



Winter 2024

*“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:11**



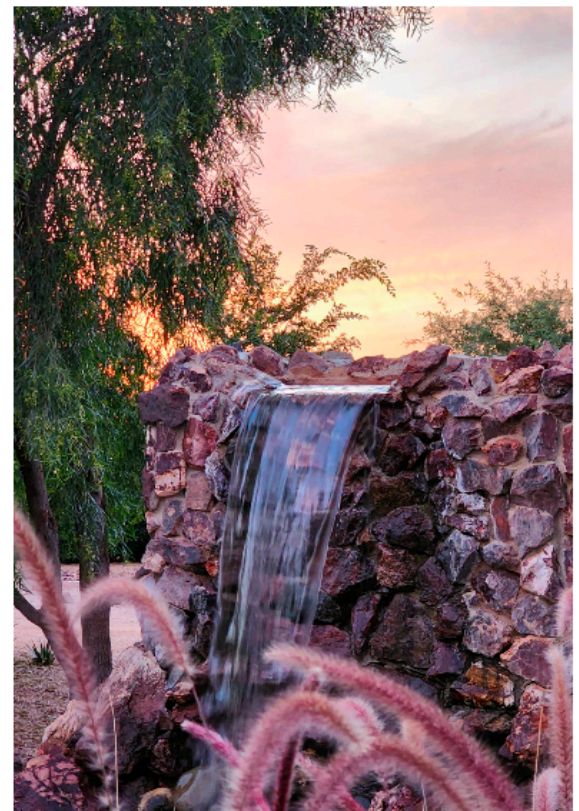
SCR Staff, Left-to-right: Trish Kelm, Dave Cohrs, Dick Dasen, Dave & Barb Anderson, Tawn & Kevin Bueltmann, Kristi & Paul Golke, Raine Selin, & Jerry Anzorena.

### **Words of Thanks from a Pastor's Wife**

“My husband and I will be forever grateful for being able to go to the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. We were welcomed with an incredible hospitality team and with professional counseling. We both learned so much about ourselves and our relationships with our immediate family, church family and others. Both counselors were experts in their field and gave us coping tools for a few different situations in our lives. We began our healing and restoration journey thanks to the time spent at the center. Counselors and support staff treated us with true love and care. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We couldn't have asked for better help than this. Thank you, Kevin!!!! It was a pleasure to meet you and your wife.”

### **Words of Gratefulness from a Pastor**

“I would very much like to thank the person or people who helped my congregation send me to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat... I am a pastor at a Lutheran church in northern Michigan, and last summer marked my twelfth year in ministry at <my church>. When Covid hit, I was nearly 9 years into my Call and feeling the toll that full-time ministry can bring. By the time the pandemic had begun to ebb, my fatigue had turned to exhaustion. One of the biggest “Godsends” of my summer sabbatical was the presence, collegiality, and ministry of Shepherd's Canyon in August. The 7-day retreat came at a time of great need for community, rest, reflection, and refreshment. All of these things came about in my time in Arizona - with wonderful leaders and counselors, colleagues “in the same boat,” and a facility that offered an oasis (both real and figurative) in the desert of my spirit. While I must confess that I do in fact love the geographical desert, last summer my whole person needed new, living water. I experienced your generosity as just that - what I would call a powerful “tributary” of that flow of life “from [God's] temple” (Ezekiel 47). So, in the spirit of that living water from our Creator, I thank you, and may God bless you and your journey with Christ.”



**Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Inc.**

P.O. Box 222 • Wickenburg, Arizona 85358

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After working on site for a year, my wife, Tawn and I were installed as the new leaders of this ministry on October 1, 2023. We are humbled and blessed to be entrusted with this role, filling the shoes of Dave and Barb Anderson, who founded this ministry 15 years ago. Even though they have now passed the baton to us, Dave still travels and leads concerts with Roger Walck. Dave also serves in a new position to raise money for our Endowment Fund, so “if you have a pile of money lying around,” as he says in his infectious humor, “you can send it to us.”



