Kilzer, Brayden DiCarro



Congratulations Class of 2025!

by Mia Pierce '25



Alex Bauermeister

Mac Bogenrife

Brayden DiCarro

Adam Ferguson

Grace Ferguson

**Nick and Mercedes
Bauermeister**

Honor's Diploma
Basketball
Baseball
School Publications

"If you don't fall, how
are you going to know
what getting up is like?"

-Stephen Curry

**Brad and
Amber
Bogenrife**

Basketball

"The life in front
of you is far more
important than the
life behind you."

**Corey and Kelly
DiCarro**

Baseball
Art
Student Teachers'
Aide

"ALWAYS finish
strong!"

**Todd and Kellie
Ferguson**

Baseball
Art
Student Teachers'
Aide

"Ford built tough"

**Todd and Kellie
Ferguson**

Softball
Art
Student Teachers' Aide
Class President

"Don't shine so that
others can see you.
Shine so that through
you, others can see
him." -C.S. Lewis



Ruby Gossard

Joseph Henson

Aaron Humphries

Max Kilzer

**Andy and Bethanie
Gossard**

Honor's Diploma
Basketball
Worship Team
Student Teachers' Aide
Class Secretary

"Choosing life is to
believe God has a
greater plan."

-Tricia Goyer

**Raquel
Vazquez and
Brian Henson**

Basketball
School
Publications
Choir

"It's dark outside"

**Allan and Devan
Humphries**

Choir
Basketball
School Publications
Student Teachers' Aide

"That was my nickname
back in high school"

-Jacob N.

**Paul and Scarlett
Kilzer**

Baseball
Basketball and Golf
School Publications
Choir

"If you have ice on,
and the fit is fire, then
it's drip."

-Joe Henson

Congratulations Class of 2025!

by Mia Pierce '25



Emma McDowell

**Kevin & Heather
McDowell**

Softball

School Publications

"Isn't it funny how day
by day nothing changes,
but when you look back,
everything is different..."

~Anonymous



Grace Mullett

**Doug & Rose
Mullett**

Volleyball

Choir

"What doesn't kill
you makes you
stronger"



Jacob Newman

**William & Marlene
Newman**

Valedictorian

Honors Diploma

School Publications

Baseball

Worship Team

"Honey I grew the
giants."

-Max Kilzer



Mia Pierce

Kristianne Nelson

Salutatorian

Honors Diploma

Softball

School Publications

Class Treasurer

"If you were better at
this you'd be done by
now."

~Mr. Hershberger



Peyton Purdy

**Jonathan & Amber
Purdy**

Baseball

Worship Team

Class Vice President

Student Teachers' Aide

"Cook or Be Cooked"
~nug



Isaac Showalter

**Matt & Colleen
Showalter**

Baseball Team Mgr.

School Publications

Student Teachers' Aide

Choir

"Forgiveness is a better
messenger of the gospel
than a lawsuit will ever
be"



Cassidy Wise

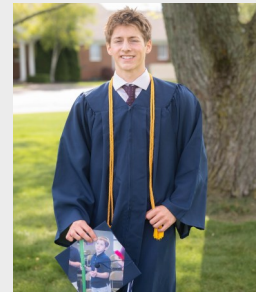
**Tony & Brenda
Wise**

Art

Choir

"Life is Roblox."

~DJ Khaled



Elijah Yutzy

**Matt & Darlene
Yutzy**

Basketball

School Publications

Choir

"God cannot give us a
happiness and peace
apart from Himself,
because it is not there.
There is no such thing.

~C. S. Lewis

May 9, 2025

by Isaac Showalter '25

The Junior Class planned an evening to remember. With the help of parents and their advisers, they created an event to celebrate the Class of 2025.

The banquet was held at the Barn on Chapel Road. It was decorated with lights, glass vases with flowers, and fancy plates and cutlery to fit the "Night in Italy" theme. Lou and Nancy Gingerich catered the food with some extraordinary penne and alfredo, meatballs, breadsticks, and salad. They also made cheesecake for dessert, and had lemonade to drink with a choice of flavoring.

