



**SHEPHERD'S  
CANYON** RETREAT  
MINISTRY  
ARIZONA & MISSOURI

Advent/Christmas 2025

## The Christmas Eve Candle That Wouldn't Stay Lit

Imagine it's a snowy Christmas Eve. A pastor stands before his congregation, joyful, but weary from a year of service and the busyness of the Advent season.

The lights are dimmed for the final hymn-- Silent Night. The worshippers hold unlit candles with anticipation while the pastor begins to share his light with others, who in turn spread that light to those near them, creating an ever-increasing and mesmerizing glow in the room.



As the pastor stands in front, singing with everyone else, his own candle unexpectedly goes out! He stares at the darkened wick, stunned for a moment. A young boy sees his predicament. He joyfully steps forward and holds out his own candle so the pastor can reignite the flame.

As the sounds of Silent Night fill the room, tears form in this pastor's eyes-- from the beauty of the moment and the knowledge of God's immense love, but also from the realization that just as others need his help, he needs the help of others. And they are happy to help!

At Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, countless church workers experience this same gentle grace of someone leaning in to help them shine again. Every few weeks, weary ministry leaders walk through our doors feeling exhausted. Some are barely flickering. Others arrive convinced that their light is gone for good.

But what happens here through Christ-centered counseling, rest, a safe community, and the grace of God is that they begin to glow again as the flame is carefully passed from one person to another. God causes their light to be re-kindled, to burn brightly, able to be shared with more people. We reflect the light of Christ to others.

At a pastors' conference recently, three pastors told my wife & me:

- "Shepherd's Canyon **helped me stay in ministry.**"
- "Shepherd's Canyon **saved our marriage.**"
- "Shepherd's Canyon **saved my life.**"

**This Christmas season, you can be that child  
holding the light that helps reignite the light of others!**

**"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light  
shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's  
glory displayed in the face of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6**

*Merry Christmas! From Kevin, Tawn and the SCR Team*



**Rev. Kevin & Tawn Bueltmann**  
**Executive Leadership**  
**[Kevin@ShepherdsCanyon.org](mailto:Kevin@ShepherdsCanyon.org)**

# Save the Date:

## Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon Saturday, March 21, 2026

You're invited!! To our **Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**. Come and enjoy hearing Jennie Williamson's sing. Dave and Barb Anderson will also sing a song or two. We'll hear updates from Executive Director Rev. Kevin Buelmann. Overnight lodging is available. Join us for a free lunch, music & an update! For details, go to: [www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/celebration](http://www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/celebration)

### Jennie Williamson & Fields of Zephaniah

Jennie Williamson recorded 8 children's albums, a devotional worship album, & 3 Christmas albums with AriSon Records. She tours all over the country energizing Christian schools, conferences, women's events, and churches. Jennie and her husband Brian are also building **Fields of Zephaniah**-- a retreat offering rest for soul-fatigued servants. Jennie & Brian share our passion to help church workers. It will be great to have her sing at our **Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon**.



***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.***  
**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

## Join Us for our 2026 Friends of the Ministry Weekends



We are excited to announce our *Friends of the Ministry Weekend* events for 2026. These weekends offer a unique opportunity for friends, supporters, and partners of Shepherd's Canyon to spend time exploring the property and getting to know our staff, volunteers and other supporters and also hearing about the future of Shepherd's Canyon.

**January 30-February 1, 2026 – Arizona**

**October 3, 2026 – Missouri**

**November 6-8, 2026 – Arizona**

For details and to register go to:

[www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/friends](http://www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/friends)

### Wish List of Needs We are Praying For

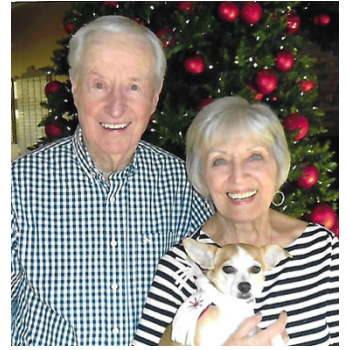
- A new or gently used car, SUV or van
- Funds for our irrigation system and pool filter upgrades in Arizona
- Funds for our Missouri Lake House for Furniture & beds, light remodeling, and upgrading the septic system





## Endowments, Estate Planning, and Wills, Oh, my!

We praise God for our new **Rollie & Michaelene Baumann SCR Endowment**. This is partially funded now and will be fully funded with a total of **\$400,000** when Rollie joins Michaelene in heaven. Rollie & Michaelene →



We praise God for **\$82,000** from the **Estate of ← Eileen Uhlmann**. We are grateful that Eileen planned ahead to help pastors, ministry leaders and spouses even after God called her home.

