What is exciting about Becoming B’nai Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel? Jewish life is filled with many joys and celebrations. The clergy team of Temple Emanuel is very excited to guide you as you celebrate your child becoming B’nai Mitzvah.

It is our hope to provide an understanding of Temple Emanuel’s values and philosophies toward Becoming B’nai Mitzvah and help you organize the logistics involved in the process. We want to help you on the journey that not only leads to a day of rejoicing but also results in a lifelong commitment to Judaism and Jewish learning.

The most important part of Becoming B’nai Mitzvah is the recognition that the values of our tradition are worth preserving and worth living. We hope that you, as parents, and your children will find this period in your life most rewarding.

We are extraordinarily blessed to support and sustain our B’nai Mitzvah families through the David Jacob Reynolds B’nai Mitzvah Program Fund. The dedicated attention and certain celebration options that we offer are normally covered by our B’nai Mitzvah Program Fee of $1000.00. Through the remarkable gift of the Reynolds Family Foundation, we are excited to announce that our B’nai Mitzvah Program fee is now subsidized to only $90 per family.

Through dedication to family life and the values of the Jewish tradition, David Jacobs Reynolds (of blessed memory) and his family exemplify the meaning and message of Becoming B’nai Mitzvah – to continue and sustain the Jewish faith from generation to generation. We joyfully thank Fred and Lundy Reynolds and the entire Reynolds family for their generosity and vision. We hope that all of our families will embrace their generosity of spirit and help us maintain this fund to subsidize the cost for future families and students.
CELEBRATE JEWISH COMMUNITY:
TOGETHER, WE LAUGH; TOGETHER, WE CRY; TOGETHER, WE PRAY

While Becoming B’nai Mitzvah is an important milestone in the Jewish life of your family, it also is an important event within our congregational family. As a community, we hold and rejoice with each other in these fundamental moments.

As you and your family enter into this journey, we invite you to experience the holiness of the B’nai Mitzvah services – join us weekly in the Sanctuary or online with our live streaming.

**Weekly B’nai Mitzvah Service at Temple Emanuel**
- 9:00am and 11:30am in the Main Sanctuary
- B’nai Mitzvah calendar: [https://www.emanueldenver.org/calendar](https://www.emanueldenver.org/calendar)

**B’nai Mitzvah Livestream**
- Weekly 9:00am and 11:30am
- Temple Emanuel Website Channel 2: [https://www.emanueldenver.org/watch](https://www.emanueldenver.org/watch)
- Temple Emanuel Denver B’nai Mitzvah Facebook Livestream Page

**B’nai Mitzvah Archive: Watch Anytime!**
- [Temple Emanuel Denver YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY39jWp8z01m9p77oPZ-0uw)
- Temple Emanuel Denver B’nai Mitzvah Facebook Video Page
The clergy and professional team at Temple are committed to providing a positive, meaningful B’nai Mitzvah experience for each student and family. As a result of our growing population, Temple Emanuel now provides three main B’nai Mitzvah options:

1) **B’nai Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel – Single Student Worship Service**

Each Temple Emanuel family will have the opportunity to have their own B’nai Mitzvah worship service on Shabbat morning at Temple. These services will be held at 9:00am and 11:30am. As with B’nai Mitzvah dates, we will ask for time preference but cannot guarantee first choice. Both the 9:00am family and the 11:30am family will have the opportunity to reserve a part of the social hall for their Kiddush reception.

2) **B’nai Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel – Shared Student Worship Service**

Each Temple Emanuel family may share their B’nai Mitzvah worship service with one other family. Families may share with cousins, siblings, or friends. All students must be 13 on or before their B’nai Mitzvah date.

Sharing a B’nai Mitzvah worship service does not require your family to share a Kiddush reception or celebration (although that option is available as well).

3) **Temple Emanuel B’nai Mitzvah Israel Trip**

Temple Emanuel will offer a B’nai Mitzvah trip to Israel, led by members of the Temple Emanuel clergy team. On this trip, families will engage in both tourism and a meaningful B’nai Mitzvah worship service. B’nai Mitzvah students will participate in a group worship service, with each student reading Torah, leading liturgy and offering a *D’var Torah* (words of interpretation on the Torah portion).

**Interested in Becoming B’nai Mitzvah with Temple Emanuel?**

Contact Cantor Sacks ([sacks@emanueldenver.org](mailto:sacks@emanueldenver.org)) or 303-388-4013. Mazal tov!
Your B’nai Mitzvah weekend is the culmination of many months of learning and deepening relationships. We look forward to celebrating a meaningful Shabbat with you, your family and friends, and the entire Temple Emanuel community. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator Kathy Horewitch (horewitch@emanueldenver.org) – 303-388-4013.

