

## Interfaith Clergy Alliance of South County

The refugee crisis from the Syrian civil war and fearful reactions to this crisis in late 2015 were the impetus for Rabbi Israel bringing together local clerical leaders to join in speaking out against bigotry, and racial or religious intolerance. Since then, this group, representing 18 local faith organizations, has presented a unified front, speaking for our common humanity—most recently in response to the Pittsburgh synagogue shootings in the summer of 2018.



Rallying against hate, August 2017

## Awareness Building

Rabbi Israel engages with the Morgan Hill Unified School District as needed, sensitizing them to and working to resolve religious tolerance issues in our schools.

## Jewish Community Relations Council

We provide a representative on the Jewish Community Relations Council of Silicon Valley, a member of the national Jewish Council for Public Affairs. The JCRC initiates support for social justice projects, including affordable housing, campaigns against violence, candidate forums, and poverty related legislative issues. A current focus is immigration. **Contact Susan at [CRC@emeth.net](mailto:CRC@emeth.net)** to learn more.



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## Tikkun Olam at Congregation Emeth

Through faith  
we experience  
the meaning  
of the world;  
through action  
we give the world  
meaning.

- Rabbi Leo Baeck

Justice, Justice  
you shall pursue  
- Parashat Shoftim

## Tikkun Olam Committee: Repairing the World



Congregation Emeth is committed to speaking up and acting for social justice in our community. This committee steers many of the activities shown here (with support from the broader Emeth community)

in addition to assessing potential additional projects focussed on helping people in our community who are in need. (An example of a project under consideration is working with the ICSC to create a clothes closet for homeless patients at Saint Louise Hospital.) To learn more, please **contact Susan at [tikkunolam@emeth.net](mailto:tikkunolam@emeth.net)**.

## Interfaith Community of South County (ICSC)

Congregation Emeth led the launching of the Interfaith Community of South County (ICSC). This lay interfaith group (with membership from 18 South County religious institutions) is committed to creating compassionate

communities through social, service, and educational programs. They sponsor a series of educational programs, called "Faith of Our Neighbors," They also celebrate American holidays together, including the 4th of July Parade, Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Day, and Memorial Day.



## Ongoing Projects

### Serving Monthly at The Lord's Table

For many years, on the third Thursday of each month, Emeth members have volunteered to feed families in need at the Lord's Table, at St. Joseph's Family Center (located at St. Mary's Catholic Parish, 11 First Street, Gilroy). The group prepares a meal from supplies provided by St. Joseph's Food Pantry and Rabbi Israel's Discretionary Fund,



**Emeth's members serving at the Lord's Table**

We are always grateful for assistance. Children are welcome along with their parents. To volunteer, **contact Susie at [lordstable@emeth.net](mailto:lordstable@emeth.net)**.

### "Safe Park" - Feeding the Homeless

Safe Park is a project provided through coordinated services from the City of Morgan Hill, the Morgan Hill Police Department, Social Services staff, and local faith organizations. Families currently living in their cars are given a safe place to park overnight, while agencies work with them to find permanent housing. The local Interfaith Community (ICSC) provides dinners every Friday, and Emeth, as a member of ICSC, takes on two months of Friday dinners a year. To partner with another Emeth family to provide a Friday dinner (for about 18 people), please **contact Cathy at [safe\\_park@emeth.net](mailto:safe_park@emeth.net)**.

## Seasonal Projects

### High Holiday Food Drive

Emeth's teens ask members to bring in at bags of non-perishable food items and donations for *Mazon* (a Jewish response to hunger) between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. They subsequently distribute the bags to food pantries in Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

### Dreidel Board Gift Program

Before Chanukah, we participate in a Silicon Valley Jewish Family Services gift program, with Emeth's member encouraged to fulfill a gift request for a needy member of the Jewish community.

### Christmas at the Lord's Table

**Dinner:** Every Christmas for over 25 years, Congregation Emeth members have prepared a complete Christmas dinner at St. Joseph's in Gilroy for families in need, so Christian workers can spend the day with their families.



### Warm Clothing and Toy Drive:



We also collect toys, warm clothing, blankets, toiletries which we distribute after the meal. To learn more, **contact Curt at [xmasdinner@emeth.net](mailto:xmasdinner@emeth.net)**.

## Rachamim

Emeth members keep in touch with and regularly visit congregants in residential care, including providing baskets to shut-ins for the holidays. This program is coordinated through *Rachamim* (Caring), part of Sisterhood. **Contact Marsha at [rachamim@emeth.net](mailto:rachamim@emeth.net)**