

THE FLAME

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**“Some people want it to happen.
Some wish it would happen.
Others make it happen.”
-Michael Jordan**



Spring has been coming in like a lion, and so has our spring semester at SCS! For the first time in school history, the Shekinah Flames Boys' Basketball team won the District Championship! Achieving a 25-1 record, their victory was extra sweet as they defeated the only team able to hand the Flames a loss. We are so proud of all our student athletes for their hard work and dedication!

Baseball and softball are coming into view as the spring musical puts in its final practice hours. Choirs, artists, and musicians are getting warmed up for Night of Fine Arts. Seniors have left for Costa Rica on mission while the rest of the Flames get assignments done before Spring Break. It's been a whirlwind, and we are thankful for our anchored hope in Christ.

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)

Honoring our coaches!

Our basketball teams were not the only ones to receive honors this season. Our coaches were also recognized in the league and in the Central District. Congratulations to boys' varsity coach, Keith Lambert who was named the MOCAL Coach of the Year. One of the assistant coaches, Jon Landrum, was the MOCAL Assistant Coach of the Year. Shekinah's girls' basketball coach, Brock Yutzy, received the double honor of MOCAL Coach of the Year as well as the Central District Coach of the Year. Congratulations for these well-deserved awards!



Spiritual Emphasis Week

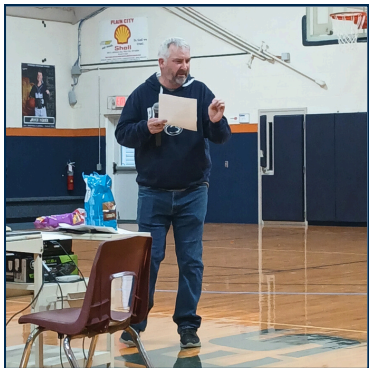
by Lindsey Cooley

March 2-6 was Shekinah's annual Spiritual Emphasis week. During this week, there is a chapel every morning (or afternoon), and speakers come in to share with the Student Body. This year, the theme for this week was "Discipleship through the Gospels." This week, Jerry Troyer spoke on Tuesday. Wednesday morning, Jonathan Purdy shared, and Thursday, Dr. Luttrull and Mr. Kallis answered Biblical and theological questions that students had. To end the week, Friday afternoon was a worship chapel led by the student worship team.



Jerry Troyer

On Tuesday, March 3, Jerry Troyer shared with the whole student body. He used weights to show that persistence in your relationship with God is how we should properly run the race set before us. To serve and honor God we need discipline and grace from the Lord every day. The more you lift weights, the stronger you get, so also the more you are disciplined in your faith, the more you will flourish in Christ.



Jonathan Purdy

On Wednesday, March 4, Jonathan Purdy spoke to the secondary students. He called the students on to the gym floor and had them split into pairs and play a game where they go through a number of motions and race to grab a candy first. He used this demonstration to show that, as followers, we need to keep our eyes on God and our ears focused on him so that we may live in the way He calls us to. Mr. Purdy also shared that to live for God wholeheartedly, we need to let down our burdens and distractions and focus on Christ



Mr. Kallis & Dr. Luttrull

On Thursday, March 5, Mr. Kallis and Dr. Luttrull held a Q&A for the secondary students. Students were asked to put questions in a jar anonymously the day before. They answered questions such as, "How do we know the Bible is true?" and "What is idolatry?" One student even asked Mr. Kallis who his favorite disciple was. It was a great time set apart to talk about the things that aren't always brought up directly.

Elementary Chapel: Spiritual Emphasis Week

by Mrs. Jenn Clark K-8 Principal

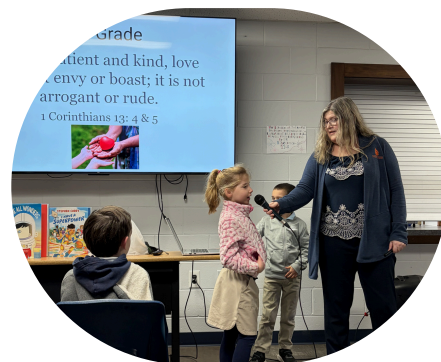
During our 2026 Spiritual Emphasis Week, students explored the theme “Christlike Love.” Throughout the week, students studied Scripture, worshiped together, and participated in activities that helped them understand what it means to be transformed into His image by mirroring Jesus’ love and service for others.