**Shabbat of B’nai Mitzvah – Friday Evening, 5:30pm**
We invite and expect all families to join us at Friday evening Shabbat services the night before your B’nai Mitzvah. Your family and your students will participate in the service (candle lighting, blessings, Kiddush) and will be recognized before the congregation. Our Friday evening Shabbat schedule is:

- 5:30pm Pre-Oneg (appetizers and drinks)
- 6:00-7:15pm Shabbat Evening Worship

**Day of B’nai Mitzvah – Schedule!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9:00am B’nai Mitzvah</th>
<th>11:30am B’nai Mitzvah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45am Arrive for photography in Sanctuary</td>
<td>10:00am Arrive for photography in Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:25am Clergy photo + Restrooms</td>
<td>10:55am Clergy Photo + Restrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am Immediate Family Ceremony</td>
<td>11:00am Immediate Family Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am-10:30am B’nai Mitzvah Ceremony</td>
<td>11:30am-1:00pm B’nai Mitzvah Ceremony</td>
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**A Note on Photography:**
Please note that there is no photography during the actual B’nai Mitzvah service; we strive to create a holy environment where everyone fully experiences the power of the day. All families are invited to take photographs either at the Friday rehearsal or on Saturday before the ceremony. The clergy will arrive 30-35 minutes before the service time to take out the Torah scroll so that you can take pictures with the Torah and your family. We do not permit families to take out the Torah scrolls on their own.

**Joining the Ceremony Online/B’nai Mitzvah Ceremony Recordings**
We are blessed to offer live and recorded online viewing of every B’nai Mitzvah Ceremony. Please feel free to invite guests to participate remotely by sharing the livestream information below. For family and friends who cannot be available at the time of the B’nai Mitzvah, we have a ceremony archive that anyone can access as well.

**B’nai Mitzvah Livestream**
- Temple Emanuel Website Channel 2: [https://www.emanueldenver.org/watch](https://www.emanueldenver.org/watch)
- Temple Emanuel Denver B’nai Mitzvah Facebook Livestream Page

**B’nai Mitzvah Archive: Watch Anytime!**
- Temple Emanuel Denver YouTube Channel
- Temple Emanuel Denver B’nai Mitzvah Facebook Video Page
The clergy and staff at Temple Emanuel are excited to celebrate with you as your children become B’nai Mitzvah. Below is short overview of our B’nai Mitzvah program – how we move and guide students and families through our months of learning. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator Kathy Horewitch (horewitch@emanueldenver.org) – 303-388-4013.

4th Grade: Date Program and Date Assignments
Join together with other 4th grade families, the clergy, and our Youth Engagement Team for an introductory program all about becoming B’nai Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel. Fill out date preferences and receive your official B’nai Mitzvah date and Torah portion.

5th Grade: Cohort Connections
Get to know your B’nai Mitzvah Cohort through holiday celebrations and social action opportunities.

12-16 Months Before Date: B’nai Mitzvah Launch and Meals & Mitzvah Family Learning
Join with other 6th/7th grade families to learn and connect around your child becoming B’nai Mitzvah. We begin this program with an afternoon retreat at Temple, followed by 4 classes on Friday evenings.

9-11 Months Before Date: B’nai Mitzvah Boot Camp!
Gather with other families becoming B’nai Mitzvah in your season to hear all the details of preparing to become B’nai Mitzvah. Meet with all of the clergy and staff who will help guide you on your way, receive your clergy team assignments, and most importantly, receive your Torah portion and your Torah portion book!
NOTE: Service attendance requirements begin now!

7-9 Months Before Date: Cantor Torah Portion Meeting
B’nai Mitzvah students and parents meet with their officiating cantor/Cantorial soloist to discuss their personal preparation process.

7-8 Months Before Date: Tutoring Process Begins
Students enter B’nai Mitzvah class and begin tutoring; Clergy Assistant schedules clergy meetings and rehearsals.

5 Months Before Date: 1st Cantor Meeting
Students will meet periodically with their officiating cantor to track their progress and build a relationship.

3 Months Before Date: 2nd Cantor Meeting
2 Months Before Date: 1st Rabbi Meeting for D’var Torah
   Students will meet with their officiating rabbi to begin crafting their D’var Torah (speech).

1.5 Months Before Date: 2nd Rabbi Meeting for D’var Torah

1 Month Before Date: 3rd Rabbi Meeting for D’var Torah

2 Weeks Before Date: 4th Rabbi Meeting for D’var Torah

1 Week Before Date: 1 Cantor Rehearsal, 1 Rabbi and Cantor Rehearsal
   Students will have the chance to rehearse in the Sanctuary and practice reading from the Torah scroll during the week. Every family rehearses together with their Rabbi and Cantor in the Sanctuary on the Friday before their B’nai Mitzvah at 9:00am (9:00am families) or 11:30am (11:30am families).
We are very excited to be on this learning journey with you and your family. Below is a list of materials that we ask each student to prepare, in addition to some general requirements. We strive to tailor the B’ni Mitzvah experience to the needs of each student and their family. Please feel free to have a conversation with your officiating cantor about what will work best.

Questions about the B’ni Mitzvah program? Need a clergy appointment with your cantor? Contact B’ni Mitzvah Coordinator Kathy Horewitch (horewitch@emanueldenver.org).

