

Friday, May 15, 2020

Dear Congregation Shaare Emeth Community,

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and after many weeks of information-seeking, consulting with health and camping experts and numerous discussions, we have come to the decision that in the interest of the health and safety of all our campers, their families and our staff, onsite Camp Emeth and onsite Camp Micah will not be taking place this summer. We know what a disappointment this news will be to all of our amazing camp families, but once we realized that we could not guarantee the safety of our children, the decision became very clear. This decision is heartbreaking for our camp staff as well, as they were so looking forward to spending another wonderful summer with your campers.

Shaare Emeth will be providing online programming options this summer for our campers and their families. Beth Kodner, Director of Camp Emeth, is preparing a number of fun, interesting and interactive options for campers and camp families to connect virtually this summer. Please watch your email for details that will be rolling out soon.

Rosalie Stein, Interim Director of the Shirlee Green Preschool, is continuing to be in touch with the office of Dr. Sam Page, St. Louis County's Executive and continuing to monitor the recommendations of the CDC. At this time, the preschool remains closed in order to protect the health of our children, parents, families and staff. You will be notified, as soon as we feel we can safely reopen the preschool.

If you have any questions, please contact Rosalie Stein, rstein@sestl.org

Thank you so much for your continued patience, flexibility, support and trust during this very difficult time. During the next week, we will begin contacting our families about receiving a camp refund. If you would like to convert all or part of your camp fees to a 100% tax deductible donation to Congregation Shaare Emeth, please notify the office at 314-569-0010. A donation would be greatly appreciated as we continue to fulfill our mission. We look forward to seeing you and your children on our virtual camping options and can't wait to welcome you back in person at Camp Emeth and Camp Micah next summer.

Be safe and well,

Mike Lefton, President
Rabbi Jim Bennett