

Synagogue welcomes new rabbi, new home for worship

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Temple Kol Ami, a Reform Jewish congregation in Thornhill, is entering a new chapter in the congregation's history with the arrival of Rabbi Micah Streiffer and the establishment of a close partnership with the Thornhill campus of The Leo Baeck Day School.

The school's building at 36 Atkinson Ave. will become Kol Ami's permanent home with a new "sacred space" for prayer that will be completed in late August or early September.

Brian Stutz, the temple's marketing chairperson, said extensive renovations are under way to enhance the sanctuary, create a new chapel and social hall and redesign office space. Rabbi Streiffer took up his new post in July, moving to the Thornhill Woods community from his position as associate rabbi at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Our entire congregation welcomes Rabbi Streiffer's arrival," said Temple Kol Ami president Cy Charney.

"He has already demonstrated his commitment to Temple Kol Ami through long-distance involvement in our community. We are delighted that he and his family will soon be here in person and we plan to give them a warm welcome — if not a warmer climate."

Rabbi Streiffer, a father of three, served on the Central Conference of American Rabbis' Response committee, which provides guid-



RABBI MICAH STREIFFER: Newly arrived rabbi for Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill.

ance on important issues facing contemporary Judaism, and enacted the first Jewish-Muslim Seder in Charlotte as part of his interfaith and interdenominational activities.

"Temple Kol Ami is a vibrant and welcoming congregation with a unique blend of traditional and contemporary," he said. "I am excited about the emphasis on learning and family and music. I feel fortunate and blessed to be joining this dynamic community."