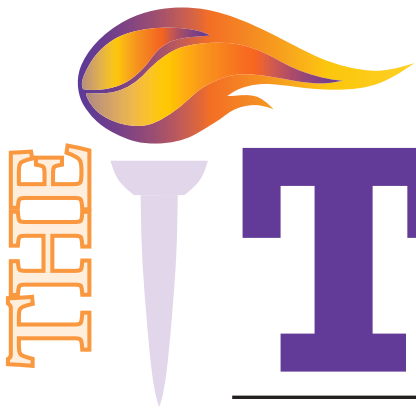


SPRING/SUMMER 2025



# TORCH

A Kalamazoo Christian Schools Publication





The TORCH is published twice a year with the purpose of fostering strong ties between the school, alumni and friends in support of Christian education.

Published by Kalamazoo Christian School Association.

Please inform the Association Office of address changes.

**BY REBEKAH HISLE, Communications Specialist**

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### **MISSION**

To be an academically excellent, Christian community equipping, inspiring and challenging students and staff to love and serve Christ in the world.

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Proverbs 19:21 reminds us, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

This past May, we celebrated the graduation of 89 students from Kalamazoo Christian High School, marking our 84th graduating class. Over 7,000 graduates have now walked our halls and experienced the Christ-centered learning environment we provide daily.

As our graduates embark on their next chapter, we pray they hold this verse close. We plan, we prepare and we anticipate, but it is the Lord's sovereignty that ultimately directs our paths. Our hope is that they continue to keep Him first in their lives, guiding them through all of life's challenges and joys.

In this edition of The TORCH, you'll read about two alumni, Kelly (Kuipers) Solano, Class of 1995, and Roger (Rod) Linders, Class of 1943, who have truly embodied our mission in their work and lives. Our goal is to inspire our students to use the gifts the Lord has given them for His Kingdom. These alumni have certainly made an impact and left a remarkable legacy for our current graduates to admire.

As you read through these pages, I hope you enjoy the stories of our students and their accomplishments at Kalamazoo Christian Schools this year. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the dedication of our staff in preparing them. Each day we strive to live out our mission: equipping, inspiring and challenging our students to love and serve Christ in the world.

Enjoy your summer!

Marc Verkaik  
Kalamazoo Christian School, Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc V" followed by a stylized flourish.





In the 2024-2025 Fall/Winter edition of The TORCH, you may have read about the Faith Formation study that Kalamazoo Christian students participated in. “The New City Catechism,” published in April 2017, asks 52 questions about faith and displays two theologian’s perspectives about a given topic. Students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade worked through these 52 questions with their homerooms all year.

Each time an Elementary School class finished a question, they were given a pixel sticker to add to the artwork forming in the Elementary School atrium’s case.

On the left is the picture, displayed in full at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

**CECILIA SEBASTIANI** has served at Kalamazoo Christian Schools for the last 13 years, teaching 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade in the Spanish Immersion (SI) program. For the last six years, she has been the SI Program Coordinator and Instructional Coach.

For Sebastiani, seeing the SI program grow has been very rewarding. “We started with a group of 25 students and now we have more than 300 students K-8 in the SI program. Also, seeing our first group, now sophomores in college, using their Spanish skills in many capacities is very rewarding, and I love that I have been part of this journey.”

She recognizes the support of the community, parents, staff and colleagues on a professional and on a personal level, saying, “My relationship with the Lord is stronger as I see the testimony of the groups that I have been connected to in different ways, and also when I taught Bible. I have learned to love God and others even more than I did before!”

On her first 5th grade Science Camp trip, Sebastiani remembers the support of her students and the parents around when she went zip lining at the age of 56. She also treasures the 8th grade Blessing Ceremony where the staff speaks a special blessing over the students.

One of the changes Sebastiani saw throughout her time here was the growth of the school. She said, “Growth brings challenges, but God has given us vision and solutions—with a few tears in between—to adjust to this growth.”

The next step in Sebastiani takes her and her husband to Florida for their children and grandchildren. With this move, God has continued Sebastiani’s teaching journey. She has accepted a position at Calvary Christian Academy, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, where she will be teaching Spanish in their bilingual track in the high school.



