

Zion Lutheran School Newsletter

December 5th , 2025

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Parents and Families,

In the October edition of our ZLS newsletter, I began a series titled *In the Home*, in which I reflected on the great gift of the home and family life. I discussed the wonderful estate of marriage and God's gift of children and how the home - not career, entertainment, or other worldly priorities - is central to life.

In the next three parts of this series, I will discuss the different God-given roles of the family that help our homes flourish. In the Bible, the apostles lay out an explanation of each family member's roles in several places. The apostles describe the role of wives, husbands, fathers, mothers, children, slaves, and masters. These are the 7 basic roles in the family. Every other role (brother, aunt, grandma, etc) grows out of one of these basic roles. Because marriage is the foundation of the home, this article will focus on the roles of husband and wife. When a marriage is grounded in obedience to these roles, the home will more easily function according to God's design.

An early Christian pastor, St. John Chrysostom, preached beautiful and edifying sermons on marriage and family on Ephesians 5 and 6 (Homilies 20 and 21). They are packed with wisdom and clarity about our roles in marriage and have helped me consider the roles of husband and wife in my own life and in preparing this article.

In Ephesians 5, Colossians 3, and 1 Peter 3 the apostles explain the roles of husbands and wives. I would encourage you to read these passages and you will see the basic roles described: "Wives, submit to your husbands" and "Husbands, love your wives."

Wives are called to submit to their husbands. This means the wife is called to respect her husband's authority and subordinate her will to his. This is not a popular teaching today. Because of widespread feminism, the biblical duty of submission is mocked and slandered, but the wisdom of the world is foolish compared to the goodness of God's Word. Submission is a gift from God, a blessing that benefits a wife's husband and herself. Scripture teaches that the husband's whole orientation should be for his wife's good; therefore, when she willingly submits to him, she strengthens and encourages his God-given role to serve and bless her. This is God's beautiful and perfect design.

Of course no husband loves perfectly at all times. Yet even in his failures, a wife's faithful submission encourages him toward repentance and renewed love. Competing for his position as head only creates conflict and disorder. Subordination will not always be easy (especially in a world that urges women to complete independence), but God will bless and strengthen all wives who submit to their husbands, and He will give them joy as they beautifully reflect our Lord's own bride, the Church.

The husband is called to love his wife. Today, this role is usually carried out in weakness and a misunderstanding of love as if love is about being nice or obeying one's wife. However, biblical love is revealed in Christ. A husband's love must be strong, sacrificial, and oriented toward what truly benefits his wife. He must discern what she truly needs, even in ways she herself may not fully realize. His love must provide, protect, and work for her long-term good. He must recognize her differences, be gentle with her, and care for her tenderly. This is a tall and noble calling. And just as Christ worked and suffered quietly for his wife, the Church, so husbands are called to labor and sacrifice for their wives. As Christ loved his church and suffered for her and always keeps her eternal happiness before him, so the good husband loves his wife, sacrifices for her, and always holds before him her temporary and eternal well-being.

Chrysostom beautifully encourages husbands in his homily on Ephesians 5:

You have seen the measure of obedience, hear also the measure of love. Would you have your wife obedient unto you, as the Church is to Christ? Take then yourself the same provident care for her, as Christ takes for the Church. Yea, even if it shall be needful for you to give your life for her, yea, and to be cut into pieces ten thousand times, yea, and to endure and undergo any suffering whatever — refuse it not. Though you should undergo all this, yet will you not, no, not even then, have done anything like Christ. For thou indeed art doing it for one to whom you are already knit; but He for one who turned her back on Him and hated Him. In the same way then as He laid at His feet her who turned her back on Him, who hated, and spurned, and disdained Him, not by menaces, nor by violence, nor by terror, nor by anything else of the kind, but by his unwearied affection; so also do thou behave yourself toward your wife. Yea, though thou see her looking down upon you, and disdain, and scorning you, yet by your great thoughtfulness for her, by affection, by kindness, you will be able to lay her at your feet. For there is nothing more powerful to sway than these bonds, and especially for husband and wife...

What refreshing and comforting wisdom the Holy Spirit gives in the Scriptures. May the Lord bless you in your own families and marriages as you live out these roles in service to our Lord Jesus Christ, the God of all comfort and life. Thanks be to God for giving us different roles through which we bless our spouses and glorify the name of our Lord. Amen.