**Service Requirements**

**Friday PM**

- Shabbat Candle Blessing
- Shabbat Kiddush

**Shabbat AM**

- T’filot (Prayers)
  - Barchu
  - Yotzeir Or – Lead by Bar/Bat Mitzvah
  - Sh’ma
  - V’ahavta
  - Mi Chamocha
  - Adonai S’fatai
  - Avot/G’vurot
  - K’dusha
- TORAH: 12-20 Verses of Torah divided into 3-4 aliyot (sections)
  - Aliyah 1
  - Aliyah 2
  - Aliyah 3
  - Aliyah 4
- Pre-Torah Blessing & Post-Torah Blessing
- Pre-Haftarah Blessing & Post-Haftarah Blessing
- HAFTARAH: 3-7 Verses of Haftarah (selection from Prophets)
- D’var Torah (Speech)

**Additional Requirements**

- Religious School (or Jewish Day School)
- Worship Attendance
We are excited to celebrate with you and your extended friends and family. Here is a guide to how your family and friends are invited to participate in your B’nai Mitzvah ceremony. Most of our honors are open to everyone regardless of faith background (i.e. Jewish or Not-Jewish), so please feel free to include anyone and everyone who is important to your family.

Questions? Ask your officiating clergy! We strive to tailor the B’nai Mitzvah experience to the needs of each student and their family. Please feel free to have a conversation with your clergy team about what will work best for you.

**Shabbat Evening Service (Friday PM)**

We do expect B’nai Mitzvah families to attend and participate in the Friday evening service of your B’nai Mitzvah Shabbat.

At Shabbat evening services we invite your family to:

- Light the Shabbat candles – immediate family, including siblings
- Recite the Torah Blessings – parents of the B’nai Mitzvah
- Chant the Shabbat Evening Kiddush with the Cantor – B’nai Mitzvah students only

**Shabbat Morning Service (Saturday AM)**

**The Chain of Tradition**

As part of the B’nai Mitzvah Ceremony, we pass our Torah scroll from generation to generation, symbolizing the transmission of Jewish values and Jewish tradition from one generation to another. At the beginning of the Torah service, we invite family members to stand on to the *bimah* (the Sanctuary “stage”) and ceremoniously hand our Torah scroll to each member of the family, culminating in the student holding the Torah officially for the first time.

The following family members are invited to participate:

- All grandparents (regardless of faith)
- All parents (regardless of faith)
- Siblings

**Torah Service Honors**

Any of your guests are welcome to participate in these honors regardless of religious affiliation. These honors can be particularly well-suited to younger siblings and cousins.

- Opening the Ark – 2 instances, up to 2 people each time
- Closing the Ark – 2 instances, up to 2 people each time
- Undressing the Torah – up to 3 people
- Dressing the Torah – up to 3 people
Torah Blessings (Aliyot) – Reciting Hebrew Blessings

At the height of the Torah service, when your student is called to read from the Torah, we invite those closest to your family to help us bless each section of Torah before and after we read our sacred text. Because the Torah Blessings are chanted out loud in Hebrew, we ask that those saying the Torah blessing be Jewish. Any family member, regardless of faith affiliation, is welcome to come and stand as part of a couple or group invited to bless the Torah.

The Torah Service Aliyot generally work in this way:

- **Aliyah 1 – FRIENDS & FAMILY**
  - Pre-Torah Blessing – Friends & Family
  - Torah Reading in Hebrew and English – B’nai Mitzvah Student
  - Post Torah Blessing – Friends & Family

- **Aliyah 2 – GRANDPARENTS**
  - Pre-Torah Blessing – Grandparents
  - Torah Reading in Hebrew and English – B’nai Mitzvah Student
  - Post Torah Blessing – Grandparents

- **Aliyah 3 – PARENTS & OLDER SIBLINGS**
  - Pre-Torah Blessing – Parents & Older Siblings
  - Torah Reading in Hebrew and English – B’nai Mitzvah Student
  - Post Torah Blessing – Parents & Older Siblings

- **Aliyah 4 – B’NAI MITZVAH STUDENT**
  - Pre-Torah Blessing – B’nai Mitzvah Student
  - Torah Reading in Hebrew and English – B’nai Mitzvah Student
  - Post Torah Blessing – B’nai Mitzvah Student

**Parent Blessing**

Parents are invited to give a blessing to your B’nai Mitzvah Student
We are so proud of all our B’ni Mitzvah students – and we know that you, as parents, are also proud and excited for your child. As part of the B’ni Mitzvah ceremony, we invite you to speak to and bless your child at this special moment. Below are a few guidelines to help you craft your words. It is not necessary to include all of these items - they are simply suggestions to help in preparation for the parent blessing. A few sample Parent Blessings are also included for you to review. Questions? Feel free to ask your officiating clergy for additional help and support.

1. The Parent Blessing occurs toward the end of the B’ni Mitzvah service – after your child has finished reading from the Torah and Haftarah and teaching the congregation with their D’var Torah. The Cantor will introduce you and invite you on to the bimah to speak to your child.

2. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to emphasize the essential Jewish values by which you want your child to live, beyond today.

3. You will be blessing your child, therefore you should remember they must be able to focus and listen patiently. We emphasize the importance of being brief – 3-5 minutes is best.

4. You may wish to focus on a specific verse or concept from the Torah portion that expresses your hopes and dreams for your child's spiritual, emotional and/or intellectual growth. The clergy will be happy to provide you with ideas and/or textual sources to help you as you prepare your blessing.

5. How has Judaism and religious identity supported you in your life and in your relationship to your child? How will you support your child's commitment to Judaism?