The role of Executive Director is such a huge responsibility that I am thrilled to work side-by-side with my wife, Tawn, who serves as Executive Coordinator. We’ve made a good team for almost 40 years of marriage and we work together well with SCR, too. Tawn lessens my load by helping with newsletters, grants, donor management, our database, travel arrangements, and more. She’s great with important details and relationships and better understands details of legal and financial issues. I’m more of a big picture visionary and long-range planner. I need someone I can fully trust to handle the detailed complexities of leading such an important ministry and God has provided that in Tawn.

Since October until now, in February, my wife, Tawn, and I have driven over 20,000 miles, traveling all over the country to tell others about SCR. We get to share the glory of God! What a joy to tell others about the good things He has done and continues to do through SCR!

While we were traveling, we got news that God had called Home a very dedicated volunteer and friend of the ministry and treasured friend, Alice Tritsch. Walt and Alice Tritsch, from Hutchinson, Kansas, and SanTan Valley, AZ, spent many months volunteering at and praying for Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat. They were generous donors and told many people about SCR. They even went to other churches and also manned a booth at the Kansas state fair to tell others about this ministry. Tawn and I were blessed to be able to be there with Walt and so many others gathered for the memorial service.

We mourn our temporary separation from Alice, but rejoice in the hope of the Resurrection! It was wonderful to hear Pastor Nuttmann’s sermon, sharing about Alice longing to “hold up the prophet’s hands” as she lived her life, always pointing to Jesus.

We are grateful that your prayers and gifts to this ministry are also helping to “hold up the prophets’ hands” as well. Thank you so much!

**Rev. Kevin Bueltmann, Executive Director**  
**NEW ADDRESS: PO Box 222, Wickenburg, AZ 85358**  
**Kevin@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat - 928-685-5211**



Tawn, Alice, & Walt

# MEET OUR NEW STAFF!

## **Paul Golke: Site Coordinator (Former LCMS Camp Director)**

Paul is excited to join the amazing team at Shepherd's Canyon Retreat (SCR). After graduating with a Business Administration degree from Minnesota State, Moorhead; he embarked on a nearly 40-year leadership career in outdoor ministry. His journey led him to camps in MN, IA, MI, WA, and now AZ.

So . . . Go DragonGopherHawkSpartyCoug is now being lengthened to include WildcatSundevil.

Paul has loved the outdoors his entire life. Building community through a shared experience in a camp setting is one of the most powerful, development, learning, and relational tools around. He also enjoys hearing peoples 'Stories' and how God has impacted their lives.

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat offers an ideal place and setting to build relationship and community. The three (3) R's of SCR: Renew, Revive, and Refresh speak at the heart of his purpose for everyone who enters the palm tree lined drive at Standing Stones Retreat Center.



## **Kristi Stenberg Golke: Hospitality Coordinator (Trained LCMS DCE & Teacher)**

Kristi graduated from Concordia, Seward NE with a BS in Elementary Education along with a Certification as a Director of Christian Education. She is a teacher who loves working with people of all ages. Sharing Jesus through devotions, Bible Study, Sunday School, children's messages, and her life walk brings her great joy. A love is photographing the beauty around her and marrying her photo art with her spiritual walk.

Kristi has supported and worked alongside her husband Paul Golke. Together, they are most proud of the three (3) handsome sons and beautiful daughter-in-law with which God has blessed them. Being their mother is Kristi's greatest blessing, joy, and honor.

Kristi loves creating spaces and environments where people can refresh, renew, and fellowship with each other and Christ. At Shepherd's Canyon Retreats she greets and serves guests and provides a warm comfortable atmosphere where guests, therapists, and chaplains can minister to each other as healing takes place.

## **Trish Kelm: Food Service / Housekeeping Coordinator (Trained LCMS Teacher)**

Trish grew up in a Church-worker family in the Midwest and Texas. She graduated from Concordia, Austin TX with an education degree and Lutheran teacher certification. Trish has worked at several camps, in campus ministry, and most recently as a project manager for a science curriculum company.

Her loves include being outside during spring and fall, photographing landscapes, road tripping to new places, singing, and crafting. Two of her greatest joys are being called 'Aunty Trish' by four (4) nephews and a niece, and 'mom' by stepson Jacob. Family memories abound when Trish takes her family members on 'Super-Secret Missions.'



Trish provides nutritional meals, clean and comfortable accommodations for guests, and works in a collaborative effort with her coworkers at Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. The phrase "All for one and one for all!" captures their team effort.

