



Liberaal Joodse Gemeente
Amsterdam

Join the Liberal Jewish Community in Amsterdam as a Rabbi (m/f)

תורה
TORAH

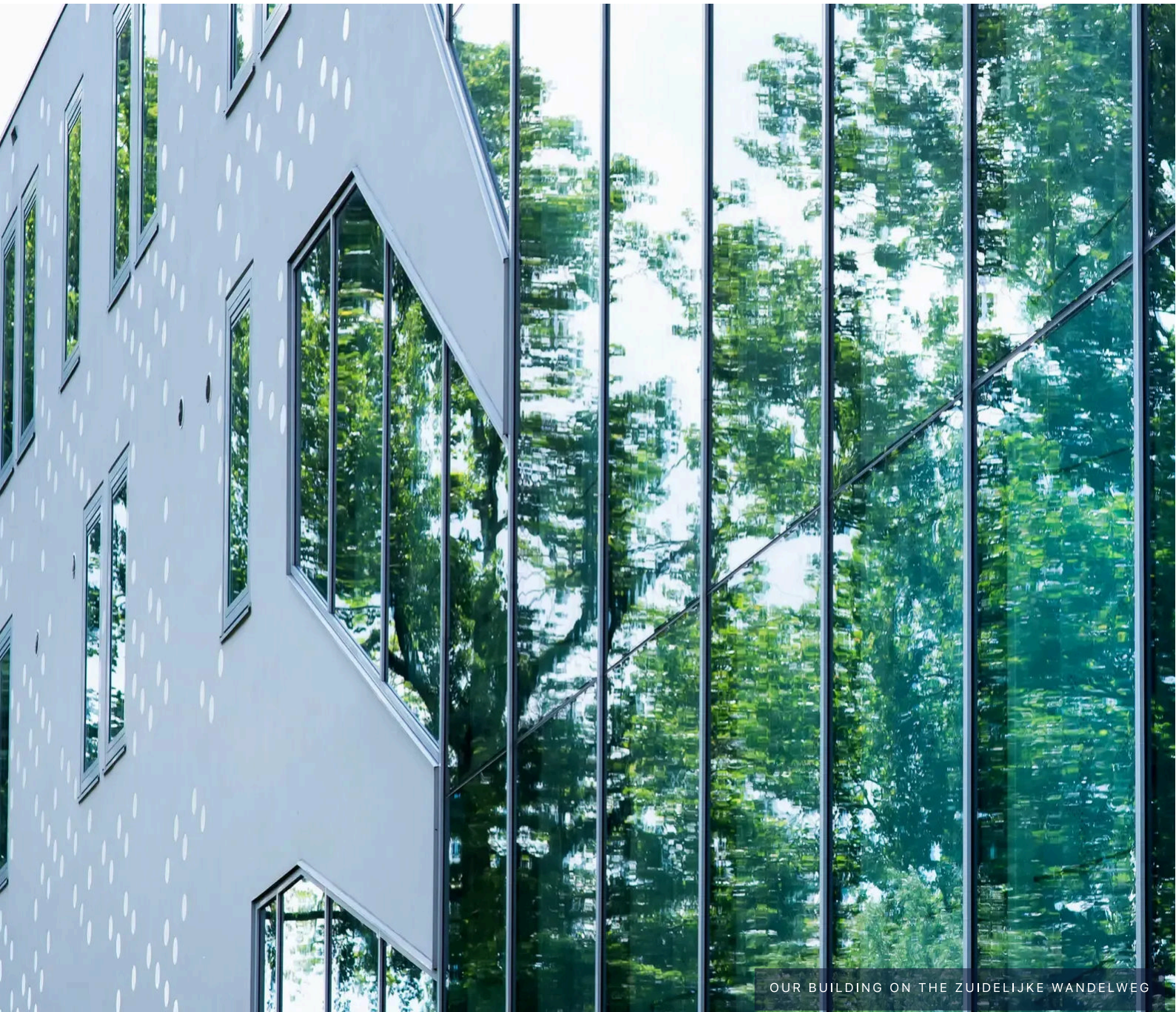
עבודה
AVODAH

חסד
CHESED

חינוך
CHINUCH

גיור
GIYUR

חיבור
CHIBUR



OUR BUILDING ON THE ZUIDELIJKE WANDELWEG

Who are we?

The Liberal Jewish Congregation Amsterdam (Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Amsterdam, LJG) is a flourishing community where Jews from Amsterdam and the surrounding area have come together for generations to experience, study and celebrate Judaism and to be connected with one another. With a broad range of religious services, education for children and adults alike, and a rich programme of social, cultural and civic activities, the LJG is a home to many.

Our congregation is founded on a distinctly Dutch experience and interpretation of Liberal Judaism, based on Torah and tradition, which we continually connect with the questions and challenges of our time. We are firmly rooted in Jewish tradition and at the same time fully engaged with society. From that connection, we want to keep growing and developing as a congregation, with an eye to the future.

Our congregation is lively and multifaceted. On Shabbat and during the festivals, the generations come together during and after the services in our shul. During the week, too, the congregation buzzes with activity. Children take their first steps in Jewish life at our Talmud Torah classes on Sunday mornings, where they are prepared for their bar or bat mitzvah and gain a solid grounding in Jewish knowledge and tradition. Teenagers find one another at Netzer, where friendship, Jewish identity and social engagement go hand in hand. Young adults shape Jewish life through the young-adult initiative TAMAR. For adults and older members, too, the LJG is a place to keep learning and to meet one another. There is a diverse range of courses, lectures, cultural activities and other gatherings, largely organised by the large group of volunteers our congregation is fortunate to have.



THE ANNE FRANK HALL IN OUR BUILDING

The Liberal Jewish Congregation Amsterdam is the largest Progressive Jewish congregation in the Netherlands.

Our members reflect the society in which we live: young and old, at every stage of life, in all kinds of households, with widely varying Jewish backgrounds and life stories. There are members who come to shul every week and people who attend mainly during the High Holy Days; families who have been part of the LJG Amsterdam for generations and people who have only recently found their way to our community.

It is precisely this diversity that we see as a strength. What unites us is that each of us gives meaning to Jewish life from our own thoughts and experiences. We want to be a community where everyone feels welcome, where there is space to meet and talk, and where tradition and contemporary Jewish life strengthen one another.

Our congregation in figures

1,100

HOUSEHOLDS

1,800

MEMBERS

360+

MEMBERS UNDER 18

170

CHILDREN AT TALMUD TORAH

36

B'NEI MITZVAH PER YEAR

120

SERVICES PER YEAR

10

ONGEI SHABBAT · 120
PARTICIPANTS

200

VOLUNTEERS

10+

COMMITTEES

...and more than 70 activities every year.

A new chapter

The LJG Amsterdam stands at an important moment in its development. After more than 30 years with the congregation, one of our rabbis is retiring. Over those years he has made an important contribution to the development of our congregation: thanks in part to his efforts, the LJG Amsterdam has grown into a flourishing and committed community. Our other rabbi, who has now been with the LJG for more than ten years, will lead the rabbinic team in the future.

This creates space for a new rabbi to continue building our congregation together with him.

This change coincides with a development we have deliberately set in motion within our congregation in recent years: greater involvement and responsibility of members in shaping Jewish life and the various roles within the congregation. We believe that a strong, future-oriented community is sustained by good cooperation between rabbis, professionals and committed members. We therefore see the arrival of a new rabbi not merely as filling a vacancy, but as an opportunity to take this development further and to forge new connections.

A congregation on the move

We are a congregation that is growing and on the move. Society is changing, and with it the Jewish community. New generations are shaping their Jewish identity in their own way. Jews from outside the Netherlands, including Israelis and other expats, are finding their way to Amsterdam and enriching our congregation with new perspectives and experiences. At the same time, there is a growing need for connection, for meaning and for a place where people feel at home in a world that is becoming ever more complex and polarised. We see these developments as an invitation to give Judaism fresh meaning, time and again, for the age in which we live: with room for different backgrounds and life stories, without losing sight of our own identity.

It is for that community that we are seeking an additional rabbi who wants to continue building together with us.

As the largest Progressive Jewish congregation in the Netherlands, we also feel a responsibility that extends beyond our own community. We are part of the Union for Progressive Judaism in the Netherlands and the World Union for Progressive Judaism, through which we contribute to a pluralistic Judaism. This also means that we gladly work together with the Jewish organisations and denominations around us. Within wider society, too, we play an important role. We work with local government and civil-society organisations to contribute to a society in which differences between people are seen as a strength and in which dialogue and cooperation are ways of dealing with division. In the media, we ensure that a progressive Jewish voice is heard.

Our vision of the rabbinate

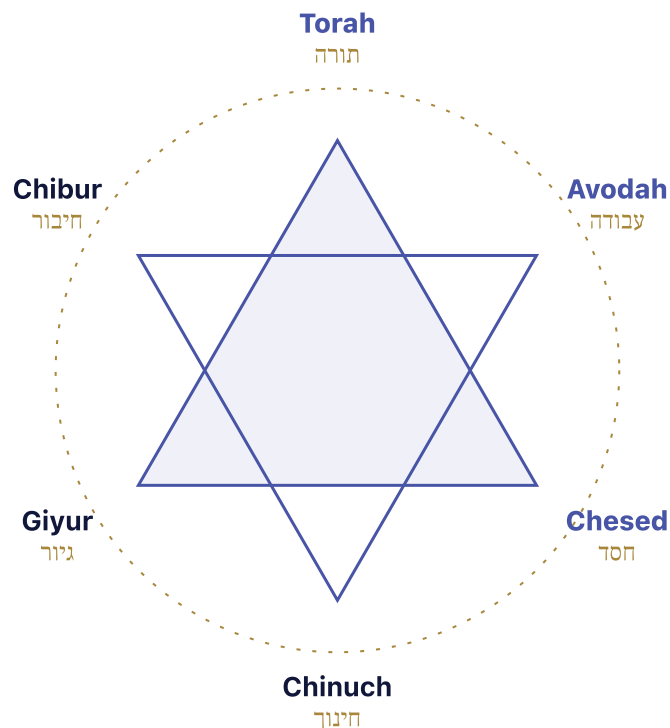
The rabbinate of the LJG is formed by the rabbis, working together with the pastoral care worker, the shammash and the secretariat. For us, a rabbi is more than a spiritual leader. A rabbi inspires, connects, guides and gives direction. He or she stands in the midst of the community, gives direction from within the Liberal Jewish tradition and helps our congregation shape its future with confidence.

For us, the rabbinate is about building – together with others – a vibrant community in which people feel at home, keep learning, take responsibility for one another and give meaning to Jewish life together.

The rabbinate therefore not only cares for what is, but also has a vision of what could be. The rabbinate is attentive to developments in society, for new generations and for changing needs, without losing sight of the foundation of tradition.

A strong rabbinate is not an individual assignment but a shared responsibility, and therefore always teamwork. Our rabbis work closely with colleagues, volunteers and the Board. Together they bear responsibility for the development of our kehila.

Our vision of the rabbinate takes shape in six interconnected pillars. For the newly appointed rabbi, the emphasis is on Torah, Avodah and Chesed, without losing sight of the other pillars.



THE SIX PILLARS OF THE RABBINATE · THE EMPHASIS IS ON TORAH, AVODAH AND CHESED

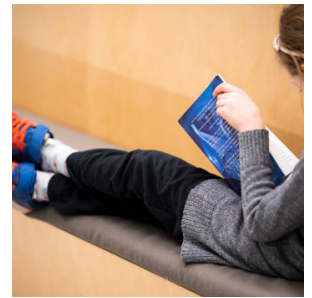
Torah • Giyur • Chinuch

Torah תורה

Torah is the heart of Jewish life. We see learning not as an activity, but as a way of life.

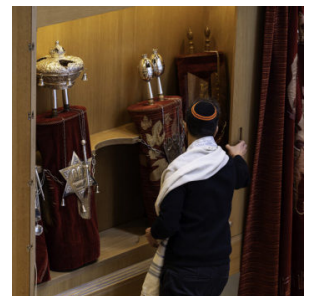
The rabbi offers inspiration from Torah and the rich Jewish tradition. He or she encourages lifelong learning through teaching, lectures, publications, events and other activities aimed at spreading and deepening Jewish knowledge, both within and beyond the LJG.