6. This is NOT a time to give the life story of your child. It is however, a time for sharing the blessings that your child brings to this moment of Jewish commitment.

7. Enjoy this special moment. Be open and loving to your child. Feel free to say "I love you" and to hug them when you are finished.
Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for being here today. I hope that some of what I tell my son reflects what is in my heart as well.

Sam, you know how exciting these last few weeks have been, anticipating this event. One of the highlights for me has been opening those little grey cards, seeing who would be here today. One old friend who lives in Connecticut wrote you a note saying, "We can't be with you this time." And I laughed. Because, of course, there is no other time when you will be a Bar Mitzvah. Today is the day!

This got me thinking. One of the things that I have always found so powerful about Judaism is its attempts to understand time. The prayers that we say during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are a good example—we are reminded for ten days in a row that we are dust, fading flowers, moving shadows, passing clouds. We are reminded and we are sad, but at the same time, the knowledge that life is brief leads us to make each moment count. We learn that being ethical, leading meaningful lives, is especially important since we will not be reborn, or go to heaven. This is our life—our only life.

If we strictly observe the Shabbat, we rest every seventh day, trying to remind ourselves of our higher purposes of life, making the repetitive grind stop. We try to quiet the rushing on of time, to listen to the still, small voice you are learning about.

All those ceremonies and observances in the Jewish calendar repeat. Weekly, yearly, you can catch on to the wheel at any point in the Jewish calendar and become part of the process.

But your Bar Mitzvah, Sam, will happen only this once. You will be poised at this point in your growth only this once. This day, but also this season of your life, is unique. Your childhood is really over—that safe time when you have only the littlest of decisions to make and only the most controlled of freedoms - and you are beginning to have a life of your own, in which you daily try to determine your place. The change in you is so rapid. The inches you have added to your height; the new wit and understanding with which you see your family members and your community; the growth in you of a competitive spirit and a real ability to analyze your own faults and shortcomings without collapsing into despair. These belong to you only.

We are privileged to be here with you today. Friends and relatives are here from California, Canada, New York, Chicago and Washington. Your friends from school are here. Your Dad's family, your Mom's family. We have in common our love for you, and our excitement at your unfolding development and the life that stretches before you. We share this moment with you, even as it rushes past us.

As I look at your handsome face today, Sam, I feel so deeply that I am in a different season of my own life. I vividly remember the season that you are entering. As I do so, I wish that I could
walk with you, step by step, through the next few years, living each moment vicariously through you. But I cannot do that. For me, today is also a beginning. It is a beginning of letting go of you. In the months leading to the Bar Mitzvah, I dreamed of your graduation, your wedding - and no wonder. This day is the beginning of all the separations and milestones to follow. More and more, your experiences, your successes, your failures are and will be yours. I, and all your parents, will watch with love and support and offer what guidance we can. But you are becoming the Sam that you will be. Since you are a captive audience for another moment or two, though, I am going to give you some advice.

You have a big heart and a compassionate nature. I pray for you, that the big virtues will take root in your heart and grow there. Do not get hung up on assertiveness or political correctness or being tolerant to the point of ducking decisions or avoiding conflict at all costs. These are not necessarily vices, but they are petty virtues. Go for the big ones. Be courageous. Be open, frank and truthful. Do the right thing when it is unpopular. Do not try to duck responsibility even when it is uncomfortable. While you are finding your place—in society, in tennis, in music, in scholastic achievement, in your two families—follow Rabbi Hillel's advice and be for yourself, but not for yourself only.

Let your Bar Mitzvah remind you of precious moments past and to come. Today we celebrate an ending of your childhood and of our parenthood of you as a child, a beginning of your youth and our participation in it. I hope that you feel the awe that we do at this moment, and at many important moments in your life. And I hope that Judaism deepens and enriches your experience, and that you in turn contribute to Judaism.

In composing my remarks today, I consulted the great Judaic scholar, Miss Manners. I will continue with a piece of her sage advice. She says that no boy can be truly considered a young man who cannot introduce his best friend to his 80 year-old aunt without a shred of discomfort. Since you have representatives of both here with you today, can you please try to do that?

I love you.
Sample Parent Speech #2

Dear Michael,

We have finished the 13th year of the great adventure known as the life of Michael. I am very proud of you, Michael, not only for your dedication to becoming a Bar Mitzvah, but for the wonderful person you have always been. Your mother and I are truly blessed to have such great kids as you and Sarah.

As you said, there is great significance to many aspects of your Bar Mitzvah. The Hebrew language is a special gift to the Jewish people. You could walk into synagogues around the world today and you would hear the same words from the Torah. And on this same Sabbath every year for countless centuries, the very words which you read today were read and spoken in synagogues. It is in fact possible that one of your Eastern European ancestors read from the Kolin Torah which rests in the Ark in this chapel. As you know, my first grandparent was born 100 years ago this year and his family had come from Rumania. Your Torah portion talks about the lights in the synagogue. The lights, like the Hebrew language, are symbolic of the continuity of the Jewish faith and how throughout the ages we have had a relationship with God. As you know, many of our prayers begin "Our God and God of all generations." A simple example of this continuity is the eternal light above us. If you look in the religious school hallway at the pictures of Confirmation classes going back early in this century, you will see that this light has graced many of our Houses of Prayer. This eternal light was in the first synagogue I remember, the Pearl Street Temple, and this light is really my first memory of Judaism. So I am touched that this important day of your life takes place beneath this eternal light.

