

Beth El Offers Innovative “Thank God It’s Shabbat” Services

On Friday late afternoon, as many of us make our way home from work, school or endless carpools for our kids, we may find ourselves saying, “Thank God It’s Shabbat.” In rejoicing over the island of time with which we are blessed, hundreds of Beth El members and guests celebrate the week’s end by heading to Beth El

for good food, good company, to reflect on the week gone by, and to turn off the busy-ness of their week, letting their hearts, minds and souls experience the peace that is Shabbat.

Following the conclusion of our Jewish Fall festivals, Beth El will return to double services on Friday nights from October until

Memorial Day, offering a variety of worship opportunities to meet the needs of our diverse community. We invite you to join us each week either for our casual come-as-you-are 6 PM “Thank God It’s Shabbat” Service (with appetizers at 5:30 PM) or our 8 PM Beth El Classic Shabbat Service (with a dessert oneg afterwards).

All of our 6 PM “Thank God It’s Shabbat” Services reflect our community gathering in fellowship and prayer. They are a rendezvous spot for families coming from work, school and afternoon activities. They are the place to catch up with old friends over a bite to eat, make new friends and welcome newcomers to our community. They are the place to leave behind the rigors and distractions of the week and become reunited with our higher selves.

Acknowledging that there are a variety of ways to do this, our “Thank God It’s Shabbat” services will feature a variety of flavors. On the first Friday of each month we’ll “Rock the House” with our Shabbat band filling our service and our Sabbath with music that will lift your hearts and your souls. On the second, fourth and fifth Shabbats of each month, we’ll have a transformational service of music, prayers and psalms as we make the transition from the hectic pace and mundane concerns of our week to the peace and holiness of Shabbat. And on the third Shabbat of each month, we’ll pray in the ever-popular

style of our Summer Shabbat Service.

If having a sit-down Shabbat dinner prior to Temple is your style, Beth El will continue to offer an elevating 8 PM service with organ music (when we return to our building in January), a sermon that speaks to the moment of this day, and the warmth of community. Linger with friends into the evening over scrumptious desserts is a delightful and long-standing Beth El tradition.

If you’re driving past Shalom Park at the end of your Friday workday, consider taking a turn into the Park and enter into the Sam Lerner Center to welcome the weekend with the spirit of community and the spirit of Shabbat. ✨



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Rabbi Michael Shields (center) at Churchill Senior Living Community.

Rabbi Michael Shields Visits Churchill Senior Living Community

Recently Rabbi Shields of the Lake Norman Jewish Congregation visited the Churchill Senior Living Community in Mooresville. Administrators were seeking religious support for their Jewish residents and were pleased to find rabbinic support and services to help connect the residents with their faith.

Judaism is all about stories and every human being has a story. It was my deep honor to spend time with the Jewish residents at the Churchill Senior Living Community. I got to hear their personal stories; their journeys from all over the United States and Europe. Each story revealed a piece of the Jewish story in Europe and the United States, while each story contained unique beauty, and yes heartbreak too.

We celebrated being together with the Shehecheyanu prayer and we “kicked off” the High Holy Day Season together, beginning to focus our hearts and minds on the difficult work of Teshuvah. Even with all the life experience and collective wisdom in the room, all agreed that we must do better in

the year to come. I think we shared a common hope that the coming year would be better than the one that is quickly coming to a close.

Rabbi Shields commented that “I look forward to future visits, sharing Shabbat, and offering learning about Judaism to the entire Churchill Community. We will be spending time during the Days of Awe delving into the themes of the High Holy Days.” ✨

Temple Beth El/St. Peter’s Dialogue

The Temple Beth El/St. Peter’s Catholic Dialogue will meet on Sunday, October 3 in Luski Hall at 5 PM. We will open our series on Life Cycle events with an examination of circumcision, baby-naming and baptism. All are welcome. Please bring your own sandwich and a dessert to share. Coffee will be provided. For information, call 704-362-2724 or 704-365-3313. ✨



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TK and Kindergarten
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Tuesday, October 12, 2010 - 9:30 a.m.

RSVP to the Admissions Office: 704.846.7207