This is done in close cooperation with the Study Centre and the Levisson Institute within the LJG and with other Jewish organisations outside it.



Giyur גיור

The rabbi sits on the College of Rabbis and the Liberal Beit Din. The rabbi holds the first conversations with those interested and – together with the College of Rabbis – carefully weighs who is admitted to the giyur process. The rabbi then guides candidates through their giyur and shares responsibility for a careful process in which learning, personal development and community all play a part.

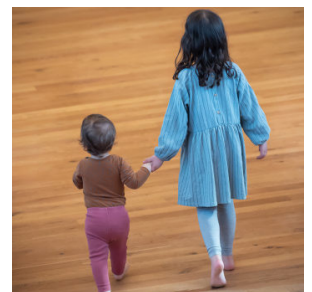


Chinuch חינוך

Jewish learning and education inspire the current generation and lay the foundation for continuity: this is how we pass Judaism on to those who come after us.

The rabbi plays an active role in the Jewish upbringing and education of children and young people. He or she has a vision of Jewish education and is able to convey, direct and encourage it. Together with the Talmud Torah team and the youth workers of Netzer and TAMAR, he or she helps young people build their own lasting relationship with Judaism.

We are looking for a rabbi who awakens curiosity, takes young people seriously and invests in the leaders of the future.



Chibur · Chesed · Avodah

Chibur חיבור

A community does not come into being by itself; it is built.

The rabbi fosters contact and connection within the kehila. He or she welcomes new members, connects members with one another and helps ensure that the LJG remains a warm and accessible community in which everyone feels seen and welcome. Activities such as Onagiem and other gatherings can play an important part in this.

The rabbi also connects the congregation with the world around us. He or she encourages dialogue with other religious and civil-society organisations, represents the LJG where appropriate in the media and the public domain, takes part in commemorations and maintains relations with the City of Amsterdam and other Jewish and civil-society organisations. In this way, the rabbi helps ensure that the LJG is a recognisable, committed and unifying partner in society.

In this, the rabbi works closely with the community worker, the pastoral care worker, the shammash, the volunteer coordinator and the Board.



Chesed חסד

Caring for one another is at the core of Jewish life.

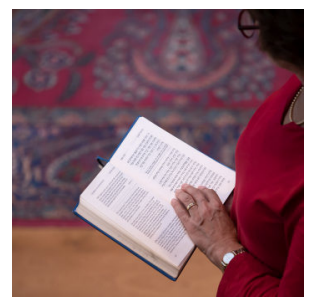
The rabbi is there for people at times of joy, sorrow, illness, loss and mourning. Pastoral care calls for attention and presence. Together with the pastoral care worker, the shammash and the volunteers of the member-contact committee, the rabbi helps shape a culture in which people look out for one another and no one is left to face things alone.



Avodah עבודה

The rabbi leads the religious life of the congregation. He or she leads shul services, shapes the celebration of Shabbat and the festivals and accompanies members at important life-cycle moments, such as b'nei mitzvah, chuppot and levayot.

Within the LJG, this is done together with the shelichei tsibur, the shammash and the chazzanim. The rabbi also bears responsibility for halachic questions and matters concerning the Beit Din.



Connected with Israel and the world

The Liberal Jewish Congregation Amsterdam is traditionally strongly connected with the State of Israel. That bond is part of our Jewish identity and finds expression in our religious, cultural and personal relationships with Israel and with Liberal Jewish communities there.

The LJG is a community in which people with widely differing views on social and political developments find a home and feel safe to remain in conversation with one another.

We are therefore looking for a rabbi who can give space to that diversity. Someone who connects where differences arise, who can guide the conversation with care when polarisation in society touches the congregation, and who never loses sight of the unity of the community.

We are looking for a rabbi who, with wisdom and nuance, helps lead a community in which people continue to meet one another – precisely when the differences are great. In this way, the LJG remains a community in which connection with Israel and connection with one another go hand in hand.



IN OUR SYNAGOGUE ON THE ZUIDELIJKE WANDELWEG

Why Amsterdam?

