

Mission Grant Highlight – Counseling Support for Church Workers

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, located in Wickenburg, Ariz., is an LCMS Recognized Service Organization that provides week-long counseling retreats and has successfully helped hundreds of ministry workers who are in various stages of burnout, stress, depression, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds.

Pastors, ministry workers and spouses are on the front lines of bringing hope, help and healing to those they are called to serve. One of the top priorities of the LCMS is to promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers. Data from the Barna Group shows 33 percent of pastors had considered leaving full-time ministry in 2023. Without timely spiritual intervention and counseling, too many church workers are ready to leave the ministry.

Many of our church workers need the help, hope and healing that a ministry like Shepherd's Canyon Retreat provides in order to continue sharing the Gospel and leading people to our Savior wherever they are called. The \$20,000 LWML Texas District mission grant will be used for scholarships for pastors, ministry workers and spouses who need extra financial assistance to attend a



Pictured is the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat staff.

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. This mission grant will allow 40 individuals or couples the opportunity to receive a \$500 scholarship toward their counseling.

A pastor's wife had expressed much concern about her husband at the beginning of a Shepherd's Canyon Retreat. On the last day of the retreat, this pastor said, "This retreat literally saved my life."

Thank you, women of the LWML Texas District, for supporting the endeavors of Shepherd's Canyon Retreat by providing counseling for church workers with your mites!

Christian Life Resources

Have you ever been in a bind to find a devotion or a Bible study for a group? The Lutheran Women in Mission website (lwml.org) is full of resources that include devotions and Bible studies. You can find a variety of topics categorized by theme, season and church year. The Bible studies from *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* are archived and easily accessible. You can find resources for retreats and workshops.

The best part of all these resources? Anyone can use them. Go to "The Word" at the top of the homepage and select "All Spiritual Growth