

THE FLAME

April 2026 Volume 42/Issue 8

VOL.
42

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All Our Work, One Last Sprint!

by Editor, Katie Driskill

The handclaps of excited audiences join the crack of baseball and softball bats. MAP tests are ending, music is rising, and writing is underway. With spring rains and blooming fields around us, we push toward the end of the school year and into May celebrations!

It's hard to believe a full year has almost passed here at Shekinah Christian School! As we finish these last few weeks, so many memories remind us of God's steady guidance as we grow into His image. May we shine brightly in a world that deeply needs the hope of the Gospel.

"Keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

And we all, who with unveiled
faces contemplate the Lord's
glory, are being transformed
into his image with ever-
increasing glory, which comes
from the Lord, who is the
Spirit.
(2 Corinthians 3:18)



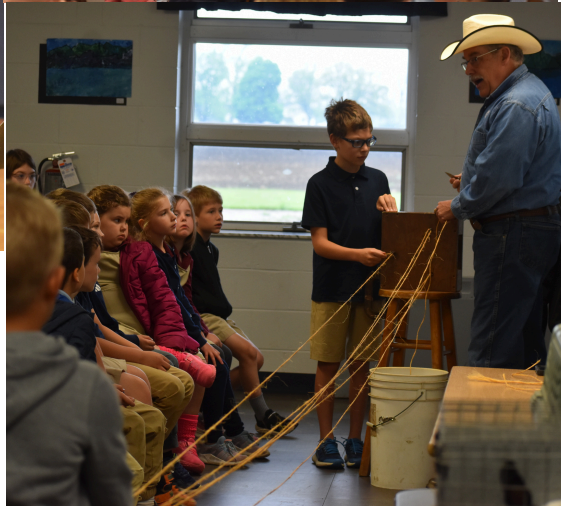
COSTA RICA CHAPEL

by Lindsey Cooley (12th)



On Wednesday, April 15, the Senior class shared details of their trip to Costa Rica with the student body. They opened the morning with worship and leading two dances they learned in Costa Rica. ELaina Kosik, Lindsey Cooley, Nava Showalter, Jayce Yoder, Adam Barnett, Austin Helmuth, Jaden Denney, and Graci Higgins held a Q&A with Dr. Luttrull. The seniors answered several questions about their cultural experience and the differences they saw in Costa Rica vs. the US. They also talked about their favorite food - most of them said the fruit was the best. Dr. Luttrull encouraged them to go deeper as they shared about how they saw God moving and what He taught them. Many of them talked about how cool it was to worship with the church community, singing in both English and Spanish together. The students had plenty of time to meet and talk with the Costa Rican church people, and it was deeply impactful to hear the testimonies from others' lives. Overall, the students had a very impactful trip - serving and blessing the community in Siquirres, Costa Rica. Dr. Luttrull has mentioned that he hopes to bring classes on mission trips such as this in the years to come. It's such a blessing for students to grow relationally, spiritually, culturally, and physically as well. God was definitely present with this class in Costa Rica, and there is much to thank him for.

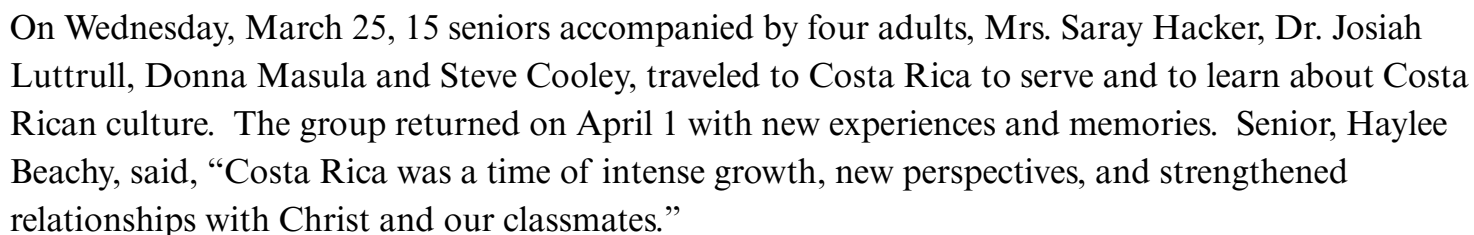
April Chapels!



