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## Linda Eitmann speaks about St. Paul Preschool

Linda Eitmann, Director of the St. Paul Preschool in Treynor, spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on Saturday, October 27. It is a ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church and serves as an outreach to the Treynor community and surrounding areas.



**Linda Eitmann**

Eitmann explained the mission is to love the children, teach God's wonders and discover the love of learning. The purpose is to provide a safe nurturing, Christian environment where young children can explore and discover through age-appropriate activities the wonders of God's world.

There are seven staff members. Preschool sessions are offered in the mornings M,W,F for 4-5 year olds and T, Th for 3-4 year olds. An all day PreK session is offered Monday thru Friday for 4-5 year olds. In addition, Extended Preschool is offered before and after school to increase kindergarten readiness skills.

The daily schedule includes welcome and discussion of the day, music, movement, chapel time, storybook activity, small group/snack time, self-selected centers, outside nature time and a goodbye song.

Eitmann discussed the debate of academic vs. play-based curriculum. The data is clear that children can learn and learn well in playful classrooms. The Whole Child Approach was explained. The children are exposed to the following interest areas: science, reading, sensory, and art. The block area is a popular center.

The St. Paul Preschool is a faith-based school and offers monthly Bible stories and Bible verses, weekly chapel visits by pastors and youth pastors, Christian staff members and daily prayers.

In addition the students participate in service projects, such as collecting health items for community seniors, food for Treynor Food Pantry, and items for Micah House. They also send letters to servicemen and cards to the prayer chain list. Pocket change is collected for cancer and coins for hurricane victims. In the spring they beautify Treynor with flowers.

Additional discussion covered research about brain facts, state requirements for preschools and differences in public school preschools, what to look for in a quality preschool, plus short and long-term benefits of preschools.

### Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Fifteen members were present plus one guest, Linda Eitmann. Keith Denton shared a joke followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Dee Guttau gave the opening prayer. Gary Funkhouser won the 50/50 award and Jim Clausen won the attendance drawing. Ken Graham won the Football Contest.

Bill Vorthmann's birthday was observed. There were no anniversaries.

For bragging rights, Jim Clausen, Gary Funkhouser and Keith Denton donated because of the good football season. Kevin Underwood contributed because he had a ladder accident

but was not hurt. Ann Vorthmann contributed because the band received a one rating at the state contest, and John Klein donated because the Dreamland Park at Lake Manawa opens Sunday.

Under old business, the Trunk or Treat which is Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1:30-3:30 was discussed. On Nov. 14, is the Human Trafficking program co-sponsored by the Treynor Junior Women and Treynor Optimist Club. The Optimist Club will pay half the cost of pizza. Serving begins at 5:30 PM at Silos.

The Boy Scouts will have their last can kennel sorting Wednesday after school. It was noted we are low on bags. .

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by stating the Optimists Pledge.

Thanks to Dee Gutttau for taking notes.

#### **Calendar**

Oct 28	Treynor Spooktacular Trunk or Treat
Oct 31	Can kennel sorting for Boy Scouts
Nov 14	Human Trafficking Program at Silo's
Nov 14	Can kennel sorting for Cub Scouts
Nov 28	Can kennel sorting for Cub Scouts

#### **Birthdays**

Nov 8	Mick Gutttau
Nov. 18	Diane Willenborg

#### **Anniversaries**

Nov 2	Kirk and Lynell Vorthmann
Nov 6	Ken and Linda Graham

#### **Programs**

November	Keith Denton
December	Kirk Vorthmann

#### **Speakers**

Notes by Dee Gutttau

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