

Congregation Emeth
Membership Application Packet
2024 - 2025



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

A supplemental page is provided with additional information for you.

- 1) Guidelines for Membership Contributions

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 P 1

Adults

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

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

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: _____

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

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

Child's Name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____ Male Female School Grade: ____
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

Currently, it costs approximately \$2379 per member family to meet the needs of our members and sustain our congregation. As we welcome everyone to join our congregation, regardless of their financial situation, we need those who can contribute more to do so to support the broader needs of the community.

To ensure that the cost of supporting our congregation is distributed equitably, we suggest that each member family donate between 1.5% and 3% of their household's gross income depending upon their financial situation.

We will never inquire into your financial situation as we are 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)

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 discussion of our financial needs and expectations.

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.

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 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
- 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)

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 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

Our congregation is committed to a “fair share” contribution policy within an honor system, combined with transparency to our members regarding our financial status and requirements. Our Fair Share Contribution Policy is designed to ensure that the financial impact of supporting our congregation is shared EQUITABLY among its members. To achieve this, we have implemented a flexible, fair share system based on the principle of proportional giving according to members' means.

Providing insight into our financial status is essential for us to show you we are GOOD STEWARDS of the congregation's resources and enable you to make informed decisions about your level of support and how you can contribute to the congregation's mission and goals.

Our operating costs are driven by the fact that 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.

The total cost of operating Congregation Emeth is approximately \$264,000 per year. The largest components of this include compensation for our Rabbi, capital debt repayment plan and operating costs for our building, and the costs of our educational programs.

Offsetting some of our expenses are religious school tuition, revenues 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.

After accounting for these additional sources of income we require a reliable base of income of approximately \$2379 per member household per year.

To ensure that the cost of supporting our congregation is distributed equitably, we suggest that each member donate between 1.5 and 3% of their household's gross income depending upon their financial situation. A survey of many synagogues shows this is the typical range of contributions.

In keeping with our honor system, we will never inquire into the financial circumstances of our members.