**“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.”**

Colossians 3:23-24

**“So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.”**

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

# INTRODUCING THE FAITHLINE THEME FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR: STEWARDLY LIVING.

“For Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,  
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10-11

*Thank you for your commitment to Christian education!*

## KCS RETIREEES



**SUE FEDDEMA** is retiring from Kalamazoo Christian Schools after 39.5 years of service teaching 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade and 4th-8th Academic Support. In retirement, Feddema plans to volunteer, continue working with kids, garden and travel.

She has loved getting to know the families that have come through her classes, sometimes having taught all of the siblings of a family. She's even seen children of former students in her classroom. She said, "It has been fun to see the generations continue coming through Kalamazoo Christian as the legacy is carried on."

Feddema's favorite moment as a teacher is when a student has a "light bulb" moment and she can see it on their face.

She said, "I have learned that in all the uncertain times to trust God and have patience for answers. If you give it to him, things will work out."

The biggest change Feddema remembers at KCS was the finished Elementary building on 12th Street in 2000 which caused South Christian and North Christian faculty and students together to move together.

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.  
In all your ways, acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight."**

Proverbs 3:5-6







# LEADING BY SERVICE AT KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Interim is a week-long opportunity in the spring for Kalamazoo Christian High School students to engage with the world in ways that are not ordinarily presented in a traditional classroom setting. Some students attend career sessions or college visits, where they can plan for their future. Some students learn a new skill or trade.

This past spring, High School Bible Teacher and Director of Spiritual Life, Joey DeKoekkoek, led a mission trip to Kentucky during Interim.

Also on the team were Kalamazoo Christian staff members, Carla Dirksen and Don Wubben, and students, Regan DeVries (10), Alaina Klooster (12), Kara Kerwin (12), Landon Keorner (12), Ariana Kuiper (12), Lilly Locker (10), Gus Laaksonen (10), and Willem DeVisser (9). The Kalamazoo Christian team, joined by a group from Arkansas, partnered with TEAMeffort Youth Mission Trips to serve the community of LaCenter, KY.

Several of these students, including Regan DeVries are part of DeKoekkoek's Youth Group and have been on mission trips led by him before. She said, "I knew I wanted to go and serve more, and also spend more time with some of the group members that went with me."

DeVries has attended Kalamazoo Christian Schools since Young 5's. She is on the Kalamazoo Christian High School basketball and softball teams, and is a member of 412 and National Honor Society. She enjoys Bible classes, specifically Biblical history and Biology.

Day one of the trip, the group did a demo of the front deck and removed the back deck of a house. They dug trenches in the front to lay the foundation for a new front deck. They also tore down and rebuilt a fence in the side yard.

"The deck ended up looking really good after lots of hammering, and a few minor injuries," DeVries said. "One of them being Kara getting hit in the head with some old wood by Alaina...but they're still best friends."

From this mission trip, DeVries said she learned the practical skills and process of building a deck and the patience and perseverance to keep going on the work set before her.

One of the roadblocks the group faced were digging trenches that were deeper than originally estimated. DeVries said, "We dug trenches that were about five inches deep, and two inches wide, every foot and a half along the length of the deck. This was not only time consuming and strenuous, but we then had to fill 80% of them in due to the deck sitting lower than we first believed it would."

DeVries noted the time she spent with her own team, the other group and leaders along the way. She shared, "I had conversations with another leader named Jared about my faith and what I personally believe, although we had somewhat similar beliefs. These conversations taught me understanding of other people and how to share my beliefs with those around me in day to day life."

TEAMeffort has coordinated over 200,000 students and leaders in missions since 1993. The Kalamazoo Christian team returned to Michigan after the Interim week was over with a new set of skills and a lifelong impact of service.





# CREATIVITY POURS INTO COMMUNITY INITIATIVE LED BY 8TH GRADE WRITING CLUB

How often does one think about the batteries they have on hand? For the characters in the anthology, “Why Do We Never Have Any Batteries,” it would appear, not very often.

The 2023-2024 KCMS 7th Grade ASP+ class was prompted by their teacher, Christine Webb, to start a writing club during their 2024-2025 8th Grade school year. Many of the students rose to the challenge and created a club for informal writing and community.