The parents of the seniors each shared memories, thoughts and blessings as a slide show of their children played. The evening ended with the juniors giving the seniors an "Oscar" which told them what they were most likely to do after high school, as well as the seniors giving



CLASS OF 2026



CLASS OF 2025



AWARDS DAY

Wednesday, May 21, 2025



Shining Star Awards:

Nora Leeka—K
Jude Luttrull—1st
Maci Campbell—2nd
Reagan Beachy—3rd
Jakob Crawford—4th
Kaelynn Kramer—5th
Kalleigh Yoder—6th
Kailyn Troyer—7th
Anna Gingerich—8th
Gideon Lyon—9th
David Gingerich—10th
Austin Helmuth —11th

Arnold Shetler
Character Award:
Ruby Gossard—12th

Art Awards:

Adilynn Joseph—K
Jude Luttrull—1st
Reddington Beachy—2nd
Hope Moss—3rd
Hannah Slabaugh—4th
Rayah Thobe—5th
Sara Sensenig—6th-8th
Jenna Lin—Art I
Vashti Arnold—Art II
Margo Masula—Art III

Music Awards:

—K—
Hadley Spires
—1st—
Jude Luttrull
Darlene Syfert
—2nd—
Reddington Beachy,
Maci Campbell,
Finley Spires
—3rd—
Hadassah De La Cruz
Carter Miller
—4th—
Cade Luttrull
Maverick Pierce
—5th—
Kenneth De La Cruz
Ila Hathaway
Liam Luttrull
Shiloh Miller
—MS Choir—
Anna Gingerich
—MS Band—
Isaiah De Telder
Lilly Hockman
—HS Choir—
David Gingerich
—HS Band—
Judah Miller
—Musical/Theatre—
Lindsey Cooley

Athletic Awards:

Archie Griffin
Sportsmanship
Max Kilzer
Noelia Wanty
Courageous Student
Austin Helmuth
Scholar/Athlete
Max Kilzer
NFHS Award of Excellence
Ruby Gossard
Elijah Yutzy

Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Joshua A., Zebulon A., Alex B., Eleya B.
Ember B., Reagan B., Redd B., Tanner B., Ava B.
Maci C., Gaetano C., Gino C., Jaxon C., Paighton C.
Tatum C., Abigail D., Isaiah D., Raphael D.
Rachel E., Anna G., Ben G., David G., Liam H.
Drew H., Chloe H., Titus H., Ellie Hi., Hope H.
Moriah H., Aaron H. Olivia H., Quinn K., Max K.
Elaina K., Cade L., Jude L., Liam L., Emma Mc.
Carter M., David M., Josiah M., Judah M., Ryker M.
Jacob N., Dominick N., Shauna N., Ava O.
Jacoby O., Mia P., Peyton P., Quintin P., Owen R.
AnaSophia S., Hannah S., Lydia S., Samuel S.
Selah S., Beau S., Mira S., Darlene S., Kailyn T.
Noah W., Alexavier W., Eliana W., Cassidy W.
Chase Y., William Y., Finley Sm., Finley Sp.
Elijah Y., Hannah Y.

A/B Honor Roll

Haylee B., Sophia B., Trevor B., Quinn B., Aria B.
William B., Suzanna B., Joshua C., Lindsey C.
Jakob C., Haddi D., Kenneth D., Zachary D.
Jaden 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.
Ethan H., Kate H., Graci H., Zeke H., Ellie Ho.
Lilly H., Mary H., Ariel I., Saraphina K., Stella K.
Judah K., Bristol K., Jenna L., Lydia M.
Gideon Mc., Andrew M., Avery M., Camden M.
Elise M., Michael M., Logan M., Hope M., Leah N.
Chelby O., Noah P., Brody S., Kade S., Morgan S.
Isaac S., Kenna S., Olivia S., Gwen S., Harper S.
Emmersyn S., Tabitha S., Sianna T., Maci T.
Mathias V-C., Noelia W., Natalie W., A.J. Y.
Jayce Y., Nancy Y., Preston Y., Anderson Y.

Alumni & Staff News and Notes

Births:

James and Nicole (Cooley) Yoder '18; Vivian Rose
born April 28, 2025; second child, second daughter.

Nicholas and Mary (Kronk) **Kallis (staff '25)**; Maria
Dianne born May 11, 2025; third child, second daughter.

Marriage:

Alex Lynn 'x22 married Mia Hardwick May 23, 2025.

Mark your calendars.....

June

2-6—Basketball Camp

4th-6th— 10 am—12 pm

7th-9th—12:30 pm—3:30 pm

10-11—HS Boys Findlay Basketball Camp

23-27—Volleyball Camp

4th-6th— 3:00 pm—4:30 pm

7th-9th—4:30 pm—6:30 pm

August

11-15—Teacher In-Service Day

14—Back to School Night

18—First Day of School

19-22—Fall Spiritual Retreat (Secondary)

May Challenge



From the Class of 2025!

When you have figured out which graduate this is, call or send the correct answer to 614-873-3143 to be in a drawing for a 2025 yearbook.

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

April Challenge Winner



One person guessed correctly! Azziale Arnold guessed this young lady correctly as our admissions director, Amber Purdy, at three years old. Congratulations, Azziale for earning a 2025 yearbook!

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

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