Students examined several Bible passages that describe the character of Christlike love, including John 13:34-35, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 4:7-12, Mark 10:45, and Philippians 2:3-5. These passages helped students see that true love is selfless, kind, humble, forgiving, and focused on serving others.

During chapels, Mrs. Clark and the elementary teachers led lessons that helped our K-5 students understand what it means to love others the way Jesus loves us. They read and focused on Lessons 8 and 9 from 'Into His Image' by Dr. Luttrull, focusing on love for others and how to use humility to serve and disciple others.

Students discussed why love is central to Christian maturity and identified people in their lives who may need to experience Christlike love. Also, students focused on Christ’s humility in serving others. They read about Jesus washing His disciples’ feet in John 13 and discussed why Jesus chose to serve others in such a humble way. Students learned that humility means selflessly putting others before ourselves and serving without seeking recognition. To practice this lesson, students wrote encouraging notes to secondary students and placed them on lockers. This act of kindness reminded students that Christ calls us to love and serve everyone, even those we may not know personally.

Finally, Spiritual Emphasis Week encouraged our elementary students to reflect and think about how they can show Christlike love in their daily lives—at school, at home, and with friends. More importantly, students discussed the greatest example of love: Jesus sacrificing His life for us. This powerful truth reminds us that Christlike love is sacrificial. By following Jesus’ example of humility, compassion, selflessness, and service, our students are learning to reflect the heart of Christ in the way they love and serve others.



Pastor Appreciation Day

On Wednesday, March 18, students invited their pastors and youth pastors to come to school for a pastor appreciation breakfast and chapel time. A total of 22 different pastors showed up on Wednesday morning to meet with the students and fellowship with one another over breakfast.





Third Quarter Honor Roll Grades 2-12

A Honor Roll

Eleya B., Haylee B., Reddington B., Sophia B.
 Maci C., Gaetano C., Lindsey C., Benjamin C.
 Elise C., Abigail D., Isaiah D., Zachary D., Azariah D.
 Benaiah D., Noah D., Rachel E. Blayden F. Anna G.
 Benjamin G., David G., Ava H., Zane H., Austin H.
 Chloe H., Charlotte H., Titus H., Grayson H., Ellie H.
 Olivia H., Evelina H., Quinn K., Elaina K., Judah K.
 Jude L., Cade L. Liam L. Lydia M., Avery M.
 Bryce M., Carter M., David M., Elise M., Josiah M.
 Ryker M., Leah N., Jacoby O., Kenzie P., Quintin P.
 Owen R., Brody S., AnaSophia S., Nava S.
 Luciana S., Hannah S., Lydia S., Samuel S.
 Finley S., Mira S., Maci T., Mathias V., Eliana W.
 Noelia W., Alexavier W., Addison W., Chase Y.
 Nancy Y., Hannah Y.

A /B Honor Roll

Vashti A., Daisy A., Edward B., Ember B., Quinn B.
 Reagan B., Tanner B., Trevor B., Ava B.
 Aria B., William B., Jude B., Gino C., Jaxon C.
 Paighton C., Joshua C., Tatum C., Jakob C.
 Ceana C., Hadassa D., Kenneth D., Raphael D.
 Jaden D., Cecilia E., Rebecca E., Malina F.
 Chloe G., Liam H., Drew H., Ila H., Ethan H.
 Hope H., Lilly H., Moriah H., Mary H., Maverick H.
 Ariel I., Marly J., Emlyn M., Andrew M., Camden M.
 Judah M., Michael M., Shiloh M., Logan N.
 Dominick N., Shauna N., Chelby O., Preston P.
 Brody P., Theodore R., Huntyr-Elaine R.,
 Emmersyn S., Kade S., Morgan S., Kenna S.
 Tabitha S., Selah S., Beau S., Gwen S.
 Darlene S., Rayah T., Sianna T., Kailyn T., Laina T.
 Natalie W., A.J. Y., Jayce Y., William Y.

