



**Linda Eitmann, St. Paul
Preschool**



Linda Eitmann, Preschool Administrator of St. Paul Preschool, shared its history and vision. The Preschool was a vision of Linda's after having attended a Minneapolis Conference for Women in 1996. Passion was ignited and persistence paid off for her

vision, and she credits God's guidance with the arrival of Pastor Norris as the turnkey to making it happen by suggesting an exploratory task force, followed by a feasibility study group.

Linda served as Administrator from 2005 – 2012, retired, then came back as Interim 2017-2023. She sees her second and final retirement in the near future.

The Preschool mission is to "Love the children, teach God's wonders, and discover the love of learning."

Linda expressed her pleasure in the Preschool always having high ratings from the state, and now also in a new Quality Rating System known as IQ4K.

Through the years the Preschool plan has grown and currently the Preschool consists of two classrooms with three separate programs/sessions:

- Mon-Fri- ages 4&5
- M,W,F -ages 4&5:
- T,Th -ages 3&4.

Preschool sessions are offered 8:30-11:30.

There is also Extended Preschool Care from 7-8:30 & 11:30 – 5:45.

It was notable that four research studies indicate "The gains from Preschool appear to be so significant and consistent that investing in early childhood education is just about the most cost-effective way to spend public money." The benefit is in educational saving, tax earnings, welfare savings, and crime savings.

The future vision involves the fact that Treynor Community School has now opened a Preschool.

Government mandates for a public Preschool are: 1) The teacher have a bachelor degree in early childhood and the associate have a CDA, AA, 2 year career path. 2) 10 hours of instruction without proselytizing during the 10 hours, 3) Only state funding for 4 year olds, 4) School districts set the criteria (such as low income, early access, IEPs, special needs.) 5) Curriculum, assessment and documentation requirement.

St. Paul is a faith based curriculum, offers choice of half day or full day sessions, provides a homey environment/large outdoor classroom area, accepts scholarships and state funding from Child Care Assistance, provides a lower staff to student ratio, and emphasizes monthly service projects.

Linda stated that the impact on St. Paul of also having a public school Preschool in Treynor offers a financial challenge – free versus tuition costs, a possible loss of students, staff wage competition, possible increased tuition, maintenance of the facility being done by the church. At this time being a community partner with the school doesn't seem to be an option.

The unknowns for the future: Will St. Paul enrollment decline? Will the focus be on 3 year olds? Will the Preschool turn into a child care facility? Will the Preschool become a community partner to the school district in the future?

This year there are 37 enrolled, which is a little lower than last year, at the St. Paul Preschool. Thank you, Linda, for pursuing your passion and the service you have provided for hundreds of our children.

Next week's Speaker:

Bill Snyder

AARP – scams and fraud

Mission Statement of Optimist Intl.

"By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids."

Famous Quote

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; The courage to change the things I can; And the wisdom to know the difference.”

Reinhold Niebuhr

Meeting Minutes

Jordan Campbell, called the meeting to order. Twenty members were present. George Volz, Linda Eitmann, Cub Scouts Leader Cindy Beiderman, son Thomas Beiderman, and one other member and dad.

The group recited the pledge and Ken Graham offered the prayer.

Jordan announced that today is the anniversary in August 1951 of Eddie Gaedel, 3' 7" tall, pinch hitting for the St. Louis Browns.

George Volz, our District Lt. Governor from Carson, shared about the District Convention. There will be a Wine Splash event Sept. 17. He shared decals, pins, creed cards and hand out cards as ways of recruiting more members. Don Dilts, Underwood will be our new Lt. Governor. George will be District Oratorical Chairman and encouraged our club to get the school involved now. The theme will be “How to change the world with optimism?” Any age up to 19 can prepare a 4-5 min. speech to compete. Also the Essay Contest required submission of Essays by Feb. 28. The Council Bluffs clubs will now be in our Zone.

Jokes: Jordan Campbell, Bill Vorthmann, Gary Guttau, Steve Chambers, and Keith Denton shared jokes.

50/50: Dee Guttau won.

Attendance: Joel Beyenhof won, but was not present to win.

Birthdays: Judy Guttau's birthday is Aug. 23. She provided breakfast casseroles today.

Bill Clinton turns 76 today as announced by Jordan.

Anniversaries: None

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

- Keith Denton announced their family farm received a Legacy Farm Award for 150 years at the State Fair. He also shared that Tom Schnepel was there receiving a Century Farm award. Ron and Lynn Stortenbecker also received the Century Farm Award.
- Dee Guttau bragged on the football team looking good in the scrimmage games Fri. They showed they could catch, run, and throw.
- Glenrose Meier stated her grandson, who was joining the Marines, couldn't do so for a health reason and is now enrolled at Wayne State and moved yesterday.
- Dick Fox stated he has two peach trees. One has 50 peaches, the other is overloaded and has 13 supports (four of which are broken now). He asked for people to come help pick!
- Linda Eitmann shared that the St. Paul Preschool received a high rating from IQ4K, an Iowa Quality rating system for insurance.
- Judy Guttau bragged on Doni Days today and that TS Bank is celebrating its 100 years by being in the parade and giving out special treats by the bank.

Community:

Business:

- Can Kennel discussions are today at 9 AM with youth organization leaders. Notes are attached.



- Cindy Beiderman, Cub Scout leader and crew were present to receive their can kennel check for \$1245.90. Cindy said the funds will help with their activities, which include camps, pack camps, pinewood derby, etc. They have nine members and

hope to double this year by encouraging each member to invite a friend.



• Denise Wilson received a large check of \$1,900.55 for St. Paul Youth. She stated there was just one larger check during COVID when no one could return cans and was a record \$2083. She stated her appreciation for the opportunity the Optimists give for all the youth groups every year.

Auction:

Dick Fox donated a bag of peaches from his tree which was purchased by George Volz for \$3. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the saying of the Creed.

HUMOR



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Calendar

Events

Birthdays

Aug 23 Judy Guttai

Anniversaries

Aug 25 Gary & Julia Funkhouser

Programs:

Aug Bill Vorthmann (last 2)
Sept Glenrose Meier (first 2)
Steve Chambers (next 2)
Judy Guttai (5th Sat.)
Oct Gary Guttai

Speakers

Aug 26 Bill Snyder - AARP – Fraud and Scams
Sept 2 Kurt Van Wyk, Technician for CB Recycling Center
Sept 9 Jean Allen, Mary Mayfield, Sewing for Babies
Sept 16 Dr. Ward Chambers, Heart Health, etc.
Sept. 23 Tom Trede, School Bus Issues
Sept. 30 TBA