April 22 - Salt and Light
April 29 - Marmon Valley
(Elementary)
Rhoda Miller (HS/MS)

by Jaden Denney (12th)

by Jaden Denney (12th)



Junior and Senior Poetry - Honors English

Creation's Work

One day, the stars questioned the moon and said,
"What is your job? Don't you sleep all the day?"
"I rule the night, and tuck the world in bed!"
The moon questioned the sun in the same way.
"What is your job, sun? Why are you so bright?"
It said, "I wake the world from moon's slumber."
Next, the sun questioned the sands with delight.
"Why are you so vast? Who knows your number?"
"My grains are so many! Who can count me?"
The sands inquired of the sky with much strife
"What's your job, that you serve so joyfully?"
"I proclaim His handiwork for all of life,
I am His hands' good work, and so are you
Let's not forget our blessed job we do!"

By: Elaina Kosik (12)

The Night Walk

Upon a starlit night when all was bright.
The rays were shining in the darkened sky.
Two souls were walking in the moonlight light.
As the shadows glide the birds start to fly.
The trees so tall were swaying in the breeze.
The grass so long and luscious moves like waves.
The owl sitting on the trees so at ease.
The fox sound asleep laying in his cave.
The two were walking on the moonlit path.
Talking all the while 'till they got home.
So many stars no one could do the math.
They finally arrived home at Jerome.
The splendor of the night what a delight.
The next day thoughts were only of the night.

By: David Miller (11)

A Man In The Crowd

I woke up to the sun's 'good morning'
and headed to the town square's meet.
Yelling, crying, wailing, scorning
Anger filled the air and street.

"Why won't you shout and yell and mock?"
said one behind me in the crowd.
"I have this feeling I should not talk"
The man, he was crippled and bowed.

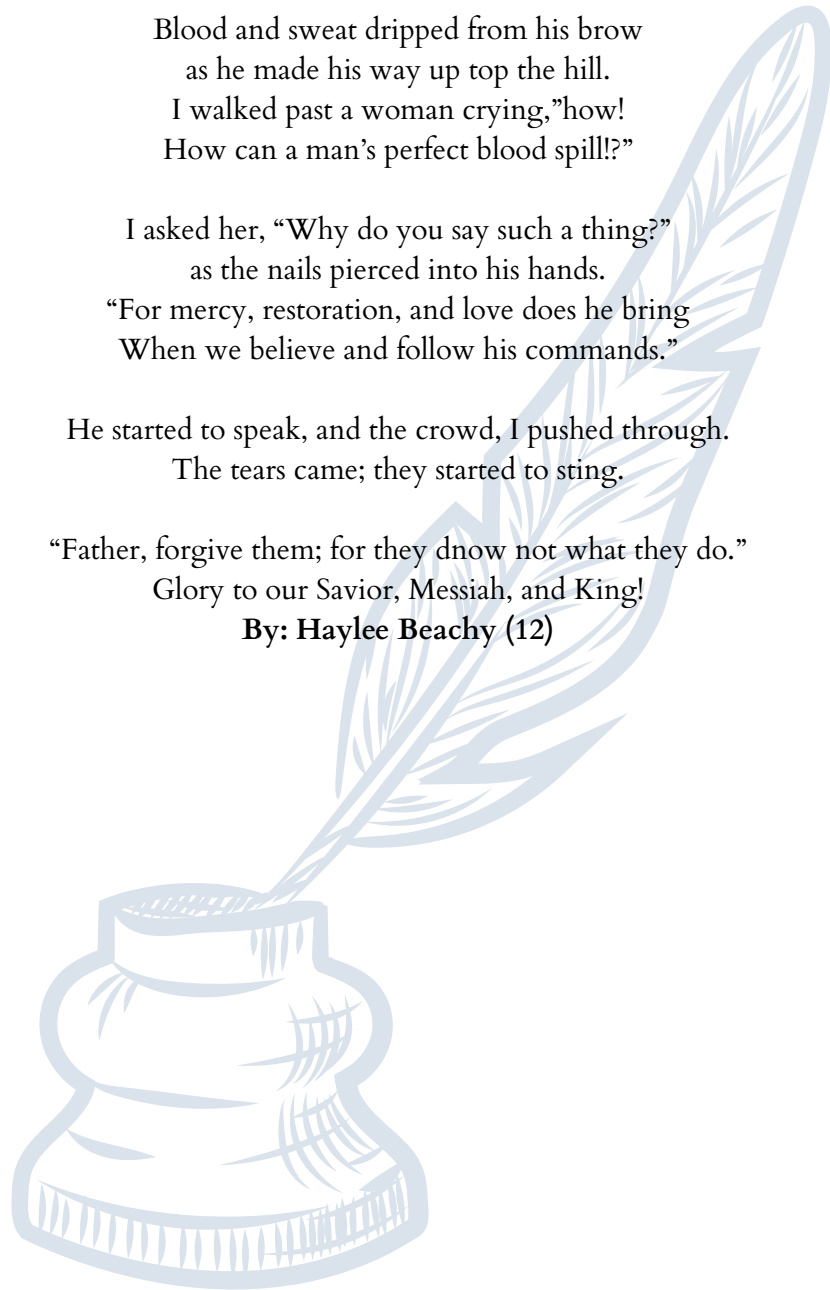
Blood and sweat dripped from his brow
as he made his way up top the hill.
I walked past a woman crying,"how!
How can a man's perfect blood spill!?"