In Christ,
Headmaster Swigart

ZLS Prayer Requests:

- Tomayer Family, Heather Ratcliff's Mom, Mike Hudnall's Surgery on 12-09

CERTE DE FASTIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Nov	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 PTF Meeting 3:15 pm	12 PTF Movie Night 6 - 8 pm	13
14	15	16	17 Bridge Families Christmas Program Rehearsal 1 - 3 pm <u>Pick up at ZLC</u>	18 ZLS Christmas Program 6:30 pm <u>at Zion Church</u>	19	20
21	22 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	23 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	24 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	25 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	26 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	27
28	29 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	30 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	31 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	JAN 1 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	JAN 2 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	JAN 3

11th	PTF Meeting	3:15 pm
12th	PTF Movie Night	6:00 -8:00 pm
17th	Bridge Families Christmas Program Rehearsal	1:00 - 3:00 pm
	Pick up Students at Zion Lutheran Church - 404 Nectarine Nampa, 83686	
18th	ZLS Christmas Program at ZLC	6:30 pm
22nd Dec to Jan 2nd	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break	
5th of January	Students Return to School	

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 / 30	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

26th -30th

National Lutheran Schools Week & School Choice Week

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

♦ 2026-27 Enrollment for ZLS:

- Next year Zion Lutheran School will be **Kindergarten - 11th grade**: Our school board has recently approved adding both 10th and 11th grade next year as we continue moving toward a full K–12 grade for ZLS.
- Next year Zion Lutheran School will offer a **3 day Bridge Program** that includes Science. There will be more information provided at the beginning of January 2026, as we prepare for next year's enrollment in February. If you have any immediate questions, feedback or concerns, please contact Mr. Swigart before or after school, or via email at zlsheadmaster@gmail.com.

♦ ZLS Updated Tardy Policy: (Approved 11/19/2025) Begins January 5th, 2026

- Students must be in their classroom by 7:55 a.m. Arrival in the classroom at 7:55 or later is considered tardy. Students arriving after 8:15 a.m. receive an unexcused absence. A tardy will also be issued when a student arrives at school without required daily materials. Parents should notify the office by 7:50 a.m. if their child will be tardy. Excused tardies include emergencies, pre-arranged medical appointments, and inclement weather with a parent note or call. All other tardies without headmaster approval are unexcused. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. Tardies reset after each quarter.
- Consequences are as follows.
 - 1+ tardies: an email is sent home from the front office including the tardy policy.
 - 5–6 tardies: a \$10 charge is applied to the family's FACTS account.
 - 7–8 tardies: a \$25 charge is applied to the FACTS account.
 - 9 or more tardies: a \$50 charge is applied, and enrollment is reviewed by the headmaster and school board.
- Further details appear in Appendix A. Tardies, absences, and consequences for them may be adjusted at the headmaster's discretion. These expectations support an orderly and prepared start to each school day.

♦ ZLS updated Delinquency Policy (Approved 11/19/2025):

A letter will be emailed and physically sent notifying the family of the delinquency and the following procedures. Upon each new delinquency, the process would begin again. Delinquencies include Tuition, Incidentals or Hot Lunch Program Delinquencies.

1. Upon Delinquency Reported in FACTS: No usage of After School Care.
2. Upon 5 days delinquent: FACTS late fee is applied of \$25.
3. Upon 15 days delinquent: FACTS late fee of \$100 is applied.
4. Upon 30 days delinquent: The students are suspended from ZLS and may attend school upon payment of delinquency.

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

♦ 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/>
- 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.

♦ Updated (December 2025) Hot Lunch Program Menu

- The December 2025 Hot Lunch Program menu has changed, due to an unforeseen Kitchen /HLP staff family member surgery. The 4 days affected are December 10th, 15th, 16th, and 17th. An updated menu will be sent out with the December 5th, newsletter, and it will be posted on the ZLS website.
- 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.

Zion Lutheran School (Updated December 2025) Hot Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Mac & Cheese Vegetables Fruit	2 Pancakes Sausages Vegetables Fruit	3 Nachos Vegetables Fruit Milk	4 Heather's Ramen Vegetables Fruit Milk	5 Chicken Nuggets French Fries Vegetables Fruit Milk
8 Pigs N Blanket Chips Vegetables Fruit Sherbet Jacob Tomayer's Choice	9 Hamburgers Vegetables Fruit	10 Teriyaki Chicken Rice Vegetables Fruit Milk	11 Tacos Vegetables Fruit	12 Chicken Sandwich French Fries Vegetables Fruit Ice Cream Eli Agenbroad's Choice
15 Pizza Vegetables Fruit Milk	16 Mac & Cheese Vegetables Fruit Milk	17 Spaghetti French Bread Green Beans Fruit November Virtue "Charity" for Dec Luncheon	18 Pancakes Sausages Vegetables Fruit	19 Hotdogs French Fries Vegetables Fruit
22 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	23 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	24 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	25 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	26 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break
29 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	30 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	31 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break		

EVENTUS - SCHOOL EVENTS

- ♦ **ZLS Veterans Day Program:** Thank you to all who came out to support our 2025 Veterans Day Program and Veterans. The students did fantastic in their presentations, and we are so thankful for the support from Mr. Allwardt on trumpet, and the VFW District V Honor Guard.