2026 Basketball Awards Congratulations!

All-Madison County All-Madison County

Haylee Beachy
 Nava Showalter

Austin Helmuth
 A.J. Yoder

District 10

District 10

Player of the Year:

Player of the Year:

Haylee Beachy

Austin Helmuth

Division 3-7 Super

Division 3-7 Super

Team:

Team:

Haylee Beachy

Austin Helmuth

Senior All-Star:

Senior All-Star:

Haylee Beachy

Austin Helmuth

Central District

Central District

(media)

(media)

1st Team:

1st Team:

Haylee Beachy

Austin Helmuth

2nd Team:

2nd Team:

Nava Showalter

A.J. Yoder

Noelia Wanty

Honorable Mention:

MCOAL League

MCOAL League

Awards

Awards

Player of the Year:

Player of the Year:

Haylee Beachy

1st Team:

1st Team:

Austin Helmuth

Haylee Beachy

Jayce Yoder

Nava Showalter

A.J. Yoder

Noelia Wanty

Honorable Mention:

Honorable Mention:

David Miller

Abigail De Telder

Camden Miller

Rebecca Eichorn

All-Ohio

All-Ohio

1st Team:

1st Team:

Haylee Beachy*

Austin Helmuth**

Honorable Mention:

A.J. Yoder

Nava Showalter

Special Mention:

Noelia Wanty

Jayce Yoder

*first in program history

**second in program history

See more basketball awards on page 9

BASKETBALL SEASON SUMMARIES



Varsity Boys' Basketball District Champions

by Coach Keith Lambert

The 43rd season of Shekinah boys basketball was one of the best in team history. Varsity finished with a 25-2 record and went 13-1 in conference play to win the MOCAL for the 2nd time since joining in 2017. The program also won its first District title by defeating Genoa Christian 46-31 at Ohio Dominican University. The team set numerous records, including most wins, longest winning streak (20 games), first #1 seed in the OHSAA tournament, longest OHSAA tournament run, fewest points per game allowed (37.6 ppg), margin of victory (+20.8 ppg), and numerous others.

JV Boys' Basketball Summary

Boys' JV also had a very successful season, finishing 16-5 overall and 12-2 in the MOCAL, both of which are program bests. More importantly, the teams learned to build responsibility and accountability on and off the court while representing Christ through it all. Ben Hersberger, wrote, "This is the best record the JV has had since Keith Lambert took over the program 10 years ago. After a 3-3 start to the season and a tough loss at the buzzer to Berne Union, the young guys responded very well and played the remaining games with an awesome record of 13-2. The future is looking bright for the program as a bulk of this JV team was freshmen (6) and filled out with a few upperclassmen that brought needed experience and leadership to the squad."

JH BASKETBALL SEASON SUMMARIES

JH Boys' Basketball Summary

by Coach Arnold Shetler

The 2025-2026 junior high boys' basketball team experienced significant growth in the fundamentals of basketball. The insights shared by them after games grew significantly as the season went along. This group was really teachable and had a desire to grow in their understanding of the game. Our bench was the most spirited and vocal bench that I can remember having in recent memory.

We had three wins late in the season all against teams that beat us earlier in the season. Assistant coach, Travis Miller, and I really enjoyed coaching this group.

Thank you parents and fans for your support this past season. We have one of the best fan bases in central Ohio.



JH Girls' Basketball Summary

by Coach Dalton Beachy

This season we had the unique challenge of only having six girls on the junior high girls' team. With only one 8th grader and the other five players being 5th and 6th graders, we were an extremely young team. Despite only getting to play 5 on 5 a total of 17 times this year (practice+games combined), the girls showed significant improvement especially in the final 4-5 games of the season which brought us our 2 wins for the season, ending 2-15. The girls did an excellent job of staying upbeat and positive in a season of much development and growth. Both Coach Mark and I are **EXTREMELY** excited for the future with this young group and look forward to seeing what they can become!