In brainstorming, they decided to give purpose to their club beyond doing the art they enjoy. With a call to give back to the community through writing, it was decided to write and sell an anthology to sponsor and create a Little Free Library at Tree of Life School in Kalamazoo, MI.

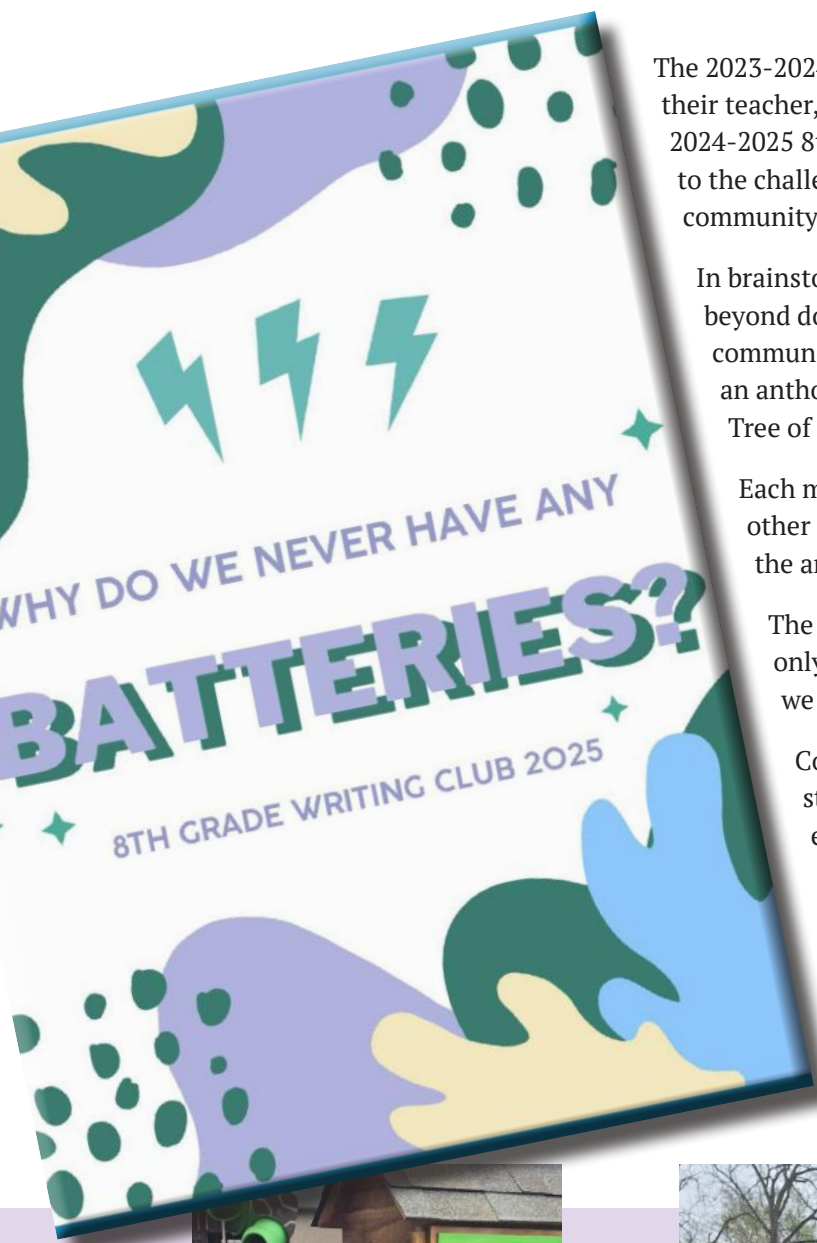
Each member of the club, along with Mrs. Webb and a few other students, wrote a short prose or poem to be added to the anthology: “Why Do We Never Have Any Batteries?”

The works varied in style, genre, theme and setting. The only criteria was to incorporate the question “Why do we never have any batteries?” into the piece.

Contents of the anthology were managed by the students in the club. They set submission due dates, edited each other’s work and designed the cover.

Addie Ancrile, one of the writers, said, “We all like to brainstorm together, so we’re all just bouncing crazy ideas off of each other.”

Some of the stories are inspired by true events such as the story by Elizabeth Cho, retelling her







great-grandfather's role as a train conductor during the Korean War and Reagan Motson's story of a tornado hitting town, inspired by the recent spout of tornadoes in Kalamazoo.

