



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

Summer 2025

Changing Lives & Saving Lives



As I write this, Tawn and I are in Michigan at a conference where we led workshops about how to care for ministry leaders and shared what God is doing through Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. There were about 300 paid and volunteer ministry leaders in attendance. The first full day of the conference we had many church workers who attended a past Shepherd's Canyon retreat come up to us to tell us that they were so blessed. **Here are just four examples:**

One **Director of Family Life Ministry** was very excited to see us and said Shepherd's Canyon Retreat **kept her in the ministry!**

A **teacher** from a Christian school said it was worth the **30 hour drive** each way (her husband's mobility issues made it difficult to take a 3-hour flight.) They are so grateful for the experience! Her co-worker affirmed that this teacher came back to serve with joy and hope.

One **pastor** thanked us for helping him through a difficult situation in his previous ministry. Now he is working at his denomination's regional office!

We even had a retired church worker come up to us and say that the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat program **SAVED HIS SON'S LIFE...and his son is still a pastor today!!**

This is why we do what we do. God is changing lives and even **saving lives** through Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. We are blessed and honored to be a part of their journey, and we are deeply thankful for the support of our donors, volunteers, and prayer warriors who make this healing work possible.



Back in May, Tawn and I were invited to Alaska to speak about worker wellness to pastors, teachers, other church workers, and spouses attending a 3-day conference. We also took in the sights between my preaching at churches in Palmer and Anchorage. It was a joy connecting with people who still remember Dave and Barb Anderson and their incredible Rescue Story. If you haven't seen the 1-hour documentary on this miraculous story, go to www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/founders

Besides Alaska, we have also been sharing the mission of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat across the country in Illinois, Arizona, New York, New Hampshire, & now Michigan—all as part of our mission to raise awareness & support.

Why all this travel? - - - Because in order for this ministry to thrive, two essential things must happen:

1. Church workers need to know we exist in case they, or someone they know, can benefit from our program.
2. We must find new supporters as well as thank faithful friends of the ministry who support Shepherd's Canyon with prayers and generous financial support.

We're not doing this alone. Thanks for being an important part of this ministry!

- Rev. Kevin & Tawn Bueltmann, Executive Leadership Team



LWML to give a \$100,000 Grant for Scholarships

We are overjoyed to share that Shepherd's Canyon was selected as one of the 2025–2027 LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) Mission Grant recipients at the recent national convention in Omaha, NE! Praise God for this generous award, which will provide scholarships to

help pastors, church workers, and their spouses attend our week-long intensive counseling retreats. This incredible gift will open the door for many hurting ministry servants—those facing burnout, grief, conflict, depression, and more—to receive the Christ-centered care and healing they need. We are so grateful to God and for the faithful and mission-minded women of the LWML who make this possible.

Comfort, Ye My People

Quilts are a special part of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. The moment you walk into the Fellowship House at the Arizona site, you are greeted by the warm, vibrant quilts hanging on the walls and beds. Generous quilters have blessed this ministry.

During one of our retreats a guest wrapped herself in one of these quilts. She wore that beautiful quilt during all her sessions. It became a warm comfort to her.

That quilt was then given to her to take home as a reminder of God's love and comfort.



When it became apparent how much a comfort quilt would mean to our guests, the TLC Quilters from Algona, Iowa graciously gave Shepherd's Canyon many comfort quilts so that guests can take one home as a reminder of how deeply they are loved. Barb Bitterman, the leader of the TLC Quilters, says that each quilt comes with prayers and love. They pray over every quilt before it is sent out to go all over the world, bringing love and comfort to church workers in need. The fabrics are woven together in love just like the recipients of these quilts are woven together by the hand of God and the threads of their lives.

Kristi Goelke, who is in charge of hospitality at our Standing Stones site in Arizona says, "What a precious gift to remind them that there is love in Christ's family and that God makes all the pieces of our lives beautiful when He weaves them in His saving grace. He binds us together."

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People." Isaiah 40:1

From a pastor: "Before coming to Shepherd's Canyon, I was emotionally exhausted, full of resentment, and unsure whether anything could really change...With the help of wise counselors and a gracious community, I began to see how my old patterns of silence, people-pleasing, and shame had shaped my relationships—and how God might be inviting me into something different. I left with a renewed sense of dignity, clarity about my past, and hope for emotional and relational healing...This experience has already made a difference in how I preach, how I relate to my wife, and how I care for my own body and soul. I'm deeply grateful for those who made this possible."

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 will offer a unique opportunity for friends, supporters, and partners of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat to gather for fellowship, vision sharing, and a deeper look at our mission. Two events will be held in Arizona, and two will take place in Missouri. Stay tuned for more details!

January 30-February 1, 2026 – Arizona

April 11, 2026 – Missouri (tentative date)

October 3, 2026 – Missouri

November 6-8, 2026 – Arizona

From Hard Knocks to Standing Rocks – New Book

A new book is coming which tells the powerful true story of **Raine Selin**, head of maintenance, who has worked at Standing Stones for over 10 years. He & Kevin are writing a book about how he went from having a life sentence to having a life changed by God. This is a story of trauma, survival, transformation, faith, hope & love.



Here is a sneak peek of the book:

"We were barely holding it together. My wife and I had moved to Springfield, Oregon, hoping for a fresh start. New city, new job, clean slate. But addiction doesn't care about zip codes. I got pulled back into the same crowd, the same drugs, the same darkness...That was 1987. That's when my world stopped. I was arrested. No trial could convince me I was wrong. I didn't care what the judge said or how many years they gave me. I knew what I did. I did it on purpose. I wasn't proud, but I wasn't sorry either...at least not back then. I was given a life sentence...At night, I'd lie in my bunk staring at the ceiling, replaying the moment by the river over and over. Wondering who I'd become. Wondering if redemption was even possible for someone like me."

Watch for information on how to order this book soon.

From a pastor who was asked to resign from his church: *"Our time at Shepherd's Canyon renewed our spirits with a new sense of hope moving forward. It is difficult to even place a value on your gracious assistance & generosity for making it all possible. THANK YOU. Thank you, Kevin, for your encouragement & invitation. We will not forget it. Please share this thank you with the donors & our wonderful therapists."*



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www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/news



**We praise God that
Dave & Barb Anderson
recently celebrated
50 years of marriage!**

Memorials: February–July 2025

In Loving Memory of:

Dave Cohrs

Given by Dave & Barb Anderson, Sue Martellotta,
Carl & Agnes Viard, Bill Murdoch, Nancy Reid,
Wayne Stoltz, Connie Simonson, Walt & Donna Tritsch,
and an anonymous donor

Charlotte Bueltmann

Given by Kevin & Tawn Bueltmann,
Bonnie Gudgel, Barbara Nichols

Alice Tritsch

Given by Bob & Dawn Hackerott, Walt & Donna Tritsch

Mary Courtney – Given by Dave & Barb Anderson

Ruth Lohmeyer – Given by Neil Lohmeyer

Brian Wilson – Given by Marion Wilson

Gifts in Honor of: February–July 2025

**In Honor of Dave & Barb Anderson's
50th Wedding Anniversary**
Given by Doug & Vicki Nicely

**In Honor of the Marriage of
Judy Lennartson & Terry Truffin**
Given by Jerry & Patty Anderson

Save the Date:
**Annual Friends of the Ministry
Celebration Luncheon**
Saturday, March 21, 2026