I am, of course, deeply moved that we share a Torah portion. After 36 years I only remembered the first 5 words until you reintroduced me to all of it. I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to once again contemplate these wondrous words. The other day, apparently sensing the great joy this brings me, you expressed the hope that your child will read the same words at a Bar Mitzvah. At that time, you and I will together share a great pride. It is also very significant that Max Frankel, our beloved Uncle Max, was one of your Bar Mitzvah teachers. Although Uncle Max did not work with me on my Bar Mitzvah, he was for so many years my teacher for virtually every other aspect of Jewish life and many aspects of secular life.

But all of this means nothing if you fail to practice the lessons of the Torah. You and I recently had the profound experience of watching "Schindler's List" together. We debated whether it was appropriate for you but you made the decision and it was a good one. As you know, the movie is difficult to watch and only begins to describe the indescribable and perhaps runs the risk of trivializing it. But we watched and gained some important insights. Obviously, some of these insights are in fact lessons from the Torah and the Talmud. One phrase from the movie was to the effect that "Whoever saves a life saves the world." It doesn't take a perfect human being to do so. There are obviously no perfect human beings. Schindler was indeed a flawed and compromised person. But he came to recognize that even he could do righteous deeds and he did. If his story is true, and I assume that to a great degree it is, it does vividly illustrate that...
even in the midst of unfathomable evil there is also decency and goodness in the world. And
that is why I actually view "Schindler's List," and it sounds odd and somewhat uncomfortable to
say so, as a statement of optimism, a statement that righteousness can triumph. But it doesn't
just happen. It takes the commitment of ordinary people, one by one, that they will not tolerate
inhumanity and injustice. In the case of the Holocaust, it took the bravery of the great armies of
liberation, and some members of those armies are with us here today. But think also of your
Haftorah: "Not by might not by power, but by the spirit of God." God commands us to do the
right thing: to be just, to be merciful, to be humble and not to turn from people under attack or
in need.

Michael, people have said and will say that they expect great things from you and that is a well-
justified sentiment. But if you lead the life God commands, you will indeed have done great
things. And you will. I pray that God grants you peace for your whole lifetime.

—June 21, 1997
Sample Parent Speech #3

Ava Reese! What a fantastic service you lead this morning. You did a great job delivering your Torah portion and D'Var Torah to the congregation, and mom and I are very proud of you. There is a little humor in the fact that you became a vegetarian because you didn’t like the idea of killing animals, and then you ended up with Vayikra which is about sacrifice, and bloody slaughtering’s & burnt offerings! I’m guessing you will be keeping vegetarian for a while now! I love the fact that without you even knowing what Kavanah was 10 months ago, you were already in the process of living your life with intention. Your choice to become a vegetarian, or your practicing the keyboard or even working on your overhead squats, is all done with Kavanah. I hope you continue to live your life with intention as you grow up.

I remember my bar mitzvah and I remember seeing my grandparents and parents in the congregation, and realizing then that I was part of a long-standing tradition of the Jewish people and in our family. It makes us very proud to now have you carry on the tradition of becoming a Bat Mitzvah. And I hope one day that your son/daughter stands on the bimah and you will be as proud as we are today. Ava, you bring joy and happiness in to everyone’s life that is around you and you are an amazing young woman.

Our blessing for you is that you find a path that leads to a life of abundance, and that you never ever let life’s difficulties hold you back or prevent you from moving forward. We hope that you find a profession that you love and have friends that will always make you laugh. We hope you always pay attention to your head and heart, and listen to their call. Don’t be afraid to take risks or choose the path less traveled. As you grow in to an adult, We hope you pursue what you love doing, but also be open to new experiences because that is what will make you into a bigger and better person. Finally, we hope wherever your travel, and wherever you land, you will always remember this special day when we celebrated the beginning of your adult Jewish life.

We love you very much and we look forward to celebrating you tonight!
Celebrating B’nai Mitzvah

Celebrating with our families as students become B’nai Mitzvah is an important part of who we are at Temple Emanuel. We encourage you to celebrate in our Temple space. Our Building Manager and Executive Assistant, Connie Suson, can speak with you about the many companies with whom we work on a regular basis – caterers, florists, photographers, etc.

Friday Evening Pre-Oneg Sponsorship
Each week before services, we host a pre-oneg (appetizers and drinks) for the congregation. We invite our B’nai Mitzvah families to sponsor this pre-oneg as a way of celebrating with the entire community. Our in-house caterer does all the work!

Friday Evening Shabbat Dinner
In addition to participating in our Friday night services, we encourage you to bring your family and other important guests to welcome in and celebrate Shabbat. We invite you to host a private Shabbat dinner here at Temple for your family and friends following our 6:00pm worship service. Our in-house caterer looks forward to working with you.

Saturday Kiddush Lunch
After your B’nai Mitzvah ceremony on Saturday, we invite you to host a Kiddush lunch in our Social Hall for your guests. It can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. The rental fee covers the space rental and the use of our tables and chairs. Your choice of caterer will be responsible for set-up, serving, breakdown, cleaning and linens.