**Together, Paul, Kristi, and Trish; along with amazing volunteers and leadership strive to create an atmosphere of abundant grace and servanthood.**

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross." Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

## **Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon**

Saturday, March 9, 2024 - Noon - 3:00 pm (Video of Event on March 10th)

You Are Invited to our Annual Friends of the Ministry Celebration Luncheon from noon-3pm on Saturday, March 9, 2024. The event is FREE, but you MUST RSVP at [www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/celebration](http://www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/celebration). You will hear some amazing stories of God's healing from special guests who attended our retreats, meet the new staff, hear an update of our ministry, hear from our founders, and even sing some songs with special guest singers. You will also hear updates & future dreams for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat from our new executive director. You are also welcome to stay afterwards for more visiting, walking tours, & golf cart tours. If you can't make it, you can watch the event the following day on our website and Facebook page.

## **Annual and Monthly Givers Are Essential**

We LOVE all of the wonderful gifts we received at the end of the year in December. We are also very grateful for those of you who faithfully give every month. This ministry relies on the generosity of donors like you. Our monthly givers play a pivotal role by providing a consistent and reliable source of income for this ministry. Please consider giving every month electronically. Your gift is automatically sent to us. Can you give \$10 or even \$100 a month to help us have steady income to carry out the work God is doing here? To sign up for monthly giving, go to [www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/donate](http://www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/donate)



## **We're Growing!**

What a good "problem" to have! We're so thankful to God that more and more people are hearing about this Shepherd's Canyon Retreat and are signing up to participate! By God's grace, we saw a 40% increase in participants in 2023! God even sent ministry workers from as far away as England and Micronesia! We added 2 extra retreats in the past several months. What a good "problem" to have! We're so thankful to God that more and more people are hearing about this Shepherd's Canyon Retreat and are signing up to participate! But as we grow, we are facing the need for more financial support from partners such as yourself. We don't want to turn anyone away due to lack of funds and need more scholarship funds. And we can't forget the importance of overall giving for operating expenses. Won't you please share with others about SCR? And as always, please remember this ministry in your prayers.

## **Support from Various Denominations and Networks**

We often receive support from various Christian denominations and Networks when their workers and spouses attend our retreats. We also receive support in addition to that. We are very grateful for the generous financial support we receive from The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to help with scholarships AND operational expenses! If you know of other church bodies that would like to provide additional support, please contact [Kevin@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat](mailto:Kevin@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat) or 928-685-5211.

## **Thrivent Choice Dollars & Action Team Grants**

If you are a Thrivent Member, don't forget to direct your Choice Dollars to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat by March 31, 2024! You can either go to: [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." We have lots of ideas for how you can use your \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grants. If you are curious, contact [Tawn@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org](mailto:Tawn@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org)

### **Invite Kevin to Speak at Your Church or Ministry Event**

Rev. Kevin Bueltmann, Executive Director of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat in Arizona, would love to be a mission speaker at your church. He could share his story of how he got burned out 3 years ago and even left church work before being called to serve at Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, as well as talk about how churches can support their pastors. For more details, go to: [www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/church](http://www.ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org/church)



Dave & Kevin enjoying time together visiting with friends of the ministry

### **Foundations, Endowments, and Grants, Oh, my!**

We are very grateful for a family grant of \$200,000 that was given to help retire part of our mortgage! We need your help in finding other Family Foundations, Church Endowments, and Community Grants. This past year, we received thousands of dollars from all 3 of these unique funding sources. Maybe your church or church group would like to send help. If you know of some of these sources of generosity, please let Kevin or Tawn know.

### **Dave Anderson & Roger Walck Concert Ministry Tours**

Will you be near one of these California cities during March 10-17?...Orange, Rancho Palos Verdes, Lompoc, Arroyo Grande, Santa Ynez, Santa Barbara, Banning, Palm Springs, Lakeside. Then contact Dave Anderson details: [Dave@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org](mailto:Dave@ShepherdsCanyonRetreat.org) They are now booking events for Texas, May 18-26.

