



September 1, 2021

Faith Joy Dantowitz
Rabbi

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L'shana Tova, wow what a year we have been through! I am looking forward to better times in 5782, as we become readjusted to a new normal way of interacting with each other and utilizing our technology along with our direct people to people skills. Having to close our building for most of the past year left us with new challenges, but we are working through all of them. I am very grateful for the vast majority of our members who have stuck with us as we continue our work on making a sacred community. Despite the pandemic and social distancing requirements, we have had a fairly successful year with a number of safe outdoor activities and a new appreciation for the *Zoom* technology. Our Tikkun Olam committee has been very active doing good for the Community at large, and our Adult and youth education programs have been well received, even in the on-line format that we have had to follow. We have faced some revenue issues, partially due to the loss of our Church tenants during the Covid year; but also as a result of several families that have moved out of the area. On the positive side, some of those families have elected to remain members and participate remotely, which was not really an option prior to our current health concerns.

During the past few months, we have been able to hire 2 part time staff which has resulted in our organization becoming more professional and has given us the opportunity to re-allocate our volunteer resources. *Sandi Diamond* is now the staff person in charge of building operations, which takes a huge burden off of our building committee. *Samuel Dantowitz* is now handling most of our technology needs which gives some significant relief to our volunteers who have been responsible for communications, website maintenance, and many clerical related tasks. We have been fortunate to have secured 2 government loans (now forgiven) that have enabled us to maintain a positive cash flow as some of our usual donors have had to reduce their contributions.

We have done some physical improvements on our building which include the upgrade of our air filtration system in the sanctuary, the re-organization of the library, re-decorating the side entry of the building, and repairing several smaller deferred maintenance issues. We also have added security cameras and hope to improve our security even more over the next year with funds from another government grant for which we have applied.

Typically, Congregants make our annual financial commitments to Emeth at this time of year. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to return your pledge now. Plan on making Emeth a regular recipient of your donations when you have a mitzvah to celebrate or you want to remember a loved one who has passed. For a minimum donation of \$360 you can have a permanent plaque with a loved one's name inscribed on the Memorial Board in our Sanctuary. It is also common to remember those who have passed with a Yiskor donation during High Holy Days.

As our Community continues to grow and prosper, I welcome your participation and generosity, we have always been a warm and welcoming Congregation and as we continue to open up to more activities, I am sure you will find your place with us. I am always open for new ideas and suggestions, feel free to contact me or any of your Board members with your concerns or thoughts for improvement. I anticipate the continued growth of Emeth and the full re-opening of our facilities over the next couple of months. I wish every one of you a sweet and prosperous year. Stay healthy and be strong!

B'Shalom,
Michael Oshan, President