"I would say that a lot of my inspiration comes from not reading the mainstream books, like I find this random dystopian novel from some random 'nobody' author at a book sale or at a garage sale for \$0.50," Eliee Stob, writer, said. "I just like reading the peculiar and obscure."

To raise money for the Little Free Library, the girls had to sell about seven anthologies each. They hung up posters around school and wrote fundraising emails. They designed the structure of the Little Free Library, and, with the help of their teacher and her family, built and painted the structure.

The girls said having clubs in middle school, especially at a smaller school like Kalamazoo Christian, is a great opportunity to connect, share creativity and grow in their passions.

When the Free Little Library was finished, the girls filled it with books, notes of encouragement and Bible verses for Tree of Life School and the community to enjoy.

As these girls enter high school, they have tentative plans to continue writing together even if it's not a formal club.



# ENGINEERING PROJECT TAKES COMMITMENT FROM KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

With the organization of their teacher, Kim Meyer, 5th Graders, Olivia Huizinga, Julian Laubenthal, Noah Maring, Silas Reames, Sophia Steensma, Landon Sytsma and Owen VanderKooy put their minds together to create a wind turbine for the Michigan Kidwind competition.

The team started the process by creating pinwheels and sailboats, experimenting with different designs and their reaction to wind. They used a box fan and DIY supplies to create a general basis for how wind works.

They found that the best designs usually sported an airplane-wing shape, which could easily catch wind. Using 3D printing and rocks to stabilize the base, a wind turbine was created. Prototyping the wind turbine on the 3D printing design program was a new step for many of these young learners, but they were able to get the blades designed and constructed.

The team named themselves “Christian Power,” and designed the logo that accompanied them at the Michigan Kidwind competition (see shirt design on right).

Christian Power presented their model and poster to a panel of college professor judges for review. They won the poster and presentation portion of the competition, and placed second in testing their wind turbine model.

Owen described the competition as “fun, but intense.”

Also at the competition, they were able to compete in an Instant STEM Challenge, using what they had learned to “make something wind powered.”

Teams were encouraged to choose from a variety of everyday objects to complete this task. Christian Power used a simple design of a plastic bag and straws, which won them this mini challenge too.

Along with learning basic math and science skills, these young scholars dug deeper into the world of wind power, learning about wind turbine function, blade angles and measuring wind impact.

Owen said, “I learned a lot about how the angle actually matters for some things because, just having them [the blades] on randomly does not work as well for getting it [the wind turbine] to work.”

and presentation, others being more involved in wind turbine design and others being involved in construction.

Silas said, “I think we learned that sometimes it's good to work by ourselves, but we also need to work together.”

Meyer had positive things to say about Christian Power’s performance at Kidwind and their collaboration throughout the process. She said, “I liked how you guys were very scattered at the beginning and doing kind of your own thing, but, especially when it came closer to the contest, you really worked together. You were working independently pretty much and all working towards a common goal, and you handled that really well.”

These students pushed themselves to learn and create something new, giving up many “free” hours of recess time; however, their efforts were rewarded when they accumulated enough points to win the overall score in the Elementary division at the Michigan Kidwind competition.





## KCHS STUDENT FEATURE

Charlotte Harper, incoming junior at Kalamazoo Christian High School, applies her talents to dance. She was born in England and moved to the U.S. at the age of two. Now entering her 15th year of dance, Charlotte participates in ballet, tap, pointe, lyrical, liturgical (a Christian-based lyrical class), jazz and hip hop.

Charlotte transferred to Kalamazoo Christian Middle School from The Gagie School in 8th Grade. She said, "They [her parents] found Kalamazoo Christian and were shown how good the school would be for me. They decided to move me early. The decision ended up being the best decision."

While she has been part of dance teams and a dance company in the past, Charlotte currently dances at Excel Dance Center in Kalamazoo, MI. She also assistant teaches a class for younger kids at Y-Tap, which performed in June.

Charlotte dances to stay active and to build confidence performing. That confidence, she is sure to carry over into other aspect of her life. She said, "My favorite part of dancing is the community it provides. You get to do something active and fun with friends. You also get to learn important life lessons like performing on a stage and teamwork."

