



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

Spring 2025

## Exciting News: A New Chapter for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat

We are thrilled to announce that Shepherd's Canyon Retreat has been blessed with a second site!! It is a 5,000-square-foot home on a serene 55-acre lake in **Lake Ozark, Missouri**.



This expansion comes as a response to the growing number of pastors and ministry leaders seeking help, hope and healing. The new space will place our ministry within a day's drive of 12 states and over 100,000 churches, making our retreats more accessible to more church workers.

With our Arizona site nearing capacity, this lakeside retreat is an incredible opportunity to continue our mission of serving those in ministry. We invite you to join us in prayer, support, and partnership as we prepare to welcome guests to this sanctuary of grace and peace.



The previous owners, **Pastor Kris & Sheri Morris**, purchased the property in 2019, and it required extensive renovations, so a dedicated church member spent two years helping Pastor Morris restore it. Tragically, just six months after the pastor's family moved in, that church member and his wife were killed.

Later, when Pastor Morris accepted a position at Concordia University in Nebraska, he and his wife felt it would be a meaningful tribute to the man who had devoted so much time and effort to help one pastor and family...to sell their home to a ministry that serves pastors and other ministry workers in need of healing and renewal. They wanted this church member's legacy of service and generosity towards his pastor's family to continue.

Tawn and I met Pastor Kris Morris at a conference in Nebraska in September 2024 when he told us about their home. I said, "it sounds perfect, but we don't have any money." In October, Tawn and I went to see the house in person, and we loved it, but "we still don't have any money to buy it," I said.

A week later, we took some friends of ours, Michael & Caryn Borland, out to eat and showed them a presentation about how God has been blessing the ministry and asked for them to partner with us in making this happen. **The Borland Family Foundation** agreed to give us nearly a million dollars to buy the house. We are so grateful to them and to God for the ability to bless church workers in this way. We now need other donors to provide for other needs for that property. Can you help us?



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The house is beautiful, but we have some projects that need to be done. This Summer, we will need volunteers to help with light construction, painting, and preparing the home. Additionally, we are seeking financial support to purchase materials like lumber, drywall, and paint, as well as high-quality furniture to ensure a welcoming and comfortable environment for our guests.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we embark on this exciting new chapter to help even more people. If you'd like to volunteer or donate, please reach out to us. Together, we can prepare a space where God's healing work will continue!

**- Rev. Kevin Bueltmann, Executive Director**

## Passing of a Beloved, Longtime SCR Staff Member

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of **Dave Cohrs**, a beloved and longtime member of the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat family. Dave was a faithful servant of Christ, known for his humor, humility, and servant's heart. Whether working behind the scenes, ensuring smooth operations, caring for staff and therapists, or driving countless guests to and from the airport, Dave embodied God's love in all he did. As we grieve, we take comfort in the promise that Dave is now with the Lord and that we will see him again in eternity. Please join us in praying for peace and comfort for his family and all who loved him. A Celebration of Life and Faith service was held on February 8th at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Tempe, Arizona. The family has asked that memorial gifts be made to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat.

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled..." John 14:1**

**Jesus is "the way and the truth and the life..." John 14:6**



## Small Gifts, Great Impact: Blessed by God

We are deeply grateful for all of our donors, representing a wide variety of Christian denominations, whose generosity makes our ministry possible. In particular, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the

**Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)** from 11 different districts for their incredible support in 2024-2025. Through their mission grants, they have contributed—or pledged to contribute—a total of \$86,450 to our ministry. Many individual societies not listed have blessed us as well.

