

## Why Join Congregation Emeth?

1. You will become part of an extended family. Most of us live far away from relatives and the place where we grew up. We have found an extended family in the warm and caring Congregation Emeth community.
2. You will join a diverse group, from a variety of backgrounds: traditional, liberal and secular Jewish upbringing. All traditions are welcome.
3. Many of us are part of interfaith families. Non-Jewish spouses or partners are respected, accepted and included.
4. You will demonstrate to your children the importance of being part of something larger than oneself. Through Congregation Emeth, become attached to Jewish history and tradition.
5. You will have the support, counsel and guidance of a rabbi who will assist you in challenging times and all life-cycle events.
6. You will have people nearby to celebrate with you in times of joy and comfort you in times of sorrow.
7. You will have opportunities to volunteer in service to both the synagogue and the greater community.
8. You will help your children learn Jewish values, history and tradition. For children who have no other Jews in their public school classroom, their relationships with Emeth children will forge a tight bond that will last throughout their school years and beyond.

9. You will receive complimentary High Holy Days tickets for you and your household; discounted facility rental fees; opportunities to enroll your children in our member-only religious and Hebrew school; and be eligible to receive Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction for you and your children.
10. And let's not forget food. Where else in the South Valley are you able to find kugel at a potluck supper or argue whether chocolate belongs in hamantaschen?

*Questions about membership?*

*Contact us at [membership@emeth.net](mailto:membership@emeth.net)*

*or go to [www.emeth.net](http://www.emeth.net).*



## Congregation Emeth's Mission

*Let Torah be a way of life, and welcome every person as a friend. Pirke Avot (The Ethics of the Fathers), 1:15*

Congregation Emeth is dedicated to nurturing the spiritual, intellectual and social needs of all individuals and families who seek a meaningful Jewish connection in Gilroy, Morgan Hill and the surrounding communities.

# Welcome Home



CONGREGATION  
**EMETH**

Your South Valley  
Jewish Community

*Information for  
new and prospective members*

17835 Monterey Street  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
408-778-8200  
[www.emeth.net](http://www.emeth.net)

## Who We Are

Congregation Emeth is a group of individuals and families that believe in the value of a strong Jewish identity. We celebrate the richness of our Jewish heritage, honor the work and commitment of those who came before us and are dedicated to building a strong, cohesive and connected Jewish community.

As Reform Jews, it is important to us that we demonstrate our religious beliefs. We offer a rich set of programs and services including religious school, adult education, Shabbat and holiday services and social activities. We encourage you to find your place within the congregation to apply your talents, your professional expertise, and most importantly, your passion for Judaism to support and advance the good work the congregation is doing.

Congregation Emeth welcomes people from diverse Jewish backgrounds and traditions. We embrace inter-faith families as well as non-Jews who are on the path to conversion. We welcome LGBTs.

Come learn with us! Come celebrate Shabbat and holidays and help us bring Torah alive! We are waiting to welcome you, to have you become part of our congregational family.



Come home to Congregation Emeth!

*B'racha Ha'ba-a*  
(blessed are those who come),

*Rabbi Debbie Israel*

## Shabbat Services

The congregation provides a warm and welcoming environment for sacred spiritual pursuits for people of all ages. Please join us for an Erev Shabbat family dinner before services twice a month (see details on the calendar at [www.emeth.net](http://www.emeth.net)).

**Shabbat Short 'n Sweet:** An informal short Erev Shabbat (Friday evening) service. Learn the meaning of the prayers and discuss the Torah portion of the week. Rabbi led, this service is appropriate for children of all ages as well as adults. These twice-a-month services, while open to and appropriate for all, are also part of Emeth's Jewish Studies curriculum for grade 3 through b'nai mitzvah. The service is followed by a sweet oneg and usually preceded by a community dinner with Shabbat rituals.

**Friday Night Live:** This Erev Shabbat (Friday evening) service highlights the music of Shabbat. This is a high energy, musical service appropriate for both children and adults. It is a full Shabbat service (without a Torah reading) with a sermon, followed by a sweet oneg (reception).

**TNT – Torah 'n T'filah:** This traditional service includes the weekly Torah reading and a sermon. It is a complete Shabbat service, usually held Saturday morning.

**Shabbat at Home:** Approximately one weekend a month, Congregation Emeth does not have community Shabbat services. Resources are available to facilitate a meaningful Shabbat dinner and Torah discussion in your home.

## Youth Education

*Congregation Emeth offers a full range of Jewish Studies, Hebrew Studies and youth programs, focused on building the Jewish identities of our children from birth to college.*

Congregation Emeth's Youth Education provides an innovative approach to Jewish learning. While teaching children Jewish values and how to live a Jewish life, we are also demonstrating it by offering a complete pedagogic package of learning and doing. "Short 'n Sweet Shabbat Services twice a month are part of the Jewish Studies curriculum. Twice-a-month community potlucks include Shabbat rituals.

Hebrew School classes for students from grade 3 through B'nai Mitzvah meet on Tuesday afternoons. Chai School (including religious education) is held on Friday afternoons, followed by twice-a-month community Erev Shabbat (Friday night) dinners, on those Fridays when Shabbat Short 'n Sweet services are scheduled. This is an important part of the educational process, and students in grades 3 and up are expected to attend. Families with younger children are also encouraged to attend dinners and are welcome at services.

Check out our website at [www.emeth.net](http://www.emeth.net) or contact [education@emeth.net](mailto:education@emeth.net) for more information.

### Beit Sefer - House of the Book:

- Grades K-7 Chai School (Jewish/Religious education)
- Grades 3-B'nai Mitzvah Hebrew School
- Grades 6-7 (B'nai Mitzvah Instruction) Religious School
- Grades 8-12 (post B'nai Mitzvah year):  
Emeth Dor Kef (Emeth's Fun Generation)