

Community Dinners & Shabbat Short 'n Sweet

Approximately once a month, Congregation Emeth hosts an *Erev Shabbat* (Friday evening) community dinner with Shabbat rituals. Dinner is provided by the religious school.

Dinner is followed by Shabbat services, usually an informal *Erev Shabbat* service called "Shabbat Short 'n Sweet," (SNS) which is held as part of the school curriculum. Learn the meaning of the prayers and discuss the Torah portion of the week. Rabbi led, this service is open to everyone and is appropriate for children of all ages as well as adults.

Youth Education

Congregation Emeth provides a comprehensive set of educational offerings, with classes for students from kindergarten through *b'nai mitzvah*. We also have an extremely active high school youth group (*Emet Dor Kef*-- Emeth's Fun Generation). Learn more from our website, emeth.net.

Our primary goal is to foster Jewish identity development as well as the acquisition of knowledge. Knowledge of and comfort with Jewish traditions, values, and practices are an essential component of Jewish identity development. We believe that core Hebrew skills are also critical, not just for *b'nai mitzvah*, but for a strong and sustainable Jewish identity.



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Family Activities at Congregation Emeth



Congregation Emeth is a group of individuals and families that believe in the value of a strong Jewish identity. The fastest growing segment of our membership is families with young children. Over half of our families are interfaith.

Family-oriented holiday programs throughout the year introduce our children to and celebrate the richness of their Jewish heritage. Community events such as monthly *Erev Shabbat* (Friday evening) community dinners enhance their sense of Emeth as an extended family. Shabbat rituals at these community dinners followed by Shabbat services model rituals for the home and provide learning opportunities for both children and their parents.

Tot Shabbat



We provide special “Tot Shabbat” programming about four times a year. Tots, aged 2-4, are invited to join together for songs, dancing, Shabbat blessings, and themed crafts. Holidays we have designed Tot Shabbat around have included the High Holidays, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day), and Shavuot.

Tot Shabbats are scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on Fridays, usually prior to a community dinner and Short ‘n Sweet Shabbat service. Parents can bring their little ones here while older children are at religious school and then join them for the community dinner.

PJ Library Program in Silicon Valley

We encourage our young families to participate in the Jewish Federation’s PJ Library programs. Receive a free book each month for your child and nurture your child’s Jewish identity! Learn more at jvalley.org/pj-library.



Annual Family-Oriented Events

Rosh Hashanah Children's Programming

Children (typically in preschool through third grade) participate in a morning program that includes stories, songs, crafts, and a snack.



Yom Kippur Children's Programming

This is similar to the Rosh Hashanah morning program, with the children joining their parents later for the shofar blowing.

Sukkot: Dinner and Shabbat Service in the Sukkah

Emeth members, with enthusiastic participation from Religious School students and teens, decorate our sukkah (behind the synagogue) before Sukkot. Tables are set up for dining in the Sukkah. Rabbi Israel explains the festival and, with a cantorial soloist, leads members in celebration.

Simchat Torah Celebration



Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of Torah readings and the beginning of a new cycle. At Emeth, the Torah is taken out of the ark and completely unrolled. Congregants leave their seats to dance and sing with the Torah scroll, then the Torah is rerolled in preparation for the start of the new cycle.

Chanukah Potluck, Candle Lighting and Service

Families bring their own *Chanukiot* (Chanukah menorahs) and, after the potluck dinner, light them in a long, glittering row at the front of the sanctuary.



Purim Carnival & BBQ

Dress up with your kids and come enjoy the carnival games —run by our older Chai School students.

Community Passover Seder

Emeth's traditional community Seder, on the second night of Passover, is one of our most popular family events.



August: Shabbat in the Redwoods

This annual event in Mount Madonna Park includes a morning service, often with a guest speaker, followed by a picnic lunch. Some families come the night before and camp.