**Do you have a will?** If not, or if yours needs to be updated, Shepherd's Canyon is offering a **FREE** service to help you make your will! We have partnered with MyLegacyWill.com to offer a free, easy-to-use online tool for creating your will. Create a will at [www.MyLegacyWill.com/ShepherdsCanyon](http://www.MyLegacyWill.com/ShepherdsCanyon) Contact Tawn at [Tawn@ShepherdsCanyon.org](mailto:Tawn@ShepherdsCanyon.org) for more information.

## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. HONOR YOUR VALUES.

Write your Last Will and Testament for **FREE**, courtesy of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat.

Go to: [MyLegacyWill.com/ShepherdsCanyon](http://MyLegacyWill.com/ShepherdsCanyon)



## Blessed to Bless Others with Family Foundations

We're celebrating a remarkable **\$300,000** family foundation grant (anonymous) that **retired our mortgage and part of our SBC loan**. Praise God! Please let us know of other Family Foundations, Church Endowments, & Community Grants that could be a blessing to pastors, ministry leaders & spouses.

## Denominational & Network Partners?

We are grateful for receiving **\$35,000** in operational support and about **\$50,000** in scholarship funds from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We also receive support from various Christian denominations and networks. If you know of other church bodies that may wish to partner with us, please reach out.

## QCDs, RMDs, DAFs, Oh, my!

Did you know that Shepherd's Canyon can receive these types of gifts? Please consider us as you finish 2025 strong! Contact Tawn for more information at: [Tawn@ShepherdsCanyon.org](mailto:Tawn@ShepherdsCanyon.org)

- If you itemize, consider giving in 2025 to avoid the new 0.5% floor and 35% cap coming next year.
- 70½ or older? A QCD from your IRA may reduce your taxable income and can count toward your RMD.
- For steady support, consider bunching multiple years of giving now or giving through your DAF.
- In 2026, non-itemizers can deduct up to \$1,000/\$2,000 total across all charities.

### Dear Shepherd's Canyon –

Thank you for the space you gave us—space to rest, to speak truthfully, and to listen to one another...Our week with you helped us in ways we weren't expecting. We came away from the experience more aware, more grounded, and more committed to the real work of healing and hope...God bless you in your continued work.

- From a Pastor & wife (teacher) who attended an SCR retreat



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Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Phoenix, AZ  
Permit 1010

**PO Box 222 - Wickenburg, AZ 85358**

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**Phone: 480-588-8837**

**EIN # 26-393-0639**



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## **20 Ways to Show Appreciation for Pastors, Church Workers, & Families**

1. Ask them how you can pray for them and their family.
2. Mow their lawn or shovel their driveway when they're out of town.
3. Give a gift card to their favorite restaurant (for more than one person!)
4. Encourage them to use their vacation time and days off.
5. Take them out for a meal and talk about life outside of ministry.
6. Offer your vacation cabin, camper, timeshare for their family to use.
7. Sponsor a health club membership to promote their well-being.
8. Take them to a fun event like a sporting game, concert, or hunting trip.
9. Share how they have impacted your walk with Jesus.
10. Vote for a generous salary, insurance, retirement plan & sabbatical.
11. Invite single workers for an afternoon of fun, non-church activities.
12. Pay for married workers to attend fun, marriage-strengthening events.
13. Include them and their family in your friend or family gatherings.
14. Visit retired workers; send cards to tell how they impacted your life.
15. Give them homemade gifts or produce from your garden or farm.
16. Secretly pay for their meal if you see them at a restaurant.
17. Share words of affirmation to make them feel valued & supported.
18. Gift a massage gift card for relaxation.
19. Share gift cards for their kids.
20. Write them an encouraging note.



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### **In Loving Memory of:**

**Doug Baker** – Given by  
Charles & Kathryn Deuth  
& Roger & Luana Senske

**Alice Tritsch** – Given by LWML Our Redeemer  
Lutheran Church Hutchinson, KS

### **In Honor of:**

**Vicki Nicely's 80th Birthday**

Given by Darlene Fritzinger & Richard Gorazd

**Dave Anderson's Birthday** (various donors)

**Kevin Buelmann's Birthday** (various donors)



[ShepherdsCanyon.org](http://ShepherdsCanyon.org)