BASKETBALL SEASON SUMMARY



Varsity Girls' Basketball Team Celebrate Firsts

by Coach Brock Yutzy

This years' team was an extremely hard working, close group that was visibly different to opposing teams in that they played for God's glory. Every girl worked extremely hard at pushing each other to be the best that each teammate could be. There were many records broken; this was the first season to have 21 wins, the most consecutive wins at 15, first undefeated season in league play, most three pointers made in a game, first winning record at the JV level, first league Player of the Year, first year with three girls recognized for All-State level awards, first win against West Jeff, and several more. This senior class has meant so much to the program as seeing a 5-win season their freshman year to going to a district championship game in back-to-back years which are as many district championship appearances as the rest of the league combined has seen since 2010! These girls loved being with each other and playing with each other from the freshmen to the seniors. This team brought the program's overall record back above .500, the league record above .500, and the tournament record above .500. Overall, it was an incredible season and one to remember for a long time.

Basketball Awards Night

March 20 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:
Kaelynn Kramer
Flame Award:
Kenna Showalter
Most Improved Player:
Shiloh Miller

JH Boys

Coach: Arnold Shetler
Assistant Coach: Travis Miller



Coaches' Award:
Trevor Beachy
Flame Award:
Andrew Miller
Most Improved Player:
Isaac Kramer

JV Girls

Coach: Brock Yutzy
Assistant Coaches:
Dan Eichorn, Derick Wanty



Olivia Hudnutt
Flame Award:
Hannah Yutzy
Most Improved Player:
Addison Womeldorff
MVP Award:
AnaSophia Schrader

JV Boys

Coach: Mario Brunicardi
Assistant Coach: Ben Hershberger



Coaches' Award:
Michael Miller
Flame Award:
Bryce Miller
Most Improved Player:
Kade Crawford

Varsity Girls

Coach: Brock Yutzy
Assistant Coaches:
Dan Eichorn, Derick Wanty



Coaches' Award:
Haylee Beachy
Flame Award:
Nava Showalter
Most Improved Player:
Rebecca Eichorn
MVP Award:
Noelia Wanty

Varsity Boys

Coach: Keith Lambert
Assistant Coaches: Mario
Brunicardi, Jon Landrum,
Ben Hershberger



Coaches' Award:
Austin Helmuth
Flame Award:
Jayce Yoder
Most Improved Player:
Michael Miller
MVP Award:
Austin Helmuth

See more basketball awards on page 5

Classroom Corners

By Graci Higgins

Drama Class Performs in Chapel

The drama class recently learned how to perform as a group, projecting, and deliver lines. They practiced this by learning and performing a skit. The first group did a skit based on a group of friends who get together for a Bible study. They decide to go out to show God's love to others. They all fail miserably and end up being rude to their friends. When they come back together to talk about what they did, they realize that they aren't letting God lead their actions, and they were acting outside of God. The second skit is set in medieval times in a castle. A group of knights comes back from war with a prisoner. The prisoner had committed unspeakable crimes, such as insulting the royal family on a blog. The king announces that for these crimes, he will receive the greatest honor possible. Everyone is outraged and confused. The king explains that they got this idea from Romans 5:8 in their Gutenberg Bible, stating that Christ's sacrificing himself makes no more sense than giving the criminal these riches. In the end, the king says he was just making a point and commands that they cut off the criminal's head.



"I thought it was really fun acting in accordance with another time period. And the skit was hilarious."
~Margo M.



Trip To COSI

Our 3rd and 5th graders went to Co Si & Lego-Land and had a blast! They got to create and build cooperate in putting projects together. They got to explore the world of science and find creative ways to see how things are designed.

PC Art Walk



The PC Art Walk took place on Friday, March 6. Businesses in Uptown Plain City hosted displays by student artists and professional artists in a wide array of mediums. Shekinah students had their work on display at Drink Up, where crowds came out to see the talents of our artists on display and enjoy the warm weather.

Grades on display were 2, 3, 4, 6, JH and Art 2, 3 and 4 for secondary.

Chapel Challenge

The Elementary students were challenged to write encouragement notes to all the secondary students reminders of God's love for them! Students have kept these prayers and notes on their lockers ever since!



In Memory of Andrew Kruse, 1994 Shekinah Graduate



Andrew "Andy" Kruse 50, went home to be with his Lord Jesus Christ on Monday, March 9, 2026, in Columbus, OH.

Andy was born on February 14, 1976, in Bluffton, Ohio, to David and Susan (Schumacher) Kruse. A man of deep faith, conviction, and character, Andy lived a life defined by devotion—to his Lord, his family, and the people whose lives he touched through his work, friendship, and guidance.

