Dear Friends –

At this hopeful time of year, we are saddened to share with you our decision to hold most High Holiday services on-line only this year.

While this decision was made very close to Rosh Hashanah, it was not a last-minute decision – rather, it was the result of a very thoughtful, well-informed, passionate, and difficult series of discussions among a number of dedicated members of our congregation.

In the end, given the rising trend in COVID infections in our area, the CDC recommendation to avoid large indoor gatherings, and several other factors which will affect each congregant’s overall High Holy Day experience, we have come to the difficult decision that it is the right thing to do. We very much wanted to welcome the New Year with all of you here with us, in person – in our Sanctuary; however, our first priority is to protect both the health and safety of our congregation.

Sadly, a number of other congregations in our area have also decided that virtual services are in the best interest of their membership.

Our adult services, therefore, will proceed as they did last year, on Zoom, and the web address for joining was sent to you.

All outdoor services, including the Children’s Service (Tuesday, September 7th at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, September 16th at 9:00 a.m.), Tashlich (Tuesday, Sept 7th at 1:00 p.m.) and the 2nd day Rosh Hashana Service (Wednesday, Sept 8th at 10:00 a.m.) will take place as planned. These will also be available on line.

The synagogue building and office will remain open on a daily basis. For a number of reasons, Shabbat services will continue in-person and on line. The religious school will also continue as planned, with strictly followed Covid-19 protocols.

Thank you to those of you who offered insights and perspectives. And THANK YOU for your continued commitment to, and support of, our Temple Brith Achim Extended Family.

From our families to yours – we wish each and all of you a healthy and happy 5782, and we look forward to welcoming the New Year with you, and to seeing you all on-line, very soon.

L’shana tovah,

Eric J. Lazar Steve Kantrowitz Wendy Joseph

Rabbi President Head of Management