Saturday Afternoon Celebration
Some families choose to host their Kiddush lunch as their entire Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration, including a more substantial luncheon and music and/or entertainment. The time of the Kiddush Luncheon may be extended to accommodate this. Our Social Hall can be transformed into many different atmospheres.

Saturday Evening Celebration
Temple Emanuel is also available to rent for your Saturday evening celebration. The rental fee covers the space rental, security and the use of our tables and chairs. Your choice of caterer will be responsible for set-up, serving, breakdown, cleaning and linens. You are welcome to serve beer and wine, but we ask that no hard liquor be served.

NO balloons or glitter allowed.
We are so excited to celebrate with you and your family as your student becomes B’nai Mitzvah. Celebrating B’nai Mitzvah is the perfect opportunity to engage in family learning together with the Temple community. We have created our Meals and Mitzvah Family Learning experience as a B’nai Mitzvah Program requirement to help you and your family learn and grow through this special time.

Goals of Meals and Mitzvah Family Learning
Through the Meals and Mitzvah program, B’nai Mitzvah families will:

- Build community with other B’nai Mitzvah families
- Expand their Jewish knowledge
- Engage in family conversations about Jewish questions, customs, and values
- Deepen their relationship with the Temple Emanuel Clergy and Education Team
- Have a meaningful learning experience as they celebrate their student becoming B’nai Mitzvah

Schedule

- 1 B’nai Mitzvah Launch/Welcome Conversation (12-18 months before date) followed by 4 sessions
- Families must attend one session of each topic
- NEW! Second Friday of every month (except July), 6:00p.m. – 8:30pm
- Four-session curriculum repeats every four months – families can choose which session of each topic to attend
- B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator sends out invitations and reminders to each Meals and Mitzvah session and can help remind families which sessions they still need to attend

Curriculum

All sessions are taught by the Temple Emanuel Clergy Team and Temple Emanuel educators.

1. **Reform Jewish Ideology**: Explore the richness and meaning of the Reform Jewish Movement as we learn about our history and beliefs
2. **The Jewish Calendar and Holidays**: Find out how our calendar works, why our festivals and holidays always appear to “move,” and the effect our calendar has had on history.
3. **Siddur Geography**: What happens in a B’nai Mitzvah service? What prayers do we say and why?
4. **B’nai Mitzvah & The Jewish Life-Cycle**: Find out how the B’nai Mitzvah ceremony fits into your own life cycle.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Horewitch – our B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator (horewitch@emanueldenver.org).
B’nai Mitzvah Preparation - SCHOOL YEAR

Becoming B’nai Mitzvah is the culmination of years of study, and the gateway to further Jewish learning. Additional training is necessary to prepare your student for this special moment. Here at Temple Emanuel, we help students learn, prepare, and make connections to one another through our B’nai Mitzvah Class model.

Students begin their B’nai Mitzvah preparation approximately 7-8 months before their date. The total cost for this class is usually $1000.00, which averages to $33.00/week for 30 weeks of preparation. Due to a generous grant from the David Jacob Reynolds B’nai Mitzvah Program fund, the cost of the class for your cohort is only $90.00 per student.

B’nai Mitzvah Class - Group Sessions
Preparing for a B’nai Mitzvah is an exciting time for your child and your entire family. At Temple Emanuel, we are proud to offer our B’nai Mitzvah Class – taught by Cantor Elizabeth Sacks and Cantorial Soloist Steve Brodsky - as our primary preparation option for all families. Through this class, our students will:

- Learn and review all liturgical materials for their B’nai Mitzvah ceremony, including their Torah portion and Haftarah portion, and all Hebrew and English blessings and prayers
- Expand their knowledge of the arc and order of the Shabbat morning service, engaging the questions: What prayers do we say? In what order? Why?
- Build social connections with other students preparing for B’nai Mitzvah
- Deepen their relationship with Temple Emanuel clergy

For the 2023-2024 school year, we will offer two choices for our B’nai Mitzvah Class group sessions. Students only need to attend one of the two options weekly – either Sunday or Wednesday.

- IN-PERSON B’nai Mitzvah Class – Sundays, 10:00am-11:00am
- VIRTUAL B’nai Mitzvah Class – Wednesdays, 4:30pm-5:30pm

B’nai Mitzvah Class - Individual Instruction Sessions
In addition to the weekly B’nai Mitzvah Class hour, your student will be assigned a B’nai Mitzvah Class Teacher who will schedule a private Zoom call with you and your student for another 30 mins/week. This individual session is covered by the subsidized B’nai Mitzvah Class registration fee of $90.00.

In these individual sessions, your B’nai Mitzvah Class teacher will help your student learn and review all liturgical materials for their B’nai Mitzvah ceremony, including their Torah portion and Haftarah portion, and all Hebrew and English blessings and prayers.
B’nai Mitzvah Preparation - SCHOOL YEAR

B’nai Mitzvah Class Registration
We will ask you to register for B’nai Mitzvah Class as part of the invitation to the B’nai Mitzvah Boot Camp Program, a gathering for your B’nai Mitzvah cohort scheduled 9-11 months before your B’nai Mitzvah celebration date. In addition to weekly class and tutoring sessions, all students will also have meetings and rehearsals with their officiating clergy.