Andy loved the Lord with all his heart and never hesitated to share his faith with anyone willing to listen. His life was a living testimony of the values he believed in: generosity, humility, courage, and service. He was a passionate and knowledgeable man, a natural leader and guide, and someone others instinctively turned to for wisdom, counsel, and encouragement. Gifted with an astonishing photographic memory, Andy possessed a remarkable ability to recall details, stories, and lessons from history, Scripture, and life itself. He was highly literate and deeply curious, always learning and always ready to share what he knew.

A graduate of Shekinah Christian School, Andy often joked that he "never let school get in the way of his education," a statement that perfectly reflected his lifelong pursuit of knowledge. He was an avid student of history and proudly served as the keeper of his family's genealogical heritage, preserving stories and connections that meant so much to those who came after him.

Andy worked with his hands and his heart. As the owner and operator of A. D. Kruse Construction, he built not only homes and projects but also relationships and respect within his community. He loved working construction, caring for his farm, hunting, and collecting firearms. On job sites he became a mentor, especially to his niece and nephews, patiently teaching them the value of hard work and the importance of safety. He was also a gifted storyteller, able to captivate those around him with tales rich in humor, wisdom, and history.

At home, Andy was a devoted husband and an extraordinary father. He loved his family fiercely and intentionally. He often sang over his children—old hymns filled with truth and encouragement—and sometimes added a playful song just to make them laugh. Those moments captured the heart of who Andy was: strong yet gentle, principled yet joyful.

Andy had a deep appreciation for simple pleasures as well. He enjoyed German foods, meaningful conversation, and the quiet satisfaction of tending to his land and family heritage. He was known as a great listener, someone who gave others his full attention and thoughtful insight.

His commitment to community extended into public service. Andy served as a Troy Township Committeeman and also on the Zoning Board, working to represent and protect the interests of his neighbors. He was a proud Republican and believed strongly in civic responsibility and stewardship. Andy was a longtime member of Victory in Truth Ministries and most recently attended Storyside Church, where he continued to

to grow in faith and fellowship.

He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 17 years, Summer (Dykhuizen) Kruse; their four cherished children, Oliver, Evelyn, Josiah, and Joseph; his parents, David and Susan (Schumacher) Kruse; his paternal grandfather, Leonard Kruse; his sister, Amy (Justin) Martin; his brother, Abraham (Robbin) Kruse; ten nieces and nephews, Audrey and Everett Martin; William, Henry, Davey, and Benny Kruse; and Jacob, Selah, Caden, and Kolten Dykhuizen; his father-in-law, Curt Dykhuizen; and his brother-in-law, Cory (Stacy) Dykhuizen.

Andy was preceded in death by brother-in-law, Drew Dykhuizen; mother-in-law, Susan Dykhuizen; paternal grandmother, Ruth Ann Kruse; and maternal grandparents, Alvin and Bonnie Schumacher.

A funeral in honor of Andy was held on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 12:00 pm at Storyside Church, 541 State Route 97 West, Bellville, Ohio 44813. Visitation with family and friends took place at the church beginning at 10:00 am. Burial will be held at a later date on the family farm.

Contributions can be made to the Andy Kruse Farm Kids Fund in care of any Mechanics Savings Bank.

(<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/>)



Friendship group of Andy's, with Shekinah connections, who attended his funeral.

Mark Your Calendars.....

March

25-April 1-Senior Trip to Costa Rica

April

30-April 6- NO SCHOOL /Spring &
Easter Break

17-Junior Senior Banquet 6:00 p.m.

21-24 - MAP Testing K-5



March Challenge:

You see a boat filled with people, yet there's not a single person on board. How is that possible?

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

Congrats to Becky Yoder for winning February's challenge!! We will connect with you soon with your prize!

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for their generous support!

GOLD

Always at Your Side, Country Closet
IT made REAL, Jessica Photography
Miller Cabinet Co., Millwest Amish Furniture
P.C. Animal Hospital, P.C. Village Market
Phil Hill-Red 1 Realty, R & T Yoder Electric
Ronetti's Pizza, TL Builders
WJ Plumbing & Heating, Yoder's Septic Service LLC
Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

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

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

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