

Zion Lutheran School Newsletter

January 15th , 2026

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Parents and Families, please enjoy the read of Part 3 to the Christian Culture Newsletter Series - In the Home

Part 3: Parents and Children

Scripture shows us that God has designed each family member in such a way that as each fulfills his duty, all are provided for, respected, and loved. In this third article of my *In the Home* newsletter series, we will consider the biblical mandate to raise children and the duties of fathers, mothers, and children in that mandate.

Fatherhood

When Scripture gives a single command to fathers, mothers, or children, that command often expresses the central purpose of that calling. St. Paul gives one direct command to fathers in Ephesians 6: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

This teaches that fathers must admonish, that is, teach their children the Word of Christ, and train, that is, discipline them according to it. Children need teaching and discipline because, as Solomon writes, “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.” (Proverbs 22:15) This may sound harsh in a world that pictures children as innocent and pure, but Scripture teaches that children are born sinful and naturally desire foolishness. Therefore Paul says, “bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

Admonition is best carried out through daily family devotions. As the spiritual head of his home, the father is responsible to shepherd the souls of his children by reading God’s Word with them and praying together. He teaches the Scriptures so that they may remain Christians throughout their lives.

Fathers are also responsible to discipline their children. They punish sin and reward obedience and virtue. Solomon writes, “the rod of correction will drive foolishness far from him.”

(Proverbs 22:15) This is not always easy, but because they love their children, fathers willingly discipline them so that they may learn what is good.

Discipline also opens the door to the Gospel. After a child sins, the father calls him to repentance and then speaks gentle comfort: “I forgive you.” These words soothe the child’s soul, show true love, and teach the child about the forgiveness of Christ.

Part 3: Parents and Children - continued

Motherhood

St. Paul does not give a single verse summarizing motherhood, but Proverbs 31 devotes an entire chapter to the “excellent wife.” It reveals a vital purpose of her calling: “She rises while it is yet night and gives food to her household...” (Proverbs 31:15)

“She looks well to the ways of her household and eats not the bread of idleness.” (Proverbs 31:27)

The excellent wife sustains her family; she provides for them. The mother is the life source of the home. Psalm 128 says the blessed family is one in which the mother is like a fruitful vine and the children are like olive shoots around her table. (Psalm 128:3) Eve, the first woman, was named “Life” because she was the mother of all living. (Genesis 3:20)

The mother is designed to bear, nurture, and care for new life. She gathers the home together and cares for her children so that they may go out into the world vibrant and full of life.

Childhood

Ephesians 6:1 says, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

Today the vocation of children is often overlooked or misunderstood. Many think the purpose of childhood is to discover and prepare for a career. But this is not the biblical purpose of childhood. Children are given a different duty: they are called to obey their parents. This command fits their vocation because it trains them to become virtuous adults.

The Fourth Commandment states:

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12)

Notice whom this command benefits: the children! God gives parents authority and commands children to honor them so that this authority may be used to bless, care for, and provide for the child. What a beautiful design!

Obedience is also good for parents. A child’s obedience allows parents to teach, to guide, and to protect. Scripture is clear that obedience does not simply end at a certain age, though it changes in form as children mature. Adult children repay their parents with care in the time when they age (1 Timothy 5:4)

This mandate to honor and obey parents, gives children clarity in their vocation. It turns their hearts away from self-pleasure and toward honoring authority and receiving God’s love through their parents.

Thanks be to God for designing each family member so that all are provided for. I encourage you all to continue to delight in His Law and walk according to Holy Scripture and the created order.

Thanks be to God for His beautiful design!

In Christ,
Headmaster Swigart

CERTE DE FASTIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Dec	29 Dec NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	30 Dec NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	31 Dec NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	1 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	2 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	3
4	5	6	7	8 PTF Meeting 3:15 pm	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 End of 2nd QTR	16 NO SCHOOL Teacher In Service	17
18	19 NO SCHOOL MLK Holiday	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Book Fair Week National Lutheran Schools Week	27 Book Fair Week National Lutheran Schools Week	28 Book Fair Week National Lutheran Schools Week	29 Book Fair Week National Lutheran Schools Week	30 Book Fair Week National Lutheran Schools Week	31

1st, 2nd

NO SCHOOL Christmas Break

8th

PTF Meeting

3:15 pm

15th

End of 2nd QTR

16th

NO SCHOOL (Teacher In Service)

19th

NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Holiday)

