

Congregation Emeth
Membership Application Packet
2021 - 2022



We are delighted that you are interested in joining Congregation Emeth!

Please complete and return the following four pages:

- P1 Household Information
- P2 Membership Contribution Pledge
- P3 Volunteer Interests & Commitment

Two supplemental pages are provided with additional information for you.

- 1) Guidelines for Membership Contributions
- 2) Shop Amazon Smile

NOTE: This application packet can also be found online on our website, where you can easily download it to your computer, complete it electronically, then save and print it.

For additional information:

- ✓ go to our website, www.emeth.net,
- ✓ contact our membership chair, Marilyn Freund, at membership@emeth.net,
- ✓ contact Rabbi Faith Joy Dantowitz at rabbi@emeth.net, or
- ✓ call our synagogue, 408-778-8200, and leave a message.

Congregation Emeth Membership Application P1

Adults

Name: _____ Occupation: _____ Cell Phone: (____) ____ - ____
 Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Full Hebrew Name: _____ (bar/bat) _____
Your Name Parent(s) Name(s)
 Male ☐ Female ☐ Jewish* ☐ Not Jewish* ☐ Email: _____

Name: _____ Occupation: _____ Cell Phone: (____) ____ - ____
 Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Full Hebrew Name: _____ (bar/bat) _____
Your Name Parent(s) Name(s)
 Male ☐ Female ☐ Jewish* ☐ Not Jewish* ☐ Email: _____

Household Information

Mailing Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Residence Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Home Phone: (____) ____ - ____

Children

Child's Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____ Male ☐ Female ☐ School Grade: ____
 Years of Religious School: _____ Years of Hebrew School: _____

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 Years of Religious School: _____ Years of Hebrew School: _____

Yahrzeit: _____ Relationship: _____ Date of Death: ____/____/____

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Yahrzeit: _____ Relationship: _____ Date of Death: ____/____/____

Previous Synagogue Affiliation: _____ Member Since _____

Please contact me with further information about the following:

- ☐ Religious Services ☐ Social Action ☐ Interfaith Families
☐ Families w/Young Children ☐ Adult Education ☐ Sisterhood
☐ Young Adult Group (Generation Aleph) ☐ Other _____

* Congregation Emeth warmly welcomes all who seek membership. This question is necessary for religious honors purposes.

Congregation Emeth Membership Application P2

Your Membership Decision

To help us in our efforts to reach out and provide a welcoming presence to the Jewish community in the South Valley, we would appreciate you providing us with the following additional information:

1) How did you hear about Congregation Emeth? _____

2) What were the primary considerations in your decision to join Emeth?

Membership Contribution Pledge

Our average annual membership payment is approximately \$2,100. We recommend a commitment of 2% of gross income. The Board is committed to a "fair share" contribution policy with the honor system, combined with transparency to our members regarding our financial status and requirements. See Addendum 1 (attached) for a comprehensive discussion of our financial needs and expectations.

Please note that, as no one is denied the benefits of membership due to financial hardship, there is a need for those who are able to contribute more to do so in order to support the broader needs of the community. It is taught, *"Every person shall give as they are able according to the blessings that Adonai, your G-d has bestowed upon you."* (D'varim 16:17)

Annual (July 1 through June 30) Fair Share Membership Contribution Pledge: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please bill me ☐ Annually ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Quarterly ☐ Monthly

Please include your first payment based upon the billing cycle selected with your application.

Volunteer Activities

We recognize that some households may find it difficult to reach the desired financial guideline. Please also consider that "time is money" and your pledge to volunteer time and talent is also essential for the health of our congregation. For this reason we ask everyone to commit annually to both a financial contribution at a particular level and a minimum of 18 hours of specific volunteer work suited to their interests and talents.

Support Education Programming and Youth Activities: *Help our kids develop.*

- Join Education Committee
- Help with Family Shabbat Dinners
- Substitute teach:
 - Hebrew School
 - Religious School
- Help with kids' Purim Carnival
- Help with Chanukah Party

Communications

Utilize special skills and develop new ones.

- Join Communications Committee
- Edit Kol Emeth (newsletter) articles
- Write Kol Emeth articles
- Develop or edit Brochures
- Write newspaper articles
- Take photos for Kol Emeth and our website
- Provide website content
- Provide content to Facebook and/or other social media
- Provide technical consultation to our Administrator as needed

Sisterhood

Enjoy the camaraderie of other women while supporting Emeth in many ways.

- Join Sisterhood
- Help with Mah Jongg tournament
- Through Rachamim, reach out to shut-ins and support members in need
- Help with Sisterhood Passover Seder
- Help with Rosh Hashanah Oneg

Membership

For those who are warm and welcoming.

