



Zion Lutheran School Newsletter

February 10th , 2026

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ZLS Families,

Thank you for considering the theology of the home and the various roles of family members according to God's design in the past several newsletters.

I am going to pause my newsletter series to allow for some other voices of Zion Lutheran School to be heard in our newsletters this year. Over the next four months, the homeroom teachers will each write a newsletter article on one aspect of classical education.

The first article in this series is by Pastor Rippy, the 7th-9th homeroom and 5th-9th Latin and Theology teacher.

Enjoy!

Headmaster

Mr. Joshua Swigart

ZLS Prayer Requests and Praise of Thanks:

- ◆ For our students and families healing from illnesses, continued healing for Mrs. Bockenstette's recovery from shoulder surgery, Elie's maternal Grandmother (Katie Hudnall's) Mom; Elie's Dad (Mike Hudnall's) Back, Mrs. Ratcliff's Mom, Mrs. Allwardt's Mom, Mrs. Alverson's Aunt Millie, Pastor & Mrs. Rippy's Parents and their cousin Jessica, and Pastor Swan's wife Christina's recovery from surgery.
- ◆ Praise God for the Swigart's new born niece.

An article from our 7th-9th grade homeroom teacher, Pastor Sean Rippy:

Reflections on Multum non Multa

Classical Lutheran Education has a number of concepts that underpins its educational philosophy and practice. One of these important concepts, which of course is in Latin, is multum non multa. The Latin phrase literally translates into “much not many,” but basically means that learning a little about a lot is not nearly as important as learning a lot about a little- or quality over quantity.

Practically speaking, this means that classical Lutheran schools tend to focus on learning a few important things well rather than a lot of things shallowly. It means focusing on the best: the best literature, the best texts, the best music, and the best art. It means focusing on the interconnect- edness of each subject. It means quality assessments rather than quantity assessments.

There are many texts & curricula to dazzle the eyes, but not every subject or even everything in a subject is important. Classical education emphasizes teaching to mastery, but not just mastery of random things. We focus on mastering the most important things. It does little good to master the trivial. As the old saying goes, practice doesn’t make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect.

A practical example of multum non multa is a good books curriculum that focuses on mastering a few excellent books considered to be classics rather than skimming over a bunch of books or choosing lesser quality books.

Most modern schools have abandoned the idea of a canon of classics that represent the best of the best in literature and texts. Without such a rudder, they flounder from book to book, often choosing books that cannot compare with the classics and worse, contain anti-Christian perspectives. Such literature teaches our children unholy ideas.

At Zion, we choose from a list of carefully curated classics that reflect a biblical worldview, that are in alignment with our beliefs, and that protect our children from the unholy ideas of the secular world. We study the best of the best.

As another example of multum non multa, there are many subjects that compete for the at- tention of schools. Some of them, we, as Christians, can easily dismiss such as those which might fall under the so called “woke” or “antichristian” category, but there are other subjects that are legitimate options. There are things children must learn, things children should learn, and things children can learn. Using the concept of multum non multa helps us guide our choices. Classical schools focus on the core subjects and learn them to mastery.

Historically, this has meant focusing on the trivium and the quadrivium. The trivium includes the subjects of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. These are the tools necessary to create a God pleasing freeman. The quadrivium is arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. Today, we can think of them as math and science. The Quadrivium helps to develop critical thinking and reasoning skills.

God is of primary importance for the classical Lutheran school; thus, Theology is the primary focus. The Godly humanities are also important to classical schools for they teach students how to think for themselves and become God pleasing free citizens. The math and sciences are important for they teach critical thinking and the way God has ordered His world. In this way, the concept of multum non multa helps to create well rounded individuals with a deep and meaningful education.