26th -30th

Book Fair Week

29th

Parent Appreciation Breakfast

7:30 - 8:15 am

26th -30th

National Lutheran Schools Week & School Choice Week

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 2-25 Feb Starts	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 PTF Mtg 3:15 pm Setup for VB&B	13 Setup for PTF Valentine's B&B 2 -6 pm	14 PTF Valentine's Banquet & Ball 5:30 - 7:30 pm at ZLS
15	16 NO SCHOOL President's Day	17	18	19 Literacy Program Kickoff 6 - 7 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 Picture Day Group Pictures 9:45 am	March 6	March 7

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

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

♦ **2025-26 Zion Lutheran Schools Week Dress up Days:**

During Lutheran Schools Week, the following two days, the students will be able to dress up:

- Tuesday, January 27th, students may dress up in a Biblical Character or Church Father costume that has been approved by their teacher or Mr. Swigart.
- Thursday, January 29th, they can wear their Sunday Best (Jacket, or collared shirts and slacks for the boys, and modest dresses, or long skirts, or slacks with tops for the girls), or Chapel Dress. No flannel please.

♦ **2026-27 Enrollment Dates: for ZLS:**

- Next year Zion Lutheran School will be **Kindergarten - 11th grade** and will offer a **3 day Bridge Program** that includes Science. Enrollment for return families will start on Monday, March 2nd, and end on Thursday, April 16th. Return families that enroll after April 16th, will be assessed a \$50.00 late enrollment fee. 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 Literacy Program Date Change: The Literacy Program for this year will start on Thursday, February 19th, with a kickoff night, and go until the 3rd Quarter on the Thursday, March 25th, 2026. This will give students 5 weeks for the literacy program, and it will overlap with the Spring Break in March to allow more time for students to read.

♦ **Updated (January 2026) Hot Lunch Program Menu**

- The January 2026 Hot Lunch Program menu has changed, due to another unforeseen Kitchen / HLP staff family member surgery. The 2 days affected are January 20th, and 27th. Mac & Cheese will now be on the 20th, and Spaghetti on the 27th, with the Virtue Luncheon on the 27th. Please keep our kitchen staff in prayer!
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Heather Ratcliff in the Kitchen or Front Office in the early morning, or email her at zlshotlunchhr@gmail.com.

ZLS Prayer Requests:

- Kris Bockenstette's surgery recovery; Katie Hudnall's Mother; The Brandt Family for the loss of Sam's Maternal Grandfather; Ms. Butterfield's heart procedure on 1-16; The Hanson Family.

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 today on January 15 and can be submitted at: <https://myschoolchoice.idaho.gov/>
- If you plan to apply, the Idaho Tax Commission recommends to sett up your TAP account at: 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 today. The front office has the 2025 FACTS Summary of payments. If you haven't received yours, please stop by the office and pick it up on Tuesday, January 20th.

EVENTUS - SCHOOL EVENTS

- ♦ **ZLS Christmas Program:** Thank you to all who came out to support our 2025 Christmas Program. The students did fantastic in their presentations, and we are so thankful for the support from Mr. Allwardt on trumpet, and for our new Music Teacher this year, Mr. Aidan Menuge.



GRATULATIONE - CONGRATULATIONS

- ♦ **ZLS December Virtue “Prudence” Award:** Congratulations to Desmond Richardson and Emma Tomayer representing PK - 2nd grades, and to Ava Tomayer representing, 3rd - 9th grades, for receiving the December “Prudence” award.





School Year 2025-2026

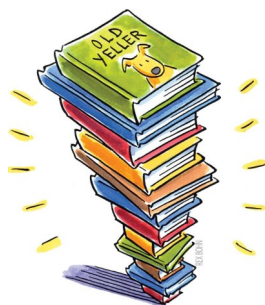


Zion Lutheran School

Book Fair

by

Classical Education Books



Please use the ZLS code (zionlutheran2026) during online ordering.

Book Fair Dates and Hours:

Monday - Friday January 26th - 30th 2026

7:30-8:00 AM and 2:30-3:15 PM

Zion Lutheran School – 1012 12th Ave Road – Nampa, ID – 83646 – 208.466.9141 – zlsoffice1@gmail.com



Zion Lutheran School



Parent Appreciation Breakfast

Thursday, January 29th, 2026

07:30 - 8:15 am



**Come join us for fellowship and a
free breakfast to say thank-you from
the Zion Teachers & Staff!**

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.

