,,The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
**Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109**
**Iowa District Governor: Jane Schmidt**

**Lt Governor: George Volz**

**NEWSLETTER**

Treynor Optimist Club President:
**Dale Willenborg**

May 9, 2026 Vol. 42, No.19

## Pastor Emily Dalen, St. Paul Lutheran



Pastor Dalen has been serving in Treynor since September 2022. Before graduating from Luther Seminary in 2022, she served three churches for over 21 years in children, youth, and family ministry. She grew up in the Ft. Dodge, Manson area. Her husband served as pastor at Underwood and was then appointed as Bishop for the Lutheran Church. They now live in Council Bluffs. They have two children who are grown.

Pastor Emily is particularly passionate about bringing intergenerational groups together to learn and grow. When coming to the church in Treynor, she noted that it is very unusual for a church this size to have a full-time youth director (Denise Wilson) which drew her to this congregation. She said it is a joy to work with Denise and support the kids' activities here.

Pastor Emily took the call to come to Treynor from Kirk Vorthmann, who served on the Search Committee. She likes to say that it was Lynelle Vorthmann's meatloaf that determined her acceptance. She doesn't like meatloaf, but she loved Lynelle's.

The church has been working on their local values and have five: 1) Youth and young adult ministry. 2) Service outside the walls of the church. 3) Intergenerational ministry – to intentionally have all ages come together and talk about faith things. 4) Inclusivity – where everyone feels welcome. 5) Discipleship – How do we follow Jesus in our daily lives?

Some of the ministries of the church include: Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School starting June 8 for one week, Elementary Children's evening once a monthly on Wednesday nights, Confirmation, High School Youth meetings and activities.

Wedded Band has existed for 75 years. A group of adults meet once a month, and you do not need to be married. -Dinners, speakers and service projects are part of this group.

On Tuesdays once a month they have Brewed Theology at Silos where they meet, eat, and talk about hot topics – Heaven, Immigration, Nones and Dones, etc.

A Lenten supper is held for adults and youth in the Fellowship Hall. It is a type of worship service, but it is more discussion based with a song, prayers, and questions to talk about. She stated that first graders gave great insight.

Summer worship hours are now beginning at 9:30 AM. Worship is not just lead by Pastor Dalen. Everyone can have a part – first graders may read, families may serve. A new member class was held in April with nine family units.

St. Paul leads a Memorial Day service at the St. Paul Cemetery. DVBS begins June 8. In the fall, they have a big bonfire with food and discussion. St. Paul also has a Pre-School. She reads Bible stories once a month to the children.

Service projects include a large garage sale that raised a record $7000 recently to support the high school mission trip to Sioux Falls, SD this summer.

The church works with the school to sponsor a coffee for teachers once a year. They collect sweatpants for kids and raise money or items for emergency needs when Counselor Danie Floerchinger requests help.

There is a Quilters group that makes 17 quilts a month which are sent all around the world.

They have Advent Fest which includes fun activities, and they also learn what Advent is and work on service projects.

Pastor Emily said her favorite part of ministry at St. Paul is preparing Bible Study and facilitating conversation with all age groups.

**Next week's speaker:**
**Matt Wyant**
**Director of Planning and Development for Pott Co.**

**Optimistic Quote:**

**"You do not just wake up and become the butterfly. Growth is a process.**

**Rupi Kaur**

## Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Fourteen members were present. Our guests were: George Volz, Rachel Dyke, Saran Vandevanter and sons Brock and Eli, Mike Holton, Bret McVey, and Emily Dalen.

**Prayer:** Bill Vorthmann

**Jokes**: Keith Denton, Dale Willenborg

**50/50:** Dick Fox

**Attendance**: Dennis White

**Birthdays/Anniversaries**: Dick Fox will be 83 next Saturday and won't be here. Keith Denton will be 80 on Monday. We sang to both!

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

- Glenrose Meier: Change of date-The Treynor Legion will have military honors for her husband, Bob Meier now at 10 AM on Thursday, May 14 at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery.
- Mike Holton: Friday night his daughter received her Masters' Degree in Education Science. She teaches in Blair. Mike and his wife will soon be attending the cute Pre-K graduation for their two little grandsons, one from Omaha, one from Blair.
- Judy Guttau: Granddaughter Joslyn Guttau's wedding is today (Saturday). Next Saturday is grandson Blake Fox's ISU graduation.
- Keith Denton: He received Peak Performance shoes for his birthday and now can walk with little or no pain.
- Keith Denton: His granddaughter Lili had an interesting interview with Edwards O'Neil, Council Bluffs, on Instagram. She picked the Longhorns because she likes the girls on the team and coaches.
- Keith Denton: His step granddaughter received a scholarship for academics.
- Dick Fox: His garden is all planted with the exception of sweet potatoes. He has 22 tomato plants. Dick said he planted a $30-40 peony root last year upside down. It was supposed to produce yellow flowers. He dug it up in the fall and now it is growing and might survive.
- Gary Guttau: This morning he hauled mulch, which is fertilized soil out of the cattle lot, to WestFair for the Master Gardeners sale. He said he took a class in 1956 when he was going to teach horticulture. He, Dee and Chad became Master Gardeners.
- Jerry Hempel said his son-in-law is the head coach at Metro Lavista and they won the championship over the top track teams in that area. Beating Papio South was a highlight.

**Business:**

- A report was given by Dale Willenborg about Mulch Madness. There was great weather, and the kids worked really fast putting up the five 10-15 ft. trees. They also gave a new top coat of mulch to roughly 60 previously planted trees. John Klein, Kirk Vorthmann, Dale Willenborg, and Keith Denton helped with the project. See pictures below.
- Bret McVey reported that John Klein has been leading/organizing this project since 2000 with to date 130 total trees being planted at school, the sports complex or the east City Park. Home Depot donated the trees and supplies. He will be honored the last Saturday of May when he speaks.
- Bret McVey also reported that the Swim Bus is now full for the 8 swimming lessons at Lewis Central in June. The kids will be treated to ice cream at Tastee Treat after the last class.
- Dale Willenborg stated flags will be put up May 15 for Armed Forces Day and stay up for Memorial Day weekend. Start at 4 PM.
- Can Kennel sorting for St. Paul Youth started at 9 AM today.

- Judy Guttau passed a sign-up sheet for a 45 min. tour with a guide for **The Wall That Heals** that will be at Lewis Central on their soccer field. Our tour will be on **Saturday, May 23 at 10:30**. Meet at the Treynor Community Center at 10:00 to carpool or caravan or you can meet us at the Visitor Center at the soccer field. Please let Judy Guttau know if you plan to go on the tour.
- Judy Guttau shared that there will be a "Welcome Home" celebration at The Wall That Heals on Friday, May 22 from 5-6 PM. Mick Guttau will be the keynote speaker. The public is invited.
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Eli and Brock Vandevanter received a check from President Dale Willenborg for the Silver Keg Feeders 4-H Club for $1049.55 from the Can Kennel. The boys have been working on their animals to show. There are 80+ members, with lots of Clover Kids from K-3rd grade. Luke Christensen is the president of the SKF. Each month they work on a service project.

- Optimist Lt. Gov. George Volz from Carson visited and spoke briefly complimenting our club on our many projects of service.

## Community:

- **Thurs. May 21:** The Wall That Heals travels from the north into Treynor enroute to Lewis Central for display. Time to be announced.
- **Sat. May 23:** Optimist organized trip to tour The Wall That Heals display. Meet at 10. Tour at 10:30.
- **Tues. June 2:** Farmers Market begins
- **Sat. June 6:** Treynor Alumni & Friends Dinner/Program. 5:30 doors open, 6:30 dinner. Treynor Community Center. Jeff Schnepel is one contact to make your reservation: 402-658-4867.

## School Events in Treynor

- **Tues. May 12:** V G/B soccer vs. Underwood
- **Tues. May 12:** Kindergarten Program 6:30
- **Tues. May 12:** 1st Grade Program 7:30
- **Thurs. May 14:** V G/B State Qualifying Track 4:00
- **Fri. May 15**: 4-6th grade Elementary Track Meet

## Upcoming Special School Events:

- **Wed. May 20**: Senior Awards Night/ Baccalaureate @ Zion
- **Sun. May 24**:
- Graduation

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## HUMOR

**"Always remember that you are absolutely unique, just like everyone else."**

**Margaret Mead**

## CALENDAR

**Events:**

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| May 15 | Flags to be put up |
| May 16 | Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM, Treynor Community Center- Big Room |
| May 23 | 10:30 AM Guided Tour of The Wall That Heals, Carpool or caravan at 10:00 AM or meet us there. Sign up with Judy Guttau |

**Birthdays:**

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| May 11 | Keith Denton |
| May 16 | Dick Fox |
| May 21 | Steve Irvin |
| May 27 | Kirk Vorthmann |

**Anniversaries: None**

**Programs:**

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| May | Jeff Jorgensen (3rd,4th Sat) |
| | John Klein (5th Sat.) |
| June | Steve Irvin (1st,2nd Sat) |
| | Judy Guttau (3rd.4th Sat) |
| July | July 4 – no meeting |
| | July 11 – Open for a Speaker |
| | Phil Waggoner (3rd, 4th Sat) |

**Speakers:**

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| May 16 | Matt Wyant, Development Director of Pott Col. |
| May 23 | Andy Wicks, Pott. Co. Engineer |
| May 30 | Cody Abbott, Manager of Home Depot (to be honored) |
| June 6 | Tracy Petersen: Treynor High School Teacher who teaches Sports Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Careers/Finance, Work Based Learning |
| June 13 | Steve Irvin, Secretary/Treasurer of the Southwest Iowa Educational Foundation |

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| June 20 | Kelsey Stupfell, Treynor Teacher Grants recipients and Treynor Tomorrows Update | July 4 | No Meeting |
| | | July 11 | Open for a Speaker |
| June 27 | 4th Grade Invention Convention – State Participants | | |

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575







**Mulch Madness**

Read the newsletter for more information about this long-running program with the Optimists, community members and the 5th graders at Treynor.
To date a total of 130 trees have been planted in Treynor since 2000.
John Klein has been the coordinator for all these years. Last year and this year Bret McVey is carrying on the tradition with John's continued assistance.

Thanks to Home Depot at Lake Manawa for the donation of all trees and supplies needed for this great annual event. As John states, the goal is beautification but also building a caring attitude that these students will carry long into adulthood. They are taking some 'buy-in" to their school, community, and shade for the future that will likely not benefit only themselves, but possibly their children or grandchildren.

Main facilitators in educating the 5th graders are:
Sarah Bell, DNR District Forester
Laura Munson, Pott Co. Soil District Education Specialist
John Klein and Bret McVey