"I have learnt that each person is unique and grows at different times. Someone may be better than you at something, but that doesn't mean you are bad. It means that in some areas it may take you longer to get it, but I can guarantee that they have moments like that themselves... Don't worry about being the best at everything. No one can be perfect at absolutely everything. People take time to grow. You can't get everything on the first try."



# THE ALUMNI CONNECTION

## SAVE THE DATE

September 5, 2025 - Class of 1976 Reunion

September 13, 2025 - Class of 1995 Reunion

September 26, 2025 - Comet Nation Tailgate and United Football Game

October 4, 2025 - Class of 1985 Reunion

February 13, 2026 - KCS Homecoming and Basketball Games,  
Honoring classes from 1966, 1976, 2001 and 2016

2026-2027 School Year - 150 Years of Kalamazoo Christian Education

For more information, or if you have an upcoming reunion, contact [alumni@kcsa.org](mailto:alumni@kcsa.org).



Eliza Grace Maring  
January 27, 2025  
Nathan ('12) &  
Tori Maring



Harper James Midwood  
April 26, 2025  
Cary & Lauren (Jackson)  
( '12) Midwood



Willem Knox De Boer  
June 26, 2025  
Adam & Valerie  
(Koopsen) ('13) De Boer



Cassie Cheek ('12)  
& Quentin  
Edelman wedding  
November 16, 2024

For more information and resources on how to get involved

**VISIT US AT [KCSA.ORG/ALUMNI](https://www.kcsa.org/alumni)**



# REMEMBERING OUR ALUMNI WHO HAVE PASSED

John VanDyk, Class of 1995	01/01/2024	Betty (VanderRoest) DeVries, Class of 1945	11/11/2024
John DeKoek (formerly DeKoekkoek), Class of 1944	01/07/2024	Hendrik (Hank) Poppen, Class of 1970	11/12/2024
Jack Goodrich, Class of 1955	01/11/2024	Geraldine (Kreling) VanGemert, Class of 1955	11/15/2024
William (Bill) VandenBroek, Class of 1957	01/12/2024	Frederick (Fred) Myland, Class of 1976	11/20/2024
Lisa (Squires) DeJong, Class of 1995	01/13/2024	David (Dave) Doorn, Class of 1981	11/21/2024
Hennie (Woldhuis) Kloosterman, Class of 1958	01/16/2024	Roger (Rod) Linders, Class of 1943	11/22/2024
Linda (Bergman) Vanderark, Class of 1960	01/17/2024	Elaine (VanWieren) Martin, Class of 1965	11/23/2024
Ruth (Triemstra) Vroegop, Class of 1960	01/25/2024	Tammy (Finch) Stephenson, Class of 1981	12/06/2024
Arlene (VandenBerg) Cooper, Class of 1952	02/10/2024	Franklin VanOosten, Class of 1953	12/21/2024
Elfiede Elshout, Class of 1975	02/11/2024	Keith Boekeloo, Class of 1976	12/28/2024
Cheryl (VanderWell) DeHaan, Class of 1974	02/29/2024	Joyce (Pastoor) Gjeltrema, Class of 1952	01/04/2025
John VanHekken, Class of 1961	03/07/2024	Ronald Bushouse, Class of 1955	01/06/2025
William (Bill) Postmus, Class of 1957	03/08/2024	Betty (Gerlofs) Klepper, Class of 1953	01/18/2025
Genevieve (Gene) (Howing) Brussee, Class of 1946	03/13/2024	Harold Armstrong, Class of 1971	02/03/2025
Joanne (Leep) Mejeur, Class of 1982	03/23/2024	Donna (Pastoor) Penning, Class of 1956	02/10/2025
Louise (Hill) Jameson, Class of 1963	04/05/2024	Margean (Marge) (Hoebeke) Powers, Class of 1945	02/14/2025
Henry (Hank) Kroeze, Class of 1945	04/14/2024	Grace (Sluys) Cook, Class of 1948	02/19/2025
Ruth (Bos) Kuipers, Class of 1970	04/17/2024	Jack Vandermay, Class of 1960	02/26/2025
Thomas (Tom) Triemstra, Class of 1970	04/25/2024	Jack Scheffers, Class of 1975	03/02/2025
Sharon (DeHaan) Hansen, Class of 1958	04/28/2024	Sandra Kiel, Class of 1976	03/07/2025
Frank Zwart, Class of 1950	04/28/2024	Cornelia (Connie) (Kuivenhoven) Phillips, Class of 1946	03/08/2025
Marcia (VandenBerg) Werkema, Class of 1954	05/13/2024	Robert (Bob) DeYoung, Class of 1967	03/11/2025
Doris (Terpstra) DeVries, Class of 1949	05/28/2024	Barbara (Triemstra) Dekker, Class of 1964	03/22/2025
Dorothy Triezenberg, Class of 1946	06/09/2024	Janna Zinn, Class of 1988	03/24/2025
Roger Postmus, Class of 1949	06/11/2024	Glen VanderKooi, Class of 1988	03/27/2025
Ronald (Ron) Vlietstra, Class of 1971	06/15/2024	Mark Buursma, Class of 1977	04/27/2025
Peggy (Ruimveld) Penny, Class of 1970	06/28/2024	Duane Scholten, Class of 1959	04/28/2025
Scott VanderHorst, Class of 1978	07/06/2024	Crystal (Klimp) DeVries, Class of 1951	05/05/2025
Daniel (Dan) Visser, Class of 1969	07/28/2024	Marian (Treur) Razenberg, Class of 1943	05/13/2025
Alan Timmerman, Class of 1967	08/08/2024	Carol (Knapper) Block, Class of 1965	05/23/2025
Anthony (Tony) Ehlers, Class of 1947	08/26/2024	Matthew (Matt) Viel, Class of 1992	05/27/2025
Nicolas (Nick) Nieboer, Class of 1950	09/14/2024	Jay Terpstra, Class of 1977	06/03/2025
Vernon (Vern) Herder, Class of 1946	09/21/2024	Phillip (Phil) Nieboer, Class of 1952	06/12/2025
Duane Newmeyer, Class of 1951	09/29/2024	Eleanor (Triezenberg) DeKoekkoek, Class of 1951	06/15/2025
Robert (Rob) Bertrand, Class of 1984	10/30/2024		