CERTE DE FASTIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Students Sing at Zion Lutheran Church 10:15 am	2 2026-27 Return Family Enrollment Starts	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 PTF Mtg 3:15 pm Setup for VB&B 3:00 - 5:00 pm	13 Setup for PTF Valentine's B&B 2:00 -6:00 pm	14 PTF Valentine's Banquet & Ball 5:30 - 7:30 pm at ZLS
15	16 NO SCHOOL President's Day	17	18	19 Chess Club Starts 7:00 am - 7:45 am Literacy Program Kickoff 6:00 - 7:00 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 ZLS Open House 6:00 - 7:30 pm New Families Registration Begins	27	28
March 1	March 2	March 3	March 4	March 5 Classroom & Staff Picture Day Group Pictures 9:45 am	March 6	March 7

1st	Students Sing at ZLC	10:15 am
2nd	2026-27 Return Family Enrollment Starts	Feb 2nd - April 16th
12th	PTF Meeting / Setup for PTF Valentine's B&B	3:00 - 5:00 pm
13th	Setup for PTF Valentine's B & B	2:00 - 6:00 pm
14th	PTF Valentines Banquet & Ball	5:30 - 7:30 pm
16th	NO SCHOOL - President's Day	
19th	ZLS Chess Club Starts	07:00 - 07:45 am
19th	Literacy Program Kickoff Evening	6:00 - 7:00 pm
26th	ZLS Open House for New Families Enrollment	6:00 - 7:30 pm

CERTE DE FASTIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Classroom & Staff Picture Day Group Pictures 9:45 am	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 PTF Mtg Maple Bars with Moms 07:30 - 8:10 am	13	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	17 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	18 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	19 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	20 NO SCHOOL Spring Break	21
22	23	24	25	26 End of 3rd QTR End of Literacy Program	27 NO SCHOOL Teacher's Inservice	28
29	30 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 4:30)	31 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (4:15 - 4:45)	April 1 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 4:30)	April 2 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 4:30)	April 3 NO SCHOOL	April 4

5th	Classroom & Staff Group Pictures	09:45 am
5th	ZLS Chess Club	07:00 - 07:45 am
12th	PTF Maple Bars with Moms	07:30 - 8:10 am
16th - 20th	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break	
26th	End of 3rd Quarter	
26th	End of Literacy Program	
27th	NO SCHOOL - Teacher's Inservice	
30th Mar - 2 Apr	Parent Teacher Conferences - M, W & TH	3:15 - 4:30 pm T 4:15-4:45 pm

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ **Open House for 2026-27 New families on February 26th, 2026 @ 6 pm:**
 - Please invite your friends and family to this event and help ZLS grow!
 - Next year Zion Lutheran School will be **Kindergarten - 11th grade**. Zion Lutheran School will offer a **3 day Bridge Program** that includes Science. If you have any immediate questions, feedback or concerns, please contact Mr. Swigart before or after school, or via email at zlsheadmaster@gmail.com.

- ◆ **2025-26 Classroom and Staff Group Picture Day on March 5th, 2026 @9:45 am.**
 - Picture Day Dress for our students is:
 - White Top and Black Skirt, Jumper or Pants for girls
 - White Shirt, Black Pants for boys.
 - Optional: A black Sweater over the white tops for girls.
 - Optional: A black Vest or Black Suit Jacket over the white shirt for boys.

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2026-27 ZLS Uniform and Dress Code Guideline Updates:

- Zion Lutheran School uniforms will have some changes and additions in 2026-27. On non-Chapel days (M, T, W, F), students may wear white, black, forest green, or maroon polos.
- We will be adding a black indoor jacket that can be purchased through Owyhee graphics with a ZLS logo. This will help to keep students warm during the school day and standardize the variety of jackets that students wear. It will be the only approved indoor jacket option. Sweatshirts and other jackets will not be allowed indoors.
- On Thursdays (Chapel day), students will wear a new uniform shirt. The boys will wear a white collared shirt with a logo, black pants, and black dress shoes. The girls will wear a white blouse with a logo, a long black skirt, and Mary Jane shoes. A model picture is included below and more details about specific shirts, pants, skirts, and shoes will be included in later announcements and the updated uniform guidelines.
- Mr. Swigart is working with Owyhee graphics to create the shirts and jackets for purchase. Prices are unknown yet. Mr. Swigart will be looking for ZLS patrons to donate several uniforms to the school for families who can not easily afford them. Recipients of donated uniforms will remain anonymous to all but Mr. Swigart and the Front Office. If you are interested in receiving donated uniforms for your children, please reach out to Mr. Swigart.
- Eventually, it is Mr. Swigart's goal for ZLS uniforms to have standardized black and/or white school uniforms with ZLS logos for most days. This will take several years so families are not burdened by multiple uniform purchases in one year. As the uniforms are updated, the current green and maroon polos and shirts will phase out as an option.



