



September 1, 2021

Faith Joy Dantowitz
Rabbi

L'Shana Tova 5782

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Dear Congregation Emeth,

Every year one may hear someone say, the High Holy Days are “early” or “late” even though Rosh Hashanah always falls on 1 Tishrei. Yet it is true that welcoming the Jewish New Year on Monday night of Labor Day weekend does feel early. But of course, more challenging than the timing is the reality that it is still not possible to safely gather the entire community in our Sanctuary again this year.

But we have learned to be resilient and that we can have a sacred experience whether in the Sanctuary, online or outdoors. As of now, we are planning to offer services online for all (zoom), with limited indoors in person (vaccinated and masked), and two outdoor opportunities where all are welcome: Rosh Hashanah Family Service and Tashlich. I'm thrilled that Cantor Alisa Fineman will join me in leading High Holy Day services this year.

Check the holiday service schedule for service times. Rosh Hashanah will include a Family Service on 9/6 at 5 pm (outside and/or online), Evening services at 7:30 pm and morning services 9/7 at 10 am. Yom Kippur services will be 9/15 at 7:30 pm and begin on 9/16 at 10 am. We may have an outdoor Tashlich service on Sunday, 9/12 @4 PM at Anderson County Park.

A prayer for the New Year: Beginning of the Journey:

May I begin this year fresh and open to the possibility of transformation. Though the future is uncertain, I release this past year with all its difficulties and joys. I open my heart to receive the blessings of the New Year. May I return to my true self and be strengthened as I continue my journey of tikkun halev – repairing the heart, tikkun hanefesh – repairing the soul and tikkun olam – repairing the world. [from JewBelong]

-Adapted from Mayyim Hayyim

Shana tov u'metukah-Wishing you a good and sweet new year.

Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz