Dear ELC families,

*Pikuach nefesh*, the Jewish value of saving a life, is paramount in our tradition. Above all other observance, we do everything within our power to preserve life. In context to our situation in the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that this is an opportunity to live our values. We have been in contact with local health institutions, other synagogues and schools, and local leadership and we believe we have a large part to play in “flattening the curve” – slowing down the inevitable spread of this virus through social distancing. Given our tradition’s mandate and the seriousness of this virus, we have made the difficult decision to close the Early Learning Center starting on Monday, March 16th through our planned resumption of class on Monday, April 6th. The reopen is subject to change and we will keep you apprised of any updates. **Here is what you need to know about our closure.**

- **Please take all your belongings home with you today.** If you are unable to do so, please be in contact with us as we will be available to help you collect things on Monday morning. Susan Wartchow is happy to help you coordinate pickup.
- **We will be ensuring that our facility is cleaned and sanitized** during this time. All cleaning products we use meet guidelines specified by Governor Polis.
- **Tuition will not be refunded.** We intend to pay our teachers and staff during this time in accordance with the value of *lo ta’ashok sachir*, treating workers fairly. We are committed to ensuring programmatic interruptions are not detrimental for those we employ. We know the repercussions of this are far-reaching; we are here to support you. In addition to administrative assistance, pastoral care is always available to you following the value of *nechama*, comforting the afflicted. Please reach out to Susan or clergy members.
- **While we are closed, we will be finding ways to bring you connection and resources.** Social distancing is counter to our value of *al tifrosh min ha tzibbur*, which states to not separate oneself from the community. We are working on livestreaming services, providing Judaic and family resources, and maintaining contact with you via email and our website and Facebook page. *Simcha* – rejoicing – should be present even in times of difficulty, and it will be delivered right to your inbox.

Thank you for your flexibility during this time of abundant precaution. While our physical contact will be reduced, we look forward to the practice of fostering connections in new ways. Please stay tuned for more information from us regarding schedule and policy changes in the coming weeks.

We wish you well,

ELC Administration and Teaching Staff