CONMEMORATIOS - REMINDERS:

◆ School Choice Information

- The Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit Program, enacted by the Legislature in House Bill 93, is a new refundable tax credit that provides funds to parents to help pay for eligible private school expenses. The program is available for Idaho K–12 students ages 5–18. Applications open January 15 and can be submitted at: <https://myschoolchoice.idaho.gov/>
- If you plan to apply, the Idaho Tax Commission recommends setting up your TAP account starting December 1, to ensure time for processing at: [https://idahotap.gentax.com/tap/ /](https://idahotap.gentax.com/tap/)
- Families may be eligible to receive an advance voucher to help pay for tuition before the school year begins. Because funding is limited, we encourage every family to begin the application process promptly on January 15, 2026.

◆ Inclement Weather Procedure

- As the winter weather arrives, we would like to remind parents that any school closures due to inclement weather will be communicated by 7 am on Remind.
- We use the Nampa School District as a guide when determining closures. If you do not receive regular Remind or SMS messages, please stop by the office to get set up with Remind.

GRATULATIONE - CONGRATULATIONS

◆ ZLS January Virtue “Justice” Award Winners:

Congratulations to Desmond Richardson representing PK - 2nd grades, and to Jack Rhoades and Georgiana Lockwood representing, 3rd - 9th grades, for receiving the January Virtue “Justice” award.



- ◆ The Virtue Luncheon is scheduled for February 17th, 2026 with the students and families of our virtue winners.
- ◆ The February Virtue “Temperance” will be awarded the first Thursday of March.

Zion Lutheran School

*Valentine's Day
Ball & Banquet*

February 14 2026 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Please join us for our Valentine's Ball and Banquet hosted by Zion's Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF). This event is for Zion Students & Families, Church Families and Friends and Guests of Zion.

It's an evening of fun and fellowship and a wonderful opportunity to dress up, share a meal, win a raffle prize, and dance the night away.

The meal will be a potluck style dinner. Pulled pork, rolls, and drinks will be provided as the main dish by the PTF. All side dishes and desserts will be provided by the families and guests.

We ask that each family and guest attending, sign up to bring a side dish or dessert.

Please note: **Sign up sheets are located at the front entrance of Zion Lutheran School and also at Zion Lutheran Church.** For our Zion School Parents, we ask that you also identify on the signup sheet whether you will be able to help with Decorating or Cleanup. Decorating will begin on Thursday 2/12/2026 at 3 pm to 5 pm and Friday 2/13/2026 at 2 pm to 6 pm, and cleanup will start at **7:30 pm**, after the event is finished. Lights will be taken down the following week.

Zion Lutheran School – 1012 12th Ave Road – Nampa, ID – 83646 – 208.466.9141 – zloffice1@gmail.com





School Year 2025-2026

Zion Lutheran School

Chess Club

(2nd - 9th grades)



Chess Club Dates and Hours:

Thursdays at 7:00 am to 7:45 am

February 19th, March 5th, April 2nd, 16th, 30th & May 7th

“Chess is the gymnasium of the mind.” (Blaise Pascal)



2025-26



LITERACY PROGRAM

KICKOFF

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 PM

CAMP OUT WITH A GOOD BOOK

POINT ME IN THE
DIRECTION OF A
GOOD BOOK



HERE'S TO
SMORE READING



READING A BEARY
GOOD BOOK



LIGHT THE WAY
WITH A GOOD BOOK



FISHING FOR A
GOOD BOOK



FEBRUARY 19TH - MARCH 26TH 2026

PK - 6TH GRADES

Zion Lutheran School – 1012 12th Ave Road – Nampa, ID – 83646 – 208.466.9141 – zsoffice1@gmail.com



Zion Lutheran School

2026-27

Open House

K - 11th Grade

Prospective Families

Please join us

Thursday, February 26th

from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

- * Hear about the mission of Zion Lutheran School**
- * Meet the teachers and staff**
- * Schedule a tour with the headmaster**
- * Children are welcome and refreshments will be provided**

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