“Love has come!” Our Savior embodied the love of the Father and placed us in a loving family, “God’s New Community,” the church.

“As love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons.”
(Ephesians 1:4)

Moments for Meditation

Use this time to prepare your hearts for worship

Call to Worship and Songs of Christmas

We worship Christ, the Love of God Incarnate
(hymns 259, 277, 278, marked stanzas only)

Opportunities and Prayers for God’s People

Announcements

Prayer

We support God’s work through tithes and offerings

If you’re a guest this morning, please know that we don’t ask money of you — the offering is for our regular attenders and members.

We Hear God’s Word

Ephesians 3

Song of Preparation

“May You Know His Unknowable Love”

Song of Response

Benediction and Postlude

“I pray that you might grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”
(Ephesians 3:16-18)

May God strengthen you
so Christ may dwell in you
so you know his love
so God will fill you with himself.
Passion Play Cast List is Up Check the list at the church office or www.zionpassionplay.org. A few roles remain unfilled; the director and his team will finish this process soon. For those interested in crowd scenes or behind the scenes on committees email PassionPlay@ccczion.org.

Full Cast & Committees Kick-Off Luncheon: January 11, after worship in the gym. Those with scripts will stay for a read through - we'll finish around 4:00. Rehearsals begin January 16.

Thank You to those who have responded to the Fall Appeal! Your generosity is helping us take care of today's needs, as well as bringing us closer to making the Gathering Place dining and meeting facility become a reality. We welcome your generous year-end gift and your prayers.

Young Adult Winter Chili at Camp Zion, January 9-11 for post high school through twenty-somethings! Sign up online at www.campion.com

Camp Zion Summer Camp sign-up begins January 1! Dates are posted at www.campion.com and registration materials will be active on January 1.

The Verge Young Adult Ministry (16-29 years) TONIGHT we’ll get together at 6:00pm for a Christmas Dinner. We’ll enjoy a meal, treats, games and Christmas cards. Go to The Verge Facebook page and join the Christmas Party event if you plan to attend. Bring a sweet to share.

Heartfelt Thanks to everyone who helped (61 and counting) with the Christmas Program, luncheon and Gingerbread House Party. I’m thankful for our church family and the many who love to serve and show God’s love. Thanks for being great examples to our children and an encouragement to me. In Christ, Terri Allen

Children’s Church We'll resume next Sunday, excusing ages four and five for age-appropriate instruction during the sermon.

Annual White Elephant Christmas Parties will take place during regular youth group hours. Please bring a gift to exchange:

| Sr. High – Tonight at the Green’s (440 Ravine Dr. in WH) | Jr. High – Tomorrow at the Paxton’s (1801 Kedron Blvd. in Zion) |

The Hunts are On! Our annual missing person hunts are around the corner. Sr. High hunt at Woodfield Mall on Saturday, January 3 (noon–5) and a Jr. High hunt at Hawthorn Mall on Saturday, January 10 (noon–4). Times listed are from departure from CCC until return to CCC. Join us for the chance to win gift cards and enjoy a fun tradition.

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**CCC News & Notes**

Sermon Crumbs Verse 14 of Ephesians 3, the opening line of today’s sermon text, can be translated at least three different ways. Sometimes English Bibles supply what they think is the most likely option, with alternatives in footnotes. “I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth derives its name,” or “from whom all fatherhood in heaven and earth derives its name.” In other words, human fatherhood is a mirror of God’s Fatherhood, and we know what human family is supposed to be from God’s model family. Or, as in the 1984 NIV, which we have in our pews, “…from whom his whole family in heaven and earth derives its name.” In other words, we Christians bear the family name: children of God. In light of all Paul has been saying about the union of Jews and Gentiles in the one people of God, this seems most likely. There’s word play in the original Greek: pater (family) is closely related to pater (father).

Sacrificial Offering for World Missions Next Sunday we receive the last of three annual offerings to fund the work of our mission partners. Will you come prepared to give as generously as possible, that the ministry of these servants of God need not suffer for lack of funds?

Next Week our study of Ephesians brings us to our 2014 “Watchword,” which will also serve as our 2015 Watchword, Ephesians 3:20-21.

Watch Night Service Change of Time Our New Year’s Eve Communion observance will be from 11:30 to midnight this year.

Next Baptism at CCC will be Sunday morning, January 4. Please let the church office know if you want to be included, or would like more information.

Socks for the Soul sock drive is collecting socks to be distributed to local Food Pantries. You can help by donating packages of new socks for men, women, children and infants, preferably crew socks designed for warmth. Donations may be left in the containers at the children’s wing and flag pole entrance.

Adults in Disguise We are looking for adults who would be willing to come to Woodfield Mall in disguise (no face paint) on Saturday, January 3 (1–3pm) to serve as “missing persons” who our high school students will be searching for. If you can help out, please contact Leo at lbarnes@ccczion.org.

NYE14 Join us on New Year’s Eve for a time of fun and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the ComedySportz event in the CAA (9:10.30pm) before sharing in the midnight communion service beginning at 11:30pm. We’re counting on you to help by providing a treat or two!

Cards and Crafts Circle 1st Saturday of the month, 9–noon in the Ushers Room. If you can cut, glue, fold, color or talk, we have the projects for you. January we’re making: Cards and small crafts made for children’s programs, homebound, seniors, veterans, Mother/Father’s Day, etc. Supplies provided.

The Memorial Flowers last week were given in memory of Kehala “Kay” Cliff, by her family.

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**Zion Passion Play**

Rehearsals begin January 16. Those with scripts will stay for a read through – we’ll finish around 4:00. Rehearsals begin January 16.

Zion Passion Play

Jan 16

11:30am-12 Noon

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A hilarious improv comedy show in which two teams create comedy scenes, songs & games right on the spot based on your suggestions. You choose the winner & the show is never the same twice! It's smart, all-ages friendly comedy! There are over 100+ games in the ComedySportz book & nobody knows what will be played next!