Calendar/Religious School
In general, we follow the Religious School calendar. If there is Religious School, there is B’nai Mitzvah class; if there is not Religious School, there is no B’nai Mitzvah Class. We do expect that all students preparing for B’nai Mitzvah are registered and attending Religious School.

Materials
Each week, we ask that students bring their B’nai Mitzvah Class Worksheets (received in their binder on their first day of B’nai Mitzvah class or in their Dropbox folder – Class Worksheets), Torah portion book (received at the B’nai Mitzvah Boot Camp), and a writing utensil. In addition, each student should have their Dropbox link with the sound files of all blessings/t’filot and their particular Torah and Haftarah portions. Please make sure that all students have access to their electronic files on a daily basis.

Homework Expectations
We do ask that students work on their assigned materials between weekly classes. Each week, we will assign each student specific prayers and blessings/Torah or Haftarah verses to review. We recommend that students practice 20-30 minutes 4-5 times a week. We also recommend that students review their materials out loud for a parent at least once a week; this helps students prepare to chant and read in public.

Missed Classes/Tutoring Sessions – Let us know!
If your child will be missing B’nai Mitzvah Class at any point, please let Cantor Sacks or Steve know. If we know in advance, we can plan class accordingly and make sure that you and your student have the necessary materials to keep moving forward. If you need to reschedule a tutoring session, please reach out to your tutor directly.

We are very excited to learn with your child and guide them on their path to celebrating their B’nai Mitzvah. If you would like more information about these options before making a decision or have specific concerns about your student, please feel free to contact our B’nai Mitzvah coordinator, Kathy Horewitch – horewitch@emanueldevner.org or 303-388-4013, ext. 317.
B’nai Mitzvah Preparation – SUMMER

Becoming a B’nai Mitzvah is the culmination of years of study, and the gateway to further Jewish learning. Additional training is necessary to prepare your student for this special moment. Here at Temple Emanuel, we help students learn, prepare, and make connections to one another through our B’nai Mitzvah Class model.

Students begin their B’nai Mitzvah preparation **approximately 7-8 months before** their date. The **total cost for this class is usually $1000.00**, which averages to **$33.00/week for 30 weeks** of preparation. Due to a generous grant from the David Jacob Reynolds B’nai Mitzvah Program fund, the cost of the class for your cohort is only **$90.00 per student**.

**B’nai Mitzvah Class - Group Sessions**

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- Expand their knowledge of the arc and order of the Shabbat morning service, engaging the questions: What prayers do we say? In what order? Why?
- Build social connections with other students preparing for B’nai Mitzvah
- Deepen their relationship with Temple Emanuel clergy

For Summer 2023 (May-September), we will offer two choices for our B’nai Mitzvah Class group sessions. Students only need to attend one of the two options weekly.

- **VIRTUAL B’nai Mitzvah Class** – Wednesdays, 4:30pm-5:30pm
- **IN-PERSON B’nai Mitzvah Class** – Wednesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm

**B’nai Mitzvah Class - Individual Instruction Sessions**

In addition to the weekly B’nai Mitzvah Class hour, your student will be assigned a B’nai Mitzvah Class Teacher who will schedule a private Zoom call with you and your student for another 30 mins/week. This individual session is covered by the subsidized B’nai Mitzvah Class registration fee of $90.00.

In these individual sessions, your B’nai Mitzvah Class teacher will help your student learn and review all liturgical materials for their B’nai Mitzvah ceremony, including their Torah portion and Haftarah portion, and all Hebrew and English blessings and prayers.
B’nai Mitzvah Preparation – SUMMER

B’nai Mitzvah Class Registration
We will ask you to register for B’nai Mitzvah Class as part of the invitation to the B’nai Mitzvah Boot Camp Program, a gathering for your B’nai Mitzvah cohort scheduled 9-11 months before your B’nai Mitzvah celebration date. In addition to weekly class and tutoring sessions, all students will also have meetings and rehearsals with their officiating clergy.

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We are very excited to learn with your child and guide them on their path to celebrating their B’nai Mitzvah. If you would like more information about these options before making a decision or have specific concerns about your student, please feel free to contact our B’nai Mitzvah coordinator, Kathy Horewitch – horewitch@emanueldevner.org or 303-388-4013, ext. 317.
Homework Time Expectations:
- 4-5x/week for 20-30 mins each time
- 1x/week practice your materials OUT LOUD for a HUMAN BEING in your house
- Short, frequent sessions are MUCH better than long practice sessions only 1x or 2x a week

DAILY STUDY PLAN
1) PRAYERS AND BLESSING REVIEW
   a. Review one prayer/blessing that you already know
2) PRAYERS/BLESSINGS NEW
   a. Listen to the recording of your assignment
   b. Read/sing with the recording
   c. Read/sing without the recording
   d. Read/sing with the recording AGAIN
3) TORAH/HAFTARAH REVIEW
   a. Review one verse or one Aliyah that you already know
4) TORAH/HAFTARAH NEW – For EACH verse of your assignment
   a. Listen to the recording of your assignment
   b. Read/sing with the recording
   c. Reading/sing without the recording
   d. Read/sing with the recording AGAIN
5) REVIEW ALL NEW MATERIAL FOR THAT DAY

