



Zion Lutheran School Newsletter

March 4th , 2026

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ZLS Families,

Over the next three months, the homeroom teachers will each write a newsletter article on one aspect of classical education.

The second article in this series is by Mrs. Jenifer Rippy, the Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher.

Enjoy!

Headmaster

Mr. Joshua Swigart

ZLS Prayer Requests and Praise of Thanks:

- * For our staff, students and families still healing from illnesses. Continued healing for Mrs. Bockenstette's recovery from shoulder surgery, Chase Fagenstrom while he heals from his time in the hospital, Ellie's maternal Grandmother Roxanne, (Katie Hudnall's) Mom; Ellie's Dad (Mike Hudnall's) Back, Mrs. Ratcliff's Mom, Pastor & Mrs. Rippy's Parents and their cousin Jessica, Mrs. Alverson's Aunt Millie and her cousin Sue.
- * Praise God for the Hudnall Family who is expecting their fourth child, and a request for prayers for a healthy pregnancy.

An article from our Kindergarten & 1st grade homeroom teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Rippy:

Why Teach Penmanship

In this world, in the modern era, people want fast, easy, simple. Many schools have dropped handwriting practices in favor of typing on computers. It is faster and takes less skill to type, but at what cost? In our pursuit at Zion Lutheran School to teach what is true, good, and beautiful, we continue to teach penmanship boldly. We teach that there is a proper way to hold a pencil, a proper way to form the letters, and a proper way to space and size our letters. All for the sake of creating beautiful writing and pursuing truth. We believe that there is a correct way to write, which leads to the best outcomes and beauty.

In this pursuit, there are subtle things that develop for a child. Gross motor skills in the hands at first, and with practice, the honing of fine motor skills. As the skill grows, so does the ability to make fine, intricate strokes and beautiful lettering with greater and greater precision. As with most skills, this takes a lot of practice, so we practice and practice.

In the early years, we are laying the foundation for the training to come. If we lay the foundation poorly, the rest of the building will be on shaky ground. Handwriting is a fundamental skill that helps train our children to know that God is a God of order. When we follow order in any skill, beauty, goodness, and truth are found.

There is a strong connection between physical writing and our brain development. Writing helps us to process, memorize, and understand what we are learning. There are also connections between writing/drawing skills and happiness, hope, and confidence. Studies have shown that there is a positive impact on emotions and mood through the act of writing and creating art.

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 (3:15 - 4:30)	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, T, W & TH	3:15 - 4:30 pm

CERTE DE FASTIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 March Palm Sunday	30 March 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 4:30)	31 March 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (4:15 - 4:45)	1 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 4:30)	2 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences (3:15 - 4:30)	3 NO SCHOOL Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday	6 NO SCHOOL Easter Monday	7	8	9	10 PTF Mtg 3:15 Prep for Spring Carnival	11 PTF Spring Carnival 11 am to 1pm
12	13	14	15 2026-27 Return Family Enrollment Last Day	16 Jog-a-thon Teacher Fundraiser 1:15 to 2:45 pm PK - 9th grade	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Nampa Christian Track Meet 9 am - 2 pm 3rd - 6th grades	25
26	27	28	29 4th Quarter Mid term	30	1 May	2 May

30th Mar - 2 Apr	Parent Teacher Conferences - M, T, W& TH	3:15 - 4:30 pm
2nd, 16th, & 30th	ZLS Chess Club	07:00 - 07:45 am
3rd	NO SCHOOL - Good Friday	
6th	NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday	
10th	PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship) Meeting	3:15 - 4:00 pm
10th	Prep for Spring Carnival	12:00 - 3:00 pm
11th	ZLS PTF Spring Carnival	11 am - 1 pm
16th	Jog-A-Thon Teacher Fundraiser	1:15 - 2:45 pm
24th	Nampa Christian Track Meet (3rd-6th grades)	09:00 am - 2:00 pm

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

♦ 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.

♦ Family Service Hours Policy - School Board approved on 2-23-26, and handed out in return family additional information packets on 2-26-2026.

In an effort to help community events and improve the cleanliness and beauty of our campus, Zion Lutheran School families are asked to complete 15 service hours each year. Families receiving financial assistance from ZLS are asked to complete 30 hours. The consequence for uncompleted hours is a \$10-per-hour fee that will be charged in FACTS. All service hours must be completed and recorded by May 31st of each school year. Families will be eligible to apply for financial assistance for the following school year when service hours are complete.

Service hours may be completed by planning, setting up, and cleaning up for school events. Other volunteer needs include cleaning, maintenance, painting, classroom reading, lunch/recess aide, and field trip driver/chaperone. If volunteers will be working with students, they will be asked to submit a background check.

Parents will sign the enrollment application, agreeing to the service hours, and will record service hours in the *Family Service Hours Log* located in the ZLS entryway. Hours not recorded may not be counted toward service hours. Students 3rd grade and up may contribute to family service hours.

