Shepherd Canyon Retreat - 480-588-8837
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Wickenburg, AZ 85358
www.ShepherdsCanyon.org
Kevin@ShepherdsCanyon.org

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is an LCMS RSO that provides week-long intensive counseling retreats for church workers and their spouses. For more than 15 years, nearly 1,000 **pastors, missionaries, spouses, teachers, DCEs, and other ministry leaders** from across the U.S. and abroad have found **help, hope, and healing** here. Our main retreat site is in **Arizona**, with a second location opening in **Missouri** in 2026. By God's grace, many who arrived weary, discouraged, or ready to resign returned to their ministries with renewed joy and strength. Some who even considered ending their lives were restored by God's grace to continue serving faithfully.

Why Workers Attend

- **Crisis or Burnout** – stress, conflict, or compassion fatigue
- **Major Transitions** – new calls, role changes, or relocation
- **Marriage & Family** – relationship struggles or grief/loss
- **Sabbatical Support** – preparing for or processing time away

Retreat Format

Each retreat serves up to eight participants (individuals or couples) to ensure privacy, care, and a safe, confidential setting along with two licensed professional therapists and one LCMS chaplain

Cost & Support

The actual cost for us to provide this level of support for our church workers is actually over **$10,000 per person**, but thanks to the generosity of donors, participants we only charge:

- $5,000 per individual
- $6,000 per couple

No one is turned away for financial reasons. Support comes from donors, congregations, Districts, and Synod.

Typical Steps to Register for a Retreat

The church worker may contact the appropriate staff person at the District Office at the beginning or at any point in this process as long as it **precedes** applying for **Synod's Worker Wellness Retreat Grants.**

1. Church worker submits their contact info through: **www.ShepherdsCanyon.org**
2. Church worker (& spouse) schedule a 20–minute **"Clarity Call"** with **Counseling Director Katie Walker**
3. Call **Rev. Kevin Bueltmann, Executive Director** (480-588-8837), to discuss travel and financial aid
4. Apply for **up to $2,500** for a Worker Wellness Grant: **lcms.org/serve/grants/worker-wellness-retreats**
   ⚠ *Note: Soldiers of the Cross grants normally do **not** apply to Worker Wellness Retreats.*

District & Synod Funding

Most LCMS **Districts** give their workers funding (sometimes up to $3,000) **in addition** to Synodical funding and can set their own rules for eligibility for those funds. For example, Synod's grants are only for **rostered workers**, but some Districts have chosen to help other ministry workers such as **vicars, retired workers, District personnel**, or even **spouses** of church workers who attend without their rostered spouse.

When a worker gives us permission to contact their District office to request funding, **we will send an invoice right away to the District with an estimate** of what is needed. The District is free to choose the amount they will pay based on their budgets and policies. Districts are encouraged to **send their portion ahead of receiving Synodical funds**. Shepherd's Canyon does not have the financial capital to carry the bills for dozens of church workers for months while waiting for payments. **Thanks for your support of your District workers and spouses!**