Example
Homework Assignment:
- Lines 1-5 of the V’ahavta and Aliyah 1 vs.3-4

1) PRAYERS AND BLESSING REVIEW
   a. Review one prayer/blessing that you already know – READ ALL OF YOTZEIR OR
2) PRAYERS/BLESSINGS NEW – For EACH line of your assignment – V’AHAVTA 1-5
   a. Listen to the recording of your assignment – LISTEN TO Line 1 or 1-2
   b. Read/sing with the recording - Sing with recording lines 1-2
   c. Read/sing without the recording – Sing without recording lines 1-2
   d. Read/sing with the recording AGAIN – Sing with recording lines 1-2
   e. DO IT AGAIN WITH LINES 3, 4, 5
3) TORAH/HAFTARAH REVIEW
   a. Review one verse or one Aliyah that you already know – REVIEW Aliyah 1 vs.1-2
4) TORAH/HAFTARAH NEW – For EACH verse of your assignment
   a. Listen to the recording of your assignment – Listen to v.3
   b. Read/sing with the recording – Sing v.3 with the recording
   c. Reading/sing without the recording – Sing v.3 without the recording
   d. Read/sing with the recording AGAIN – Sing v.3 with recording again
5) REVIEW ALL NEW MATERIAL FOR THAT DAY
Mazel Tov! If you’re reading this, it means the time has come for you to start working with Rabbi Black or Rabbi Hyatt to writing your B’nai Mitzvah Speech. This document will walk you through the process of writing and a sample outline.

You will have (approximately) four meetings with your rabbi to work on your D’var Torah.

**Meeting One:** Get to know each other, review writing process and start reading!

**Homework:** Read the following sections of your blue Parshat Hashavuah book:

- Introduction to the Parsha
- Full text of Parsha (in English) and the commentary
- Highlights section
- Come back to Meeting #2 with 3-5 BIG IDEAS*  
*Big ideas are topics for your speech: themes you can pull out, parts of your text you think are interesting or hard, questions you have, etc.

**Meeting Two:** Go over reading and big ideas - pick one and discuss general outline of speech.

**Homework:** Rough Draft of speech! A rough draft means that this is the first time you are putting your ideas onto paper. Don’t worry too much about spelling and grammar - your goal is to get all the thoughts out of your head and onto the page.

*Please Note: You should write your speech in google docs. When you have finished your rough draft/before you come to meeting #3, please share your draft with your rabbi via email by sharing them on the google doc. ([rabbiemilyhyatt@gmail.com](mailto:rabbiemilyhyatt@gmail.com)) ([black@emanueldenver.org](mailto:black@emanueldenver.org)).

**Meeting Three:** Review rough draft, make suggestions and begin to edit.

**Homework:** Work on edits and suggestions. This is when you should start thinking about spelling, grammar and the structure of your speech. You and your rabbi will already have talked about what changes and edits need to be made, and now you will start finalizing your draft.

**Meeting Four:** Review final draft, make final changes, schedule run-through (optional).

**Homework:** Make any final changes that you and your rabbi discuss, and start practicing!

**Pro Tips:**

- Print your speech in 18 size font, double spaced
- Leave extra space between paragraphs and edit your bottom margin to 2 inches
- READ YOUR SPEECH OUT LOUD IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE.

**Notes**

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

11/22/2023 - updated
**Suggested Outline:**

**Section One: Your Parsha**
In this section:
- Include a summary of the relevant stories/details in your parsha - give us context that will frame what you are about to teach us.
- Tell us which specific piece of text or part of a story you’re choosing to speak about - tell us why you chose it and what stands out for you.
- Dive into this text - go more in depth to teach us more about this text then we would know by simply reading it. You can include an interpretation from a commentary or your own research, or include your own understanding or interpretation.

**Section Two: Your Jewish Identity**
- TRANSITION TO SECTION TWO: tell us how this piece of the text relates to YOU
- Tell us what this text is teaching YOU about how you act/behave/believe/live Jewishly.
- Choose a Jewish value
  - *(can be in addition to Tikkun Olam, but cannot be Tikkun Olam, which is a category of values, not a value itself)*
  - See/discuss rabbi’s list of values for a few options
- Teach us about this value, how it relates to the parsha, and how it applies to you and your life.

**Section Three: Call to ACTION!**
- Tell us what you are doing to live this Jewish value. You can:
  - Tell us about a Mitzvah project
  - Share a resolution or behavior you’re committing to
  - Teach us about a different way of thinking or perspective
- Ask your community to join you in some action based on the previous few sentences.

**Section Four: Thank you section**
- This section is about expressing gratitude for those who have helped you to prepare for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Make sure to individually say thank you to:
  - Parents
  - Siblings
  - Clergy you worked with
  - Tutor (if applicable)
  - Any other specific family or friend that played a significant role in preparing for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah
  - Everyone who is there for coming to support you and celebrate with you!

**Section Five: Conclusion**
At the end of your speech, you will conclude with the Shehecheyanu Prayer.