I asked her, "Why do you say such a thing?"
as the nails pierced into his hands.
"For mercy, restoration, and love does he bring
When we believe and follow his commands."

He started to speak, and the crowd, I pushed through.
The tears came; they started to sting.

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
Glory to our Savior, Messiah, and King!

By: Haylee Beachy (12)



Junior and Senior Poetry - Honors English

The wind is blowing in the sturdy trees,
As wind goes swirling through the waving grass,
The rain is stinging due to all the breeze,
The people leaving from the town en masse,
Up in the sky a whirlwind starts to form,
A funnel starts to pulverize the earth,
A swirling mass much greater than a storm,
The rip of shredding roots as it gains girth,
A big red house is shot into the sky
It creaks and grumbles as it's wrenched and torn.
Debris starts raining on all those nearby
As townspeople all watch in shock and mourn,
This tornado's effect causes all to frown.

By: Raphael DeTelder (11)

Of all of God's nations, I've been to a few,
And although none have the comforts of home,
Take your chances and travel some place new;
Go float in the Dead Sea and watch the foam.
Life is far too short to spend in comfort,
And God's creation must be toured.
Forests, rivers, mountains and all the sort
Are all lovely, but are far too ignored.
Learn to be still and listen to the birds;
Learning skills like this bring us close to God.
Leave behind all the empty, hollow words,
And walk with Him upon the path you trod.
For in His works our restless hearts find peace,
And wandering souls in Him find sweet release.

By: Adam Barnett (12)

The Beach

A handsome man was walking on the beach
The sun was descending into the sea
In the man's hand there was a juicy peach
And cans of refreshing and cold ice tea
In the distance, he could smell the fire
The sand was shifting underneath his feet
He walked over and sat down on a tire
From the campfire he acquired meat
His friends and him were talking about things
While watching the sky begin to turn red
Up in the red sky seagulls flapped their wings
The night sky made them want to go to bed
So extinguishing the fire they did
Heading back to the town of Madrid

By: Camden Miller (11)

The Only

Being the only
Is a reality I've come to know
Truly isn't so lonely
But has given me many ways to grow
Some days wishing I had a brother
A sister with whom I'd do all the fun things
My big brother would protect me like no other
Siblings are blessings that the Lord brings
Families big and families small
I'm happy to be the only child
Our little family of 3, most of all
God looked upon in love and smiled
There are many benefits to being an only child, you see
Especially since the attention is always on me!

By: Cara Dobey (11)

Spring Break

The white clouds roll by as the waves crash in
Palm trees sway in the warm Florida breeze
Sun shining down, burning my pale white skin
The waves, sun, and breeze putting me at ease
Zooming through mangroves on a small KraigCat
Stopping to shell on a crowded island
Back on the cat you better hold your hat
Watch out for alligators back on land
Drive up the beach to take a dolphin cruise
Hurry up Bonnie we need to leave soon
Put had a good time on Google reviews
Now to eat dinner and wait for the moon

One more afternoon swim before we dip
Yes, what a wonderful last minute trip!

By: Quintin Purdy (11)



FROZEN JR.