- ♦ **ZLS Thanksgiving Feast:** Thank you to all who came out to support our school Thanksgiving Feast this year. It was a great time of fellowship and the food was delicious. Thank you to the Kitchen /HLP Staff for the setup, preparation, and serving of the food. Thank you to our Parents & Families and Staff for the food. See you next year!

EVENTUS - SCHOOL EVENTS

- ♦ **Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) Movie Night - Friday, December 12th, at 6- 8 pm:**
 - Christmas Movie: Polar Express - Join us for family movie night, a fun and cozy evening for all ages!
 - We'll be serving Pizza, Popcorn, and Snacks, so you can relax and enjoy the show.
 - Families are encouraged to bring their own chairs, blankets, and favorite stuffies to make the night extra comfortable. It's a perfect chance to unwind, spend time together, and enjoy a great movie with Zion School Friends and Families.
 - **Please sign up at the front entrance of the school so the PTF can plan for food!**
- ♦ **ZLS Christmas Program - Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 pm:**
 - Christmas Program Final Rehearsal: Wednesday, December 17th, for all students, both 5 Day and Bridge Students.
 - **Students will be picked up at Zion Lutheran Church** at 404 Nectarine St. Nampa 83686. Any students not picked up by 3 pm, will be transported back to school by the teachers and signed into After School Care.
 - ZLS Christmas Program - Dress attire is Sunday best. If you have specific questions, please speak with Mr. Swigart or the front office.

GRATULATIONE - CONGRATULATIONS

- ♦ **ZLS November Virtue “Charity” Award:** Congratulations to both Anna Agenbroad representing PK - 2nd grades, and Arthur Lockwood representing, 3rd - 9th grades, for receiving the November “Charity” award.





FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

PRESENTED BY ZLS PTF

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

STARTS @ 6PM

**JOIN US FOR FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, A FUN AND COZY
EVENING FOR ALL AGES!**

**WE'LL BE SERVING PIZZA, POPCORN, AND SNACKS
SO YOU CAN RELAX AND ENJOY THE SHOW.**

**FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEIR OWN CHAIRS, BLANKETS,
AND FAVORITE STUFFIES TO MAKE THE NIGHT EXTRA COMFORTABLE.**

**IT'S THE PERFECT CHANCE TO UNWIND, SPEND TIME TOGETHER,
AND ENJOY A GREAT MOVIE WITH ZLS FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.**

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

2025 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 404 NECTARINE ST. NAMPÄ
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 @ 6:30 PM

MEET MR. AIDAN MENUGE

Zion Lutheran School's Music, Chorale Teacher 7th-9th History Teacher

• Aidan Menuge was born to Angus and Vicki Menuge in Wisconsin, the first of two sons. A lifelong Lutheran, he engaged with music in worship from a young age through piano, handbells, and eventually organ. Aidan met his wife, Katelyn, at church, and both attended UW-Milwaukee for their undergraduate and graduate degrees. Work brought them both to Idaho, and Mr. Menuge found opportunities to continue praising God through music as an organist and now a teacher at Zion Lutheran School.



EDUCATION

- George D. Warriner Charter High School
- UW-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts, BFA in Music Composition and Technology
- UW-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts, MM in Music Composition and Technology

EXPERIENCE

- Undergraduate Tutoring, UW-Milwaukee, Music Theory
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, UW-Milwaukee, Music Theory
- Private Lesson Teacher, Music Composition and Theory
- Organist, Christ Lutheran Meridian, and Good Shepherd Boise

FAMILY AND OUTSIDE INTERESTS

- I was born and raised by my parents, Angus and Vicki, alongside my brother, Corin.
- I married my wife, Katelyn, in 2014, and together we enjoy walking and traveling with our two dogs, Evie and Enzo.
- Outside of work, I enjoy music, video games, and a good book, and I dabble with moderate success in gardening.

WHY I TEACH or AT ZION LUTHERAN

- I have always loved music, and I think it's important to bring that love to children.
- In that same vein, I want to impart knowledge of good music and how it is constructed to those who will live on after me.
- Before high school, my mother educated me and my brother in a classical style, and I believe it is one of the best modern and historical methodologies for teaching.

CLASSROOM MISSION STATEMENT

• From my great-grandfather (but also Oscar Wilde and the Greek philosophers), “everything in moderation, including moderation,” or more succinctly, “temperance.” Learning should be fun, but it should not only be fun. Learning should be challenging, but it should not overwhelm the students.

Menuge Family



**Menuge Family
Dogs Evie & Enzo**

