Shepherd of the Prairie 2016 Goals
Supporting Strategic Direction

<u>Be a catalyst for creating community partnerships that care for people in need</u>

1. *Maintain contact and identify volunteer opportunities with Centegra leaders to investigate forming a partnership of religious congregations that can provide services to patients.*

   How*:*
   - Attend Chamber of Commerce meetings/events to network with Centegra leaders
   - Communicate with Centegra contacts
   - Participate in Expo

   Who:
   - Council members

   Timeline:
   - 2/15/16: Pastor Mark communicated with Centegra via email: Volunteer needs to be addressed in May per Centegra; Create sign up sheet for Chamber Meetings
   - 8/15/16: Recommendations completed for volunteers at Centegra
   - 10/17/16 Meeting with clergy scheduled for 2 weeks from now
   - 10/17/16 Participated in Huntley Expo in September
   - 10/17/16 Green Trees volunteer opportunities occurred 10/1/16 and 10/8/16

2. *Explore volunteer opportunities with Heritage Woods*

   How:
   - Service at Heritage Woods
   - Music ministries participate in worship at Heritage Woods

   Who:
   - Worship Ministry Team

   Timeline:
   - 2/15/16: Council Liaison to discuss with Worship Ministry at March Ministry Night
   - 4/18/16: Communicated with Heritage Woods re: interest in assisting with worship
   - 10/17/16: Exploring once per month worship service at location behind Heritage Woods
   - 12/19/16: Seeking volunteers for transportation for individuals from Heritage Woods to attend SOTP worship service

3. *Increase visibility of Little Lambs Education Program*

   How:
   - Communicate to the congregation about the offerings of the Little Lambs Program (Temple Talks)
   - Little Lamb students meet with Pastor Mark 1st Tuesday of month
   - Lunch with Pastor and parents of Little Lambs students
   - Drop off exchange (i.e. mug) between parents and rotating ministry groups

Who:
- Pastor Mark/Little Lambs Education

Timeline:
- 2/15/16: Pastor and Little Lamb student meetings to begin March 2016
- Temple Talks to occur Summer 2016 prior to Fall Registration
- 3/21/16: End of year program: May 26th- Council president to speak to parents
- May 2016: Lunch with Little Lambs and Pastor Mark occured
- 10/17/16: Beginning 1/1/17- Little Lambs staff will be hired as church staff, not contract personnel

Rationale:
SOTP to serve as a catalyst to help community organizations form partnerships of area religious organization that can provide volunteer services to the community. The expectation is the level of services provided by partnerships is greater than what any one organization can provide.

Promote the well-being of area children, youth and young adults through identification and facilitation of community programming

1. *Continue to develop tutoring center*

How:
- Seek students outside of SOTP membership in need of tutors: advertising with local schools
- Seek high school students interested in tutoring other students with Gregg's support to reach out to high school students
- Communicate to parents on Wednesday night (confirmation night)

Who:
- Tutoring Task Force (Led by Athena Hart)

Timeline:
- 2/15/16: 2 students receiving tutoring from 2 tutors
- 3/21/16: Athena to come to council meeting in April
- 4/18/16: Athena Hart attended council meeting and shared strengths and challenges of current program. Brain stormed suggestions for increased visibility and participation in program.
- 10/17/16: Tutoring facilitator introduced tutoring program at confirmation

2. *Expand Youth and Family Ministry Opportunities*

How:
- Praize Jamz
- Host evening guest speaker events re: parenting issues for families with children 3 years to third grade
- Consider youth opportunities outside of the Music Department (i.e. renting a gym)
- Explore Sunday School opportunities for increased participation

Who:

- Greg Dowell

Timeline:

- 2/15/16: Praize Jamz scheduled to lead worship on Saturday April 23rd
- 3/21/16: Guest speaker events: Fall 2016
  Looking to start up "Rocks": Ministry for 3,4, and 5th grade boys: looking to raise up leader(s) for group
- 8/15/16: Youth/Family Ministry raised up
- 10/17/16: Youth and Family Ministry Team: Birthday party for Jesus combined with Night in Bethlehem scheduled for 12/11/16; Mobile Food Pantry service project to be scheduled in Spring
- 12/19/2017 Night in Bethlehem cancelled due to weather. To be rescheduled December 2017.
- 12/19/2016: Mobile Food Pantry date reserved for April 1, 2017

3. *Active Christian Parenting*

How:

- Promote program to parents of Little Lambs students
- Follow up with parents who have completed class

Who:

- Chuck and Sharon Little, Nick and Sarah Wolf, Chris and Amy Brittain, Steve and Lori Conway

Timeline:

- 2/15/16: Next class tentatively set for Spring 2016- seeking parents interested in program
- 3/21/16: Class rescheduled for Fall 2016
- 8/15/16: Flyers distributed to VBS parents
- 10/17/16: Tabled at this time: no families signed up for fall course

Rationale:

Youth are not the future of the church, but the church now. Developing and implementing ministry programs geared for young children and their families are essential to the continued growth and strength of the church. Expanding these programs beyond the doors of SOTP provides opportunities for teaching the Life and love of Jesus and encouraging and equipping others to make a difference in God's world through Active Christian Parenting as well as Music Ministry Expansion. With tutoring, our community can benefit from SOTP providing a place where parents and students can turn to attain assistance in reinforcing what is learned in school.

Invite People into life-giving participation in the community of faith

1. *Social Activities*

How:

- Post pictures of activities prior to services
- Scroll Church Information on screen before service
- Invite New Members for fellowship (i.e. New Member Class Reunions)

- Use a dedicated screen for scrolling ministry news

Who:

- Donna Kelly

Timeline:

2/15/16: Scrolling pictures beginning this month
3/21/16: New Member Gathering scheduled for end of April
8/15/16: Social Events held: Picnic, Trivia Night, 3 Summer Potlucks; upcoming: September 21, 2016: 15th Anniversary of 1st worship at SOTP
10/17/16: Upcoming Reformation event: October 30th: German dinner and Luther movie
12/19/16: Richardson Corn Maze Family Night occurred in October

Rationale:
Promote fellowship – old friends and newly formed friendships. Make new members feel welcome and a part of the SOTP family.

Encourage spiritual growth that changes lives and raises up leaders for the church and the world

1. Change lives and raise up leaders through small group opportunities.

How:

- Identify small group training possibilities for the staff of the church.
- Increase small group opportunities (i.e. Christian Active Parenting, Supper Club, Book Club)

Who:

- Donna Kelly/ Pastor Mark/ Congregation Member(s)

Timeline:

3/21/16: Training opportunity in August re: new model for small group ministry
4/18/16: Pastor Mark, Pastor Bill, and Donna plan to meet to discuss small group ministry
Summer Book Read- email to be sent out with suggestions for books- on your own study
8/15/16: Summer Potlucks completed
10/17/16: Small group training opportunity in February 2017
10/17/16: Grief support group starting this Friday

Rationale:
Promote opportunities for new members and members not currently in a leadership role to utilize their talents in the best way possible.