# 2025 ALUMNI AWARDS

Each year, the Kalamazoo Christian School Association recognizes two alumni who exhibit(ed) a lifestyle that mirrors the mission and vision of Kalamazoo Christian Schools.

The Impact Award is awarded to a graduate of five years or more that is actively impacting their community, while the Legacy Award honors an alum of over 40 years who dedicated their life in service to Christ.

In 4th Grade at Kalamazoo Christian Elementary School, Kelly (Kuipers) Solano wrote her first poem about wanting to become a missionary. In high school she participated in mission trips to Rock Valley, IA and Cary, Mississippi. She graduated Kalamazoo Christian High School in 1995, going on to attend Dordt University. It was there that Solano pursued her passion for missions, joining a trip to Nicaragua that changed the course of her life.

She said, “I wouldn’t be here, or doing what I’m doing without my heritage of faith, which I’m so, so thankful for.”

Upon graduating, Solano returned to Nicaragua to teach at Nicaragua Christian Academy. Now she works with the Special Education program at that school. She met her husband who shares in her passion for showing God’s love.

Solano also volunteers at Tesoros de Dios (which means “God’s Treasures”), a school for children with special needs. Her husband and her spend many of their weekends in Mombachito, a small, rural mountain community. While many people there have heard of God, few have experienced His love and grace in a tangible way. Solano supports mission groups that come to the area and pours into the women of the community, encouraging and empowering them to believe they have a God-given purpose. She also reads with children at the library there.

Solano said, “My years at KCHS helped instill a love for the Lord and for service. I remember teachers who brought Jesus into every classroom, chapels and worship songs, and friendships which encouraged me in my walk with God. Each year we would complete service hours which got us out into the community and exposed us to people from different walks of life. I also appreciate my Bible teachers who took us to visit various churches, cathedrals, and temples—we had many faith-forming discussions after those visits.”

The Solano’s were at the 2025 Kalamazoo Christian High School Commencement where Kelly was presented with the Impact Award (see right).