- Help with summer ice cream social
- Mentor a new Emeth family
- Invite a prospective family for coffee or a meal

Ways & Means / Fundraising *Put ideas to work and help our money grow.*

- Join Ways & Means Committee
- Promote and engage members in Amazon Smile program
- Help with Wine Tasting fundraiser (spring or fall annually)
- Help with one-time fundraising events
- Share your fundraising ideas and help implement them

Tikkun Olam (Social Action/Social Justice) *Help those in need in our broader community.*

- Join Tikkun Olam Committee
- Participate in current Tikkun Olam programs (check with committee)
- Serve Monthly (third Thursday) at the Lord's Table (Gilroy)
- Participate in annual Lord's Table Christmas lunch program

Support Emeth Community Events (Social, Holiday, or Festival) *Do you love a once-a-year project?*

- Join Social Events Committee
- Coordinate Community Dinner/s (held approximately 4x annually)
- Help with Adult Purim Party
- Help with Passover Seder
- Help with Community Candle Lighting
- Help with Progressive Dinner
- Help with Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast Potluck
- Help build/disassemble the Sukkah at Sukkot
- Plan an adult or family social event

Support Worship /Shabbat Activities

Be a Shabbat Host: *This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one on their Yahrzeit. Our "Shabbat in a Box" makes hosting easy (and you have the option to co-host). Contact admin@emeth.net*

- Join Ritual Committee
- Set up the sanctuary for High Holidays
- Usher for High Holidays
- Chant from the Torah
 - Saturday morning services
 - High Holidays
- Be a lay leader in Rabbi's absence
- Provide lay cantorial support

Our Building

We own our own building. This is a blessing and a responsibility:

We pay for weekly gardening and custodial services; however, we must rely on volunteers for routine kitchen and building interior tasks.

- Join Building and Grounds Committee
- Participate in quarterly maintenance days
- Assist with weekly trash and recycling (Note this is a great teen community service project;.)
- Assist kitchen coordinator with routine maintenance tasks (ask what would be helpful).

Thank you for partnering with us through your membership and for your support of Congregation Emeth through your volunteer time and financial generosity!

Guidelines for Membership Contributions

These guidelines are provided for both new and continuing members as they make pledges for their membership contribution. They are based on several key principles.

1. We are a mature full-service synagogue with a fully dedicated Rabbi, weekly services, cantorial soloists, a building and sanctuary, adult education and a religious school providing programs from kindergarten to high school.
2. So that we can be accessible to as many individuals and families as possible, we do not want a rigid contribution policy that might discourage those who want to be members. We do not want to inquire into the financial circumstances of our members. At the same time, however, we need enough income to meet our financial obligations. So we ask members to use fair share guidelines and an honor system and pledge as much as they can.
3. The total cost of operating Congregation Emeth is approximately \$231,000 per year. The largest components of this are compensation for our Rabbi, the loan payments and operating costs for our building, and the costs of our educational programs. This works out to about \$2,800 per member household. Some of the costs of the school are covered by tuition and other revenues come from several fundraisers and special donations throughout the year by many generous members. We also obtain rental income from several groups in the community who use our space when we do not need it. This rental income helps us pay down some of the loans we obtained in 2008 to buy our building. After accounting for all other sources of income, **we need a reliable base of income of an average of \$2,100 per member household per year**, an amount that can be paid in installments of \$175 per month. We are calling this our "sustaining amount." Two thirds of households' financial pledges are between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per year.

Taking these principles into account we believe that the following guidelines can be useful as members determine their membership contribution amount:

1. Members should pledge as much as they believe they can after considering the unique and substantial value that Congregation Emeth provides as well as their own financial circumstances.
2. A survey of many synagogues shows that a common contribution level is 2% of gross household income.
3. This level of 2%, if applied to the reported average household income in the Morgan Hill – Gilroy area of \$90,000 per year would result in \$1,800 per household, very close to our goal.
4. Members with household incomes below this average, for example, \$50,000, might aim for a figure somewhat below the 2% level, such as \$800 (2% x \$50,000 is \$1,000).
5. Members with household incomes above this figure, for example, \$175,000, might aim for a figure somewhat above the 2% level, such as \$4,000 (2% x \$175,000 is \$3,500).

Shop Amazon Through Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a great way to support Emeth at no cost to yourself. Specify Congregation Emeth as your charity of choice through Amazon Smile, then use your Amazon Smile link every time you shop at Amazon. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to Congregation Emeth whenever you shop.

1. To set this up (one time): Go to smile.amazon.com to specify Congregation Emeth as your charity of choice.
2. Every time you subsequently shop at Amazon, just start at smile.amazon.com.
3. Ask friends / family members / business associates to join.