2025/26 School Year

2025/26 families have been asked to complete family service hours. All uncompleted hours will be added to the required hours in 2026/27, and the fee for uncompleted hours from both years will be charged at the end of the 2026-27 school year.

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

♦ **2025-26 PTF Spring Carnival: Saturday, April 11th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**



- * Zion Lutheran School's PTF will be hosting the annual school carnival, for all ZLS families and other church families.
 - * Join us for lots of indoor and outdoor games, activities, prizes, food and a whole lot of fun!
 - * **This is a great opportunity for Family Service Hours by assisting with setup on April 10th in the afternoon, and on Saturday volunteers are needed to man the games.**
 - * Volunteer sign up sheets, will be posted after spring break at each classroom and the attendance sign up sheet for head count will be outside the front office.
 - * Set up for the Carnival is on Friday April 10th, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- ♦ **2025-26 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences:**
- Monday - Thursday (30 March - April 2nd) 5 Sessions per day at 15 minute intervals.
The Homeroom Teachers will be handing out the letters and signup sheets next week.
- ♦ **Zion CCLE Practicum: Friday & Saturday June 26th, and 27th**
- * Zion Lutheran School will be hosting a CCLE Practicum conference on June 26-27, 2026, at Zion Lutheran Church and School. The conference theme is "Fathers and Mothers: God's Chosen Educators." This Conference will look at the theology and practice of education with a special focus on the parental duties of education. Come hear presentations on the roles of parents and schools in education, the complementary roles of fathers and mothers, parent-led worship and devotions in the home, educating in accordance with God's design, and the importance of choosing good friends for children. For more information, visit <https://www.ccle.org/practicum>

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.

◆ Return Family 2026-27 Enrollment is Open:

- Starting February 2nd, Return Family Enrollment Packets were handed out to all Families.
- Starting February 26th, Return Family Additional Information Packets were handed out that included the 2026-27 Enrollment Application, Family Service Hours and Uniform Policies, Classroom Supply Lists, Bridge Program information, and a Headmaster Letter introducing the 2026-27 Teachers and Staff .
- The Deadline for Return Family enrollment is April 16th, 2026.
- To complete the 2026-27 Enrollment, the following items need to be turned in preferably at the same time: Enrollment Check made out to Zion Lutheran School with 26-27 Enrollment Fee in the memo line, Christian Culture Form, Enrollment Application, Updated Immunization Record, or a current Immunization Exemption Form for each child.

◆ Daylight Saving Time: March 8th, clocks are forwarded 1 hour

- ◆ March Hot Lunch Menu: March 31st, was left off the menu distributed to the families last week. The menu will be Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Vegetables, Fruit, and Milk

**Zion Lutheran School - Student Dress Attire:
Student Uniform is White (Shirts & Tops), and Black (Pants, Skirts or Jumpers)**

CLASS PHOTO DAY



THUR. MARCH 5TH

**QR CODES ARE SENT HOME WITH STUDENTS
AFTER GETTING THEIR PHOTO TAKEN.**

**PHOTOS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ABOUT A
WEEK AFTER PHOTO DAY.**



More info :
taleshatimelessphoto@gmail.com
208-343-4502

NUNTIUS - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ **2025-26 Zion Lutheran School 12th Ave Security Wall update:** Progress is being made on the ZLS 12th Ave Security Brick Wall. Now that the weather is starting to warm up, the security wall is going up.



EVENTUS - SCHOOL EVENTS

- ◆ **ZLS Literacy Program Kick off Night:** Thank you to all who came out to support our 2026 Literacy Program Kickoff evening festivities. The students and parents enjoyed an evening of fun activities led by Mrs. Allwardt and Mrs. Rippy. The Literacy Program is for grades PK through 6th grade. It runs 5 weeks from 2-19 through 3-26. Each Thursday, students bring in their weekly reading logs signed by their parents, so they can receive weekly prizes for each of the 5 levels achieved. A pizza party will be held on April 2nd for all those students who achieved level 5 by the end of the program on March 26th. Good luck students!



EVENTUS - SCHOOL EVENTS

♦ 2006 ZLS Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) Valentine's Day Ball & Banquet:

Thank you to all who came out to support our 2026 PTF Valentine's Day Ball & Banquet. The Zion Lutheran School families enjoyed a great evening of food, fun, and festivities, led by our PTF Treasurer and PTF Secretary (Jay and Megan Irby). Mrs. Irby is also the PE Teacher and brings some creative routines that the students shared along with the traditional limbo contest. Thank you to all our PTF Officers, the families that brought food, helped set up and break down the decorations, to help the Irby family put on this great annual Valentine's Day weekend event.





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)



Parent Teacher Fellowship

Maple Bars with Moms

Thursday, March 12th, 2026

@ 7:30 - 8:10 am



Moms, join us for Chapel immediately following the Fellowship!