**LEFT:**

**Kelly (Kuipers) Solano**

**Kalamazoo Christian High School  
Class of 1995**

**2025 Kalamazoo Christian  
Impact Award Recipient**

**RIGHT:**

**Roger (Rod) Linders**

**Kalamazoo Christian High School  
Class of 1943**

**2025 Kalamazoo Christian  
Legacy Award Recipient**







**Kelly (Kuipers) Solano receives the 2025 Kalamazoo Christian School Association Impact Award at the 2025 Kalamazoo Christian High School Commencement Service.**

The 2025 Legacy Award recipient is Roger (Rod) Linders, graduate of Kalamazoo Christian High School, Class of 1943. Linders' children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have also been impacted by Kalamazoo Christian Schools.

Linders was a faithful volunteer at Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Second Impressions Thrift Store, Park Village Pines, Comstock Community Center and Comstock Christian Reformed Church. As a WWII veteran, key founder of the Calvinist Cadet Corps and member of a five-generational Kalamazoo Christian family, he has truly walked, talked and lived as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Ann Triemstra, Rod's eldest daughter, shared about growing up with Rod that "definitely church came first." Their family would do daily devotions together, which came before activities. "If there was a need, he did it," Kathy Hoeksema, Rod's middle daughter, said. "People knew him by his service."

He was welcomed into eternal fellowship with Jesus on November 22, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of faithful service and discipleship. One of his favorite Bible passages was Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pasture, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Linder's daughters, Ann Triemstra, Kathy Hoeksema and Nancy Earles, and supporting family attended the 2025 Kalamazoo Christian High School Commencement where Ann received the Legacy Award on Linders' behalf.



# THE NEXT STEP IN THEIR JOURNEY

These Young 5's are ready to start their Elementary School journey after celebrating their Preschool graduation on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.



To transition to Middle School, the 4th Graders walk down the Elementary School Hallway one last time in a parade.



Our 8th Graders complete their Middle School experience with the 8th Grade Blessing where they are each presented a Bible of their choosing.





# CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025

The graduation of the Class of 2025 marks a beginning for these graduates who eagerly move on to live out their calling and bring glory to God.

The newest Kalamazoo Christian alumni walked across their graduation stage on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at Centerpoint Church in Kalamazoo, MI. These 87 graduates make up the 84th Kalamazoo Christian High School graduating class.

Their class verse is 1 Peter 2:12: "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

Addresses were given by Kalamazoo Christian High School Principal, Dirk Walhout, Kalamazoo Christian Head of School, Marc Verkaik, Class of 2025 President, Teagan Randall and Chosen Keynote Addressee and Faculty Member, Jim Deters.

Now these Kalamazoo Christian alums join communities of higher education, workplace and military.





# KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Foundation

Sustaining the Future of Christian Education.



## 1877 SOCIETY THANK YOU LUNCHEON

On Thursday, April 24, 2025, the Kalamazoo Christian School Foundation (KCSF) held a thank you luncheon for 1877 Society members\* and other supporters of KCSF.

Approximately 80 people gathered at the Kalamazoo Country Club to enjoy a lunch and program. Kalamazoo City Manager, Jim Ritsema gave the key address with additional words given by KCHS Student Ambassador, Avery Lambarth (10), Middle School Teacher, Ben Neal, Lead Administrator, Marc Verkaik and KCSF Board Member, John Bartels. The program was emceed by KCSF Board Member, Camille Hoekstra. Guests enjoyed a musical performance by the KCMS Eighth Grade Choir, led by Director, Carolyn Whitaker.

The theme of this springtime event was sowing spiritual seeds of righteousness which reap a harvest of love. At KCSF, we are thankful for the many seeds that are sowed by teachers, staff, board members, administrators, parents, donors and volunteers. May each seed sown into our schools and our students make an eternal impact for the Kingdom of God.

\*1877 Society members are individuals who have designated KCSF in their will or trust.

*Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.*

Hosea 10:12



# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SENIORS

Kalamazoo Christian School Foundation plants seed into our graduating seniors through scholarships. Through the generosity of numerous donors, scholarship funds have been established for seniors who pursue a post-secondary education at a college, university or trade school. Students must apply and then be selected based on specific criteria which vary among the ten scholarship funds.

