,,The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Sue Wunsch

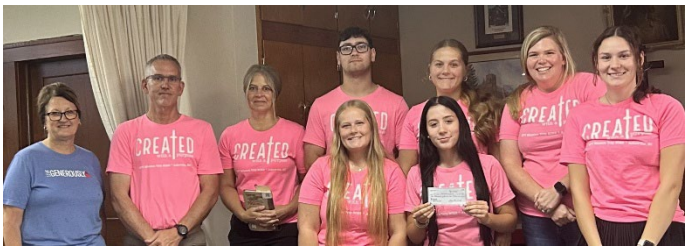
Lt Governor: Susan Enewold, CB

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg

Sept. 27, 2025 Vol. 41, No.38

St. Paul Lutheran Church Mission Trip



L-R: Denise Wilson, John Swalwell, Cory Young, Grant Fisher, Liz Young, Katie Schnepel, Gretchen Swalwell. Front: Laynee Young, Taryn White

Denise Wilson, SPY Youth Leader, shared that the kid's yearly mission trips are the best experiences ever. The church began their first mission trip in 2005. The kids earn money throughout the year through fundraisers such as the Church Garage Sale. The cost per person typically runs between $1100-1200 and some family members pay a portion of it. If there is a child that can't afford to go, they do accommodate their needs in various ways. They never want to turn away a person who desperately wants to go.

This summer's trip had four adults and ten kids that helped the Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) in North Carolina. Their purpose is to share God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

St. Paul's Church likes to go through service organizations and learn about communities as these types of organizations do the planning for the kids; however, St Paul does often do their own plans for other trips.

Hurricane Helene hit the Eastern states in September 2024 and the storms cut more inland and hung over the Appalachian Mountains. The creeks and rivers flooded and there were mudslides. Lots of people that live within the mountains didn't have good ways to get out of the disaster as they were closed in. There was a total of 20 inches of rain. Wet air rose into the elevation and just hung there.

A typical day would begin at 6 a.m. with devotions; at 7:15 a.m. they were out the door to do service and end the day between 10-11 p.m.

The group shared memorable experiences: They attended inviting and inspirational church services. A lady shared hand knit crosses with each of them. The local community hung red dresses around the church, as it was on Native American ground, and honored those who were still missing.

Making and delivering lunches to the homeless gave them a personal connection and they saw so many smiles. Serving breakfast to the homeless at a place called, '12 Baskets' helped the locals feel some normalcy, gave them a chance to socialize, plus it was air conditioned. There was also a patio where homeless with animals could eat with their animals.

The Appalachians Community Relief and Food Bank was set up like a store where people could get what they needed (even without ID). A truck from Ohio with 13 pallets of donated food was unloaded while they were there.

Meaningful devotionals from the book You are Made to Make a Difference were impactful as well as participating in activities that would help them journal and share with the group.

A woman named Amy helped the St. Paul group understand better how they could interact with the community – softly, as the community is not sure of trusting others who want to help. They are attached to their home ground and not interested in living elsewhere. Denise stated this was helpful plus they saw videos of what happened with the floods. Many in the community are experiencing PTSD. Many places have not been rebuilt, but Walmart being rebuilt has given people so many things they need.

The adult leaders stated how this trip developed a deep connection with others and the impact of helping after a tragedy. It was stated,

"The hurricane was an act of nature, but the servicing is an act of God."
Thanks to Kathy Luedke for taking speaker notes.

Next Week's Program
Royalty will speak:
Homecoming Queen Lilly Yocum and King Jett Sornson
Speaking about homecoming, sports, Impact ASC, school and future plans

Famous Quote:

"Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart."

Roy T. Bennett

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at St. Paul Lutheran Church. 18 members were present. Our guests were our hosts, Denise Wilson, SPY leader and mission group of 9 total.

Thank you to the St. Paul Youth (SPY) for serving such a good breakfast to us!

Prayer: Denise Wilson

Jokes: Jeff Jorgensen, Dale Willenborg, Keith Denton

50/50: Dennis White

Attendance: Linda Danker, but unable to claim.

Football Pool: Bill Vorthmann won.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: John Swalwell's 56th birthday was observed.

Anniversaries: Bill and Ann Vorthmann – 56 years and Phil and Jan Waggoner – 48 years.

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Denise Wilson thanked the Optimists for years of working with the youth.
- Gary Guttau bragged on the Treynor football win against Underwood and the KMA interview.
- Gary Guttau praised our school district for our great athletic field facilities.
- Steve Irvin shared that his granddaughter set a school record in cross country and she's only a freshman.
- Bill Vorthmann bragged on today's St. Paul's breakfast.
- Keith Denton also bragged on the breakfast and stated he had a new hip one week ago and Georgia had a new hip two weeks ago!
- Jeff Jorgensen shared that Pott Co. has earned the highest AA1 credit rating.
- Jeff also commented about Charlie Kirk, that he was a friend he met in Des Moines years ago and found him impressive.
- Jeff also shared that his alma mater, Audubon has 8-man football and have won all five games thus far.

Community News:

- Denise Wilson gave an update on Bob and Wendy Andersen's son, Dexter, who recenty had brain surgery, which was very scary. Dexter is home and came through it well. A gofundme has been set up on Facebook. Chad Guttau recommended the Optimists contribute. Keith Denton mentioned contributing directly. A hat was passed.
- Kevin Underwood shared about an event sponsored by Mt. Hope Church (Sun.,Sept 28) from 4-7 PM at the town hall.
- Dr. Joel Beyenhof, Superintendent of the Treynor Community School District, is reaching out to our Optimist email group to see if anyone from this group would like to be part of the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC). The group is required by Iowa code and reviews and provides input on things like: student achievement data, Title I, climate data, district goals, bullying data, and much more. Meetings have tentatively been set to run from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m, in the middle school/high school library with light dinner provided on the following dates:
  Wednesday, December 3
  Tuesday, February 3
  Thursday, March 26
  Please let Dr. Beyenhof know if you would like to hear more about this opportunity to be involved. Contact info: 712-487-3414 (ext. 4)

BUSINESS:

- Can Kennel sorting with Zion Youth was Wed., Sept. 24.Their next sorting will be Wed., Oct. 8 at 6:15 p.m. John Klein reported that Zion had a large crowd to help and it only took 40 minutes to sort. Jordan Campbell, Steve Irvin, and John Klein helped.
- A can kennel check was presented to the St. Paul Youth Group present today for $1056.65.
- John Klein repaired the Can Kennel wood rack. He unloaded 5 new 40-bag boxes of 55-gal. drum liner bags donated by Home depot. Each box was priced at $25+ so they have given us several hundred dollars of bags over the years, just like Caseys did before them.
- The JOI officers dropped off tied fleece blankets at Children's Hospital this week. This was their service project for September.



L-R: Ellie Kinsella, Will Mass, Dane Guttau, Molly Coffman, Violet Wellman

Events this week:

- **Sun. Sept. 28** – Prayer Vigil for Taiya Vorthmann 4:30 PM at Treynor HS Football Field
- **Mon. Sept. 29 –**JV VB tournament @ Glenwood
- **Tues. Sept. 30 –** VB vs. Audubon @ Treynor
- **Tues. Sept. 30 –** 7/8th FB vs. Und@ Underwood
- **Tues. Sept. 30 –** JOI Club Bake Sale @ Farmers Market 5:30 – 7:00
- **Tues. Sept. 30 - Treynor Fall Farmers Market** – 5:30-7:00 PM, Chili Cook-Off – Bring pot of spicy, traditional, non-traditional. Food Truck: Chic-Fil-A
- **Wed. Oct. 1 -** MS/HS Bass Singers Festival @ Atlantic
- **Thur. Oct. 2 –** G/B CC @ Shenandoah
- **Fri. Oct. 3 –** Football vs. Tri-Center @ Treynor
- **Fri. Oct. 3 –** Free Community Tailgate – loaded Nachos. St. Paul Lutheran 5:15 – 6:45 p.m.
- **Sat. Oct. 4-** SWI Marching Band Jamboree – Clarinda
- **Sat. Oct. 4 –** Treynor City Wide Garage Sale

Coming Events:

- **Fri. Oct. 10-** Treynor Fall Clean up Day
- **Sun., Oct. 12 –** 8 AM – 12:30 PM. Legion Pancake Breakfast

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR from Yogi Berra

"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else."

That reminds me (Judy) of my dad's humor:

"We're here because we are here; if we weren't here, we wouldn't be here!

CALENDAR

Events:

Oct. 4	Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM, Treynor Community Center

Birthdays:

Oct 17	Marsha Underwood
Oct 29	Bill Vorthmann

Anniversaries:

Oct 13	Dale & Dianne Willenborg
Oct 17	Dennis & Kay White

Programs:

October	Jordan Campbell (1st/2nd Sat.)
	Judy Guttau (3rd Sat.)
	Dee Guttau (4th Sat.)
November	Jerry Hempel (1st/2nd Sat.)
	Linda Danker (3rd/4th Sat.)
	Judy Guttau (5th Sat.)
December	Mick and Judy Guttau

Speakers

Oct. 4	Treynor Royalty – Lilly Yocum, Jett Sornson
Oct. 11	TBA
Oct. 18	Dr. Dan Kinney, Pres. Iowa Western Community College
Oct. 25	TBA

Editor: Judy Guttau, judy.guttau@tsbg.com , 402-670-4330. Contributors: Dee Guttau, John Klein, Kathy Luedke
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 5157