Being a rabbi in Amsterdam means working in one of the most multifaceted Jewish communities in Europe. A congregation with history and a future. A community that stands in the midst of society, is open to new developments and has the ambition to give direction to Liberal Judaism in the Netherlands. It is a unique opportunity to continue building a vibrant kehila together with committed members, volunteers, staff and rabbinic colleagues, and to make a lasting contribution to the future of Jewish life in the Netherlands.

Being a rabbi in Amsterdam also means working at the heart of Jewish life in the Netherlands. Amsterdam and its surroundings are home to the largest and most diverse Jewish community in the country. Alongside Jews whose roots in the Netherlands go back generations, many Israelis and Jews from other parts of the world have made Amsterdam their home. It is precisely that diversity that makes our community rich and multifaceted. In the Netherlands, around 35,000 people identify as Jewish. Of them, some 1,800 are members of the LJG Amsterdam (JMW, 2025).

Amsterdam also has a broad and vibrant Jewish network. There are several Jewish denominations, alongside a large number of Jewish social, cultural and educational organisations. The Liberal Jewish Congregation Amsterdam works intensively with many of these partners, as well as with the City of Amsterdam and other civil-society institutions. This makes the work of a rabbi in Amsterdam varied and challenging.

For a rabbi, Amsterdam therefore offers an exceptional working environment. You will join a congregation that stands in the midst of society and is part of a broad Jewish network in which cooperation and dialogue are a matter of course. At the same time, you will have the space to continue building the largest Progressive Jewish congregation in the Netherlands, together with committed members, volunteers, staff and rabbinic colleagues, and to contribute to the future of Liberal Judaism in the Netherlands.



OUR BUILDING ON THE ZUIDELIJKE WANDELWEG

What kind of rabbi are you?

- You are deeply rooted in the Liberal Jewish tradition and have sound Jewish knowledge and rabbinic training recognised by the College of Rabbis. You draw inspiration from the Jewish sources and the rich Jewish tradition.
- You are open-minded without losing sight of the Jewish foundation. You know how to connect tradition with the questions of today, and you do so with openness, curiosity, wisdom and confidence.
- You are a team player. You enjoy working with others, give people space and help them grow. You connect with people easily.
- You are a strong communicator. We play a visible role in public and social debate. You are able to represent our community, when needed, with conviction and nuance. You can engage in conversation, build bridges and offer a recognisable, trusted voice from a Liberal Jewish perspective.
- You have a clear vision of Jewish education and substantial teaching experience. You feel at home working with children, teenagers and young adults and see guiding the next generation as an essential part of your role. You are keen to contribute to the further development of Talmud Torah, Netzer and TAMAR.
- You know the liturgical and musical traditions of the Liberal Jewish congregations, or wish to master them.
- You have an eye for the historical and cultural context of our congregation. This means you have knowledge of – or are willing to immerse yourself in – Amsterdam's Jewish history, the Amsterdam minhag, the giyur tradition and the lasting impact of the Shoah on the Jewish community and its identity.
- You have a good command of Dutch and Hebrew, or – if you come from outside the Netherlands – are willing to learn to speak Dutch at a professional level within a year.
- You are visible, approachable and pastorally strong.
- You endorse the principles of the World Union for Progressive Judaism and those of the Union for Progressive Judaism in the Netherlands, and you respect the Amsterdam minhag as a living tradition. International candidates are expected to take the Levisson Institute's course on Dutch Liberal Judaism as part of their induction.
- You are willing to settle in Amsterdam or its surroundings.
- You are firmly grounded in society. You understand what is going on within our congregation and in the world around us. You do not shy away from the challenges of our time.
- You are a rabbi who radiates optimism and starts from the question: "How can we make it happen?"

In short: we are looking for a rabbi who knows the tradition, stands in the midst of society and wants to help build liberal Jewish life in Amsterdam.

If you recognise yourself to a large extent in this profile, we would be delighted to get in touch with you.

Practical information

Appointment

- It is, in principle, a full-time appointment.
- Given the nature of the work, the position requires a great deal of flexibility.
- The initial appointment is for one year, with the intention of extending it if both parties are satisfied.

Area of work

- The area of work is Amsterdam and its surroundings.

The closing date for applications is 8 November 2026.

We look forward to hearing from you.

For more information, please contact Tom de Swaan, chair of the LJG Amsterdam and of the selection committee, via werving@ljg.nl.