This spring, KCSF awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to the following seniors:

**DeJong Memorial Scholarship:** Reed Jonkman

**John C. Klosterman Scholarship:** Faith TerMolen

**Joyce E. Bogard Memorial Scholarship:** Zachary Mitchell

**VanHamersveld Women Ministries Scholarship:** Ariana Kuiper

**KCHS Technical Scholarship:** Zachary Mitchell

**Randy and Deb Vlietstra Family Trade and Vocational Scholarship:** Zachary Mitchell

**Broekema Trade and Vocational Scholarship:** Zachary Mitchell

**VanderSteen Community Service Scholarship:** Faith TerMolen

**Spirit of Kalamazoo Award:** Teagan Randall



In addition to these scholarships, the KCSF provides the schools with additional support through various endowment funds. For the 2025-2026 school year, the KCSF will give about \$190,000 for general support, need based assistance, arts, science, special education and staff development.

If you wish to include the KCS Foundation in your will, contribute to a fund or establish a new fund, please contact KCSF Executive Director Larry Stehouwer at [larry@kcs-foundation.org](mailto:larry@kcs-foundation.org) or (269) 760-4711.



**The Kalamazoo Christian School Foundation was established in 1993 to provide long term sources of funding for the Kalamazoo Christian Schools.**





### **A MESSAGE FROM 2ND IMPRESSIONS BY GENERAL MANAGER, PATTY GRUIZINGA**

With prices rising on everyday items, family budgets are tight. Many people are turning to alternate options for shopping. The popularity of thrift shopping is rising!

The 2nd Impressions Upscale Thrift organization has been around for over 22 years. Lead by a volunteer Board of Directors, a daily team of volunteer day managers, cashiers, sales floor staff, furniture pickup and delivery, backroom workers, sorting, pricing and merchandising donations, 2nd Impressions needs a large volunteer force. On Saturday, the store has the volunteer crew of parents, grandparents and students.

Volunteers help raise money for tuition grants at Kalamazoo Christian Schools. Families have the option at registration to receive \$500 per student, depending on what grade their child is in. The store has given away \$600,000 during the 2024-2025 school year, as well as pledging the same amount for next year.

2nd Impression was started by a group of concerned grandparents and KCSA staff as a way to help more families afford the rising cost of Christian school tuition. Many of the original volunteers are still dedicated to store's operations. There are a minimum of 165 volunteer slots to fill each week and it is critical to have our constituents' involvement to insure the future fundraising success.

Most volunteers work one or two day per week, shifts are three hours each, 10a.m.-1p.m., 1-4p.m. and 4-7p.m, with various roles to choose from. If you or someone you know who would be a good addition to our volunteer staff and contribute to Christian education affordability, contact General Manager, Patty Gruizinga at (269) 350-6154 or email for more information. We are on a quest to find the best people to join our team!

**ARE YOU A KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN STUDENT,  
FAMILY, ALUMNI OR FRIEND? DO YOU HAVE A  
STORY OF IMPACT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
SEE FEATURED IN THE TORCH?**

**EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS@KCSA.ORG.  
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT!**





## THE COMET FUND

# MAKE IT MONTHLY

Our Comet Partners are incredibly important. They believe in showing God's Kingdom through our "Undeniably Christian. Academically Excellent." mission. Would you consider joining this special group and becoming a monthly donor?

### LONG-TERM IMPACT

Your monthly impact allows us to take a planned, long-term approach to making KCS the best it can be for our students and community. Your gift allows us to make long-lasting improvements.

### ONGOING MISSION

The KCS mission is a Kingdom mission. Wherever they are, our students are encouraged to grow in character, faith and knowledge, leaving our campus with a firm foundation upon which to build their futures.

### COST-EFFECTIVE

Your monthly investment allows even more families to attain Christian education. Will you join us to accomplish our mission, and reduce tuition cost by investing monthly?

**GIVE TODAY! [KCSA.ORG/COMET-FUND](https://KCSA.ORG/COMET-FUND)**

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# YOU

## FAITHFUL COMET FUND SUPPORTERS

### \$250.00 OR MORE

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If you do not see your name on this list and believe it should be included, please contact us at [development@kcsa.org](mailto:development@kcsa.org). If your name is listed and you prefer not to be published in the future, we invite you to reach out as well.



**KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

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**kcsa.org**

**Facebook: @kalamazoochristian**

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