Cast

Young Anna - Kaelynn Kramer

Young Elsa - Kenzie Philips

Anna - Haylee Beachy

Elsa - Lindsey Cooley

Kristoff - David Gingerich

Hans - Judah Miller

Olaf - Aubrey McCoy

Sven - Margo Masula

Duke of Weselton - Lydia Masula

Oaken - Leah Newman

King Agnarr - Judah Miller

Queen Iduna - Cara Dobey

Pabbie - Anna Gingerich

Bulda - Elaina Kosik

Bishop - Malina Furr

Housekeeper - Nava Showalter

Ensemble

Hunttyr Rogers, Gwen Stevens, Selah Smith,
Aria Borland, Charli Hutson, Kayley Yoder, Violet Yoder, Ila
Hathaway,
Ava Hathaway, Shiloh Miller, Izzy Hill,
Charlee Hill, Sara Sensenig, Talulah Cook, Penelope Cook, Malina
Furr,
Kenna Showalter, Elise Miller, Kenzie Phillips, Kaelyn Kramer

Backstage Crew

Eleyna Beachy, Olivia Hudnutt, Mary Hudnutt,
Eli Hatthaway, Vashti Arnold, Becca Payne, Eliana Wanty,
Emlyn McCormick, Teddy Bailey, Morgan Shannon,
Mathias Valenzuela Calderon, Kaylen Burns

Director - Abbey Bechtol

Assistant Director - Katie Driskill

April 24 and 25, the Musical cast put on three great performances showcasing the hard work they've poured into this story since December of 2025. Repeatedly, the cast said they were doing all of this for the glory of God, and the cast was very supportive of each other along the way. It was a beautiful showcase of the beloved story - Frozen, and it symbolized the love that Christ had for us through the sacrifice that Anna made for Elsa. Our prayer is that all audiences enjoyed the hardwork that the students poured into this perormance, and that most of all, God was honored through it.



Classroom Corners

By Graci Higgins (12th)

Spanish III Field Trip

The Spanish III class had the opportunity to take a field trip to Jungle Jims and Arepa on Tuesday, April 28th. At Jungle Jims, they got to walk around and explore food from all over the world. They saw things from crab-flavored potato chips to a whole skinned alligator.

“Junior, David G. said, “I really enjoyed the restaurant. The food was different than what I am used to. However, the experience was very delightful because of the culture of the staff.”



Elem./JH Field Trips

Kindergarten - 2nd grades went to the Columbus Zoo on Thursday, April 23.



The 7th and 8th-grade classes went on a field trip to the Creation Museum on April 23.

2026 Junior/Senior Banquet



“The juniors hard work paid off, and it was a night to remember” - Lindsey Cooley

On April 17th, our annual Junior Senior Banquet took place. The Jr Sr Banquet was a night to honor the seniors before they graduate. The parents of the juniors and seniors, along with staff, were invited to this event. The juniors planned this event and organized fundraisers to cover the cost of everything included in the event. This year, the banquet was held at The Maize, and the theme was rustic garden. The night consisted of fun activities like junior gifts, senior awards, and a Kahoot with fun facts about the seniors.

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Baseball and Softball

by Jaden Denney (12th)



The baseball and softball teams seasons are officially underway! The baseball team has a 5-1 record. Three guys (Noah DiCarro (1), Austin Helmuth (1), and AJ Yoder (3)) have hit a total of five home runs in just the first six games of the season. The team is looking forward to how they can wrap up the regular season and build momentum for when they get to tournaments.

Since the softball season has started, the team has really put an emphasis on what it means to be a team and growing in community with each other. Coach Hudnutt said that the team is very encouraging towards each other, and many schools have even commented on how kind and joyful the girls are toward each other and the teams they face. The softball team has played eight games already and the coaches are really looking forward to how the girls will grow through the rest of this season!

Senior Nights

Baseball Senior Night was Tuesday, April 28, when two senior athletes were recognized. Three softball seniors were honored on their Senior Night, Thursday, April 30. Both events took place before the game each evening. Baseball won 10-7 against their opponent for the evening, Liberty Christian, but the softball team lost against Delaware Christian (21-7).





THE 1ST ANNUAL

GOLF Scramble



**Darby Creek
Golf Course**



Friday, May 15
2:00pm-7:00pm

Entry Fee:

- **\$125 per player**
- **\$500 per team of 4**

Sponsors:

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Event Sponsor - \$600

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For more information
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event.com



**All proceeds
will support
Shekinah's
athletic
department,
including the
Golf team.**



A Testament to God's Faithfulness

Written by **Ian Purdy '23**. Ian, who is married to **Hope Ferguson '21**, is employed at Shekinah as the Facilities Manager



Back in September of 2023 I was practicing for intramural flag football in one of my first weeks at college. I noticed my lower left back area was in some pain. It kept getting worse and worse. There were days where I couldn't walk or hardly move. But, it persisted on, and on, and on. We had no clue what was wrong. After going to several different chiropractors, trying physical therapy, and going to an orthopedic doctor I had no success. My back pain had only gotten worse. At the end of the summer of 2024 I finally got an MRI on my back only to find out that I had a tumor. By the grace of God after CT scans, biopsies and more MRIs the tumor was identified as a benign aneurysmal bone cyst. An ABC is a tumor that occurs in 1 in every 100,000 people and it is primarily found in young people under 20.

