

# Zoe Means Life Scholarship



A scholarship in honor of  
**Zoe Elisabeth Batiansila**  
benefiting students enrolling in N.E.W.  
Lutheran High School for the first time.



## About Zoe and her scholarship program....

Zoe Elizabeth Batiansila was born on March 22, 2008. The doctors had warned us that her heart would have some issues that they were certain they could fix. They also warned that she might have genetic issues, but Zoe had 7 older brothers and sisters. We didn't consider it.



When Zoe was born, she wasn't breathing. Doctors revived her and rushed her to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. When she was three days old, we were called into the NICU and told that Zoe had a third 18th chromosome in every cell in her body. We were told that 90% of the children who have Trisomy 18 don't live six months. Those who do, we were told, "Don't do well."

A few weeks later, we took Zoe home. The doctors told us to take her home and love her but there was nothing anyone could do. So Zoe's brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles assembled and prayed and held her and cried.

But Zoe didn't die. She lived and she ate and although she didn't grow at the same rate as a kid with just two 18th chromosomes, she started responding to her environment, and her mom and dad and brothers and sisters. We took Zoe in around her 100th day of life and asked them if maybe they should give her shots, like every other kid. We asked about heart surgery, since they assured us her heart was strong.

Doctors were split on what to do. Many didn't want to treat her or perform surgery on her, since she was going to die anyway. We found doctors who were willing to treat her like every other kid. We even found a surgeon who was willing to perform surgery on her heart. Jen, my wife spent six weeks in the hospital with her after surgery, washing herself in the sink and sleeping in the recliner next to Zoe. On Christmas of 2008, they came home.

I told her story on a blog and lots of people all around the world read it. Zoe received attention and love from just about everyone. She was growing - slowly - and now knew which siblings she liked and didn't. She liked Strawberry flavored Ensure and giggled in her own way when we played with her. She was still on a newborn schedule so Jen and I would split the night - I'd stay up until 3:30 a.m. with her and Jen would take from then on.

Zoe was receiving attention from all sorts of people - from Major League Baseball pitchers to recording artists to a birthday card from Sarah Palin. The community reached out with love and support. It was incredible.

At Zoe's second Christmas, we started to plan out her second birthday party. Life was back to normal - whatever normal was now. On January 27th, God called her home. Her little body had fought valiantly and her spirit had convinced us that she would live on. But God had different plans.

This scholarship is named after a little girl who changed the lives of countless people. The blog I wrote about our life was read in 23 countries by over 10,000 people a month. God used her to draw people to Himself. He touched those who never knew Jesus. She, right now as I write this, challenges us to look at our lives and consider how God can use who He chooses for His glory.

~Greg Batiansila, Zoe's Dad and NEWLHS Alumni

The scholarship was established by an alumnus of N.E.W. Lutheran High School to provide financial assistance to students enrolling at NEWLHS for the first time. The wish of the donor is to encourage students to attend NEWLHS so they may reap the benefits of a Christian education. Up to \$5,000 will be awarded each school year. Scholarships vary from \$250 - \$1,000.

In return, the recipients (or family members) of the scholarships will be asked to provide a total of 10 hours of service to NEWLHS during the school year. This service is in addition to the Participation Service hours required of all families.

Considerations for the awards:

1. Financial need
2. Students response to the questionnaire (applicants will remain anonymous to the selection committee)
3. Forms of reference
  - a. One (1) from a previous teacher
  - b. One (1) from another adult non-relative

Please submit the application to NEWLHS by emailing it to Mr. McClellan at [mcclellanj@newlhs.com](mailto:mcclellanj@newlhs.com) with the subject line "Zoe Scholarship."

**Deadline Date: June 1st**

***ALL INFORMATION WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL***

Name of student applying: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last name, first name

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents are: ( ) Married ( ) Divorced ( ) Separated ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

(If your parents are divorced, who is the custodial parent? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of siblings and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Occupation & Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Yearly Income: \_\_\_ Under \$20,000 \_\_\_ \$20,000 – 34,999 \_\_\_ over \$35,000

Mother's Occupation & Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Yearly Income: \_\_\_ Under \$20,000 \_\_\_ \$20,000 – 34,999 \_\_\_ over \$35,000

Student contribution to school expenses during current school year: \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

Please answer the following questions, using the backside for additional space.

1. Describe how you might benefit from an education at Northeastern Wisconsin Lutheran High School.

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2. Describe any special financial circumstances that might contribute to your financial need.

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3. List the church and community activities in which you participate. What have you learned from these experiences?

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4. What unique talents and abilities do you use in your current school? How will you use them at NEWLHS?

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5. Why do you want to attend NEWLHS?

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**“Zoe Means Life” Scholarship  
for Northeastern Wisconsin Lutheran High School**

**Evaluation Form**

Applicant’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

**Rate Applicant on:**

	No Basis	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent
Motivation to succeed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Disciplined work habits	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maturity of judgement	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Potential for growth	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Character	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator’s signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Character	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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