What makes this even more remarkable is how these funds are raised—primarily through loose change and small coin collections. Even the smallest gifts can make a life-changing impact for those we serve. Thank you, LWML, for your faithfulness and generosity! Grants coming from these districts:

Atlantic District	Iowa West	Kansas	Michigan	Minnesota South	Montana
Nebraska South	South Dakota	Texas	Utah-Idaho	Washington-Alaska	

**From a pastor and wife:** "Thank you to Shepherd's Canyon. We often remember the deeply spiritual and helpful counseling we received. The group and individual counseling helped us heal with the pain we experienced in the past 7 years. This personal healing has improved our marriage and our ministry. Although, life stressors have not disappeared – having the confidential and caring, intense counseling was certainly God sent. We will be forever grateful. We donated a small donation for your future ministry needs and intend to remember the program in our prayers and future donations."



## Introducing our New Logo!

We are thrilled to unveil the new logo for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat! While our previous logo beautifully reflected our Arizona roots, this new design represents our growing reach as we expand into Missouri and beyond.

At the heart of the design is a powerful image of the hand of Jesus reaching down into a canyon to rescue a lamb. This symbolizes His unwavering love, grace, and restoration—the very heart of our ministry.

This new logo was designed by **Marie-Eve Préaux**, who was so thankful for the help her husband received at SCR, that she does some graphic design work for us pro bono. We pray this new logo will serve as a meaningful reminder of Christ's care for those in need and the work He does through Shepherd's Canyon Retreats to bring healing and renewal to pastors, church workers, and their spouses.



***“I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.” Ezekiel 34:16***

**From a deaconess:** “When my husband and I arrived at Shepherd's Canyon, everything was different. We were surrounded by people who took care of every aspect of our needs. We were given delicious, healthy food to eat. We were given time to rest. We were given counselors who listened and cared. We were given peers who understood suffering. Shepherd's Canyon was an indescribable gift to us... Now I had a new hope and reassurance.”



**Overseas Trips** -Founder, Dave Anderson will be promoting his overseas trips through Fellowship Ministries. If you would like to receive his emails, please contact him at: [Dave@TheFellowship.org](mailto:Dave@TheFellowship.org)



### Memorials: November 2024 – January 2025

Note: Memorials given in February (including additional ones for Dave Cohrs and others) will be included in the next newsletter.

#### In Memory of:

**Gary D. Kientz** from Mark & Linda Meier  
**Lucy Washburn** from Kevin & Tawn Bueltmann  
**Don Mueller** from Connie Wishchnack  
**Nancy Horton** from Trish Kelm  
**Alice Tritsch** from Robert & Dawn Hackerott  
**Don Pena** from Ed & Wilma Rupprecht  
**Dave Cohrs** from Kevin & Tawn Bueltmann  
**Dave Cohrs** from Trish Kelm  
**Elaine Smith** from various donors

### Honorariums: Nov. 2024 - Jan. 2025

#### In Honor of:

**Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Nicely**  
From George & Darlene Fritzing  
**Walter & Speedy Beran**  
From John & Cheryl Beran Beran  
**Steve & Teresa Kovach**  
From John & Cheryl Beran Beran  
**Pastor Dan Myers** from Dana Gythiel



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

***From a pastor's wife:*** "We are using the information and skills we learned every day, and it has made a tremendously positive difference in our personal lives, our life together, and in our vocational lives as well. Thank you for this crucial and much-needed ministry. God is doing awesome things."

***From a pastor:*** "We have returned to ministry!"

## **Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon Noon-3:00pm, Saturday, March 8, 2025**

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is having its Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, March 8th and we are inviting **Shore Lane (Lauren & Shane Welter) from Federal Way, Washington** to be our guest musicians. They are part of The Songwriter's Initiative. Dave and Barb Anderson will also sing a song or two. We will also hear updates from Executive Director, Kevin Bueltmann. Overnight lodging available for those coming from far away! Join us for a free lunch, music & an update! For details, go to:  
[www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/celebration](http://www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/celebration)



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### **Support Shepherd's Canyon Retreat with Your Thrivent Choice Dollars!**

If you're a Thrivent member, please direct your Choice Dollars to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat by **March 31**. Simply log in to your Thrivent account, select "Direct Choice Dollars," search for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, enter your donation amount, and confirm your gift. Thank you!!