After learning that, the doctor at Ohio State recommended surgery. However, we decided to get a second opinion from Nationwide Children's Hospital. There they said that I was a "perfect" candidate for sclerotherapy, a relatively new, but minimally invasive surgery. Eventually, that is what we decided to do and on December 23rd of 2024 I had my first treatment followed by my second one in March of 2025.

After I finished college in May of 2025, I began working. Work started off pretty well, but quickly my back regressed back to having severe pain. I would come home and be incredibly sore. At my next treatment in June, the doctor recommended I stop working and said that I shouldn't lift anything over five pounds. With a wedding and trip to Maui coming up in August, I was very disappointed. Between June and August there were countless times of worry, fear, anger, sadness, but also contentment, trust in God and faith that He would provide.

Sure enough, come August, the wedding went great, and the trip to Maui was amazing. The Lord allowed me to cliff jump, snorkel, and be fairly active there without any pain. After I got back from Maui, I had my fourth treatment. Since then, I returned to work and just had my fifth treatment on January 8th. This treatment had a lot different feel than the one in June. My doctor told me that my ABC was almost fully healed and that I can slowly begin normal activities again while they continue to monitor the tumor.

After getting an MRI in April, the doctor called me and told me that my ABC was "completely healed." This was finally the end of a very long journey.

Why do I say all of this? My only goal in writing this is to give God ALL of the glory for healing me. This is not about me. It's about what God has done in my life. Make no mistake about it, I have it INCREDIBLY EASY compared to others I know who have had or are going through much worse suffering and trials than a benign tumor. I am blessed that this has been my biggest "trial" thus far. Some have it much worse. But, I guess part of me is also writing this because of how it has reshaped my view of God and how He works. I remember not all that long ago thinking that you could only desperately pray to God when it was life and death cancer. That praying not to have back pain was selfish. That God cares, but if your issue isn't THAT big, it's lower on His priority list. I have since learned that is not the case. Through countless hours of lost sleep, lost tears, lost summer nights throwing the ball around, lost memories with family or friends that I missed out on because my back couldn't handle it, I learned that God does care. He will provide if and when He sees fit. The Lord truly is the Good Father who can care for all of our needs. I've learned a lot through this process and I have light years more of learning to go. But it has taught me to trust God more than I ever have before. It has taught me that He truly is all powerful. This didn't surprise Him. He allowed it to happen to me for a purpose. To draw me closer to Him, because trust me, I need it!



Alumni News and Notes Births

Michael '14 and Sabrina (Slabaugh) Conte '17; Magdalena Rayne born March 27, 2026; first child, first son.

Katarina (Miller) and Aaron Miller '08 (staff '14-'17); Harrison James born March 27, 2026; second child, second son.

Destiny (Williams) and Mitchell Yoder '15; Noah Lee born April 14, 2026; first child, first son.

Isaac and Brittany (Shroek) Fisher '11; Adalie Raine born April 16, 2026; second child, second daughter.

Marriage

Anthony Conte '19 married Annika Miller April 18, 2026.

Mark Your Calendars.....

May

14, 15 & 18 -

15 - End of Semester Exams

15 - 12:30 Dismissal all grades

19 - Field Day

20 - Last Day of School - Awards Day

22- Class of 2026 - Graduation 7:00 pm



May Challenge:

In which South American country is it tradition to clap your hands instead of ringing a doorbell when visiting someone's home?

(Text the correct answer to
606-568-6156 to be in a drawing for a
\$10 Red Hen gift card)

Congrats to Derrick Beachy for winning the April challenge and drawing! We will connect with you soon with your prize!

THE STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOSTER CLUB

would like to thank our Sponsors
for their generous support!

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SILVER

Cooley Custom Cabinet

Lyon & Sons Body Shop, Purdy Farms

Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

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