### **Wish List of Needs We are Praying For**

**Fire Extinguishers - \$50 each (Thrivent Action Team?)**

**Pool Cover - \$500**

**AEDs - \$1,000 each**

**WIFI Internet Mesh System - \$2,000**

**Massage Chair - for stressed retreat participants - \$3,000**

**Golf Cart - New or Used**

**Advertising Campaign - \$10,000**

**8-Passenger Hybrid Minivan - New or Used**

**Casitas for volunteers and staff - \$60,000+ each**



### **Volunteers Needed in Summer**

Most people think that summers in Arizona are very hot and that's true, but locals know that the mornings are the best time to work outside because it's 30 degrees cooler. Summer is also the best time of year to go swimming. When the temperatures go up in the afternoon, that's the time to go indoors and enjoy the air-conditioning and later relax in the hot tub at night. Are you available to volunteer these weeks? May 13-20, June 17-24, July 8-15, August 5-12, September 16-23, 2024. Let us know.

### **Paper or Plastic?**

Regardless of how you answer this question at the store, we have a different question for you... Paper, or email, or both? We are so glad you are reading our paper newsletter, but you are also invited to get our monthly emails. This helps you know how to pray for our ministry more than just a handful of times a year. Go to our website and sign up for our email list at the bottom of the page.



### **Read Kevin & Phil's Interview for Ministry Watch**

Kevin talks about his healing through this ministry and our Counseling Care Director, Phil Lee, talks about why ministry workers end up coming to our retreats and how we can help them. Read the article at this link:

<https://ministrywatch.com/battling-burnout>

## Memorial Gifts

Peace Lutheran Church - in memory of Jason Smith  
 John Lamm - in memory of Bill Lamm  
 Brian Spomer - in memory of Ralph Spomer  
 Richard Izzard - in memory of Eileen Izzard  
 Kenneth & Joan Voges - in memory of Bob Holstein  
 Richard Izzard - in memory of Eileen Izzard  
 Dave & Barb Anderson - in memory of Ruth Chapman  
 Dave & Barb Anderson - in memory of Helen Thieie  
 Miriam & Richard Kusserow - in memory of Pastor John W. Reick

## Additional Gifts In Memory of Glenyce Zipf

The Care Group friends of Jon and Michele  
 Deborah & Mark Frederickson  
 Gloria McNelis  
 Dave & Barb Anderson  
 Eleanor Carlson  
 Jerome & Patricia Anderson  
 Jon & Shirley Billigmeier  
 Mike & Donna Coppersmith  
 Timothy & Cathy Carlblom  
 Stephen & Cynthia Zipf



## In Memory of Alice Tritsch

Duane & Rebecca Hatfield  
 Connie Harris  
 Gordon & Ruth Happel  
 Maryann Kelley  
 Dedra Goodenough  
 Mark & Suzie Craig  
 Tim & Kerry Linenberger  
 Kimberly Housman  
 Doris Ollenburger  
 Stonebridge II Homeowners Assoc  
 Terry & Darlene Lank  
 Robyn & Tony Heitschmidt  
 Richard & Jane Swisher  
 Dr. William & Carol Unsderfer  
 Kevin & Tawn Buelmann  
 Ruth Lundblade  
 Jo Ann Hoggatt  
 Jonathan & Cheryl Dalke  
 Judy Henry  
 A. Henry Gier  
 Bill & Patricia Stueder  
 Allen & Barbara Holthus  
 Linda & Thomas Stanton  
 L. Frees

McLeland  
 Dan Soeken  
 John & Barbara Geuy  
 Virginia Winkley  
 Mark & Starla Wells  
 Marla & Henry Blickhan  
 Carol Carson  
 Bill & Annette Boyer (Teany)  
 Jan & Mallory Stryker  
 Richard & Ardith Wismar  
 Betty Fenton  
 Larry or Beverly Catherman  
 Redguard  
 Lois Gier  
 Paul & Louise Gemeinhardt  
 Willard & Marilyn Boldenow  
 Charles McKay  
 Gilbert & Ruby Manke  
 Audrey Schmidt  
 LuAnn Happel  
 Jason & Katheryn Lindahl  
 Roger & Mary Ann Beisner  
 Stephen & Kim Fisher  
 Barry & Michelle Smith  
 Vern & Carol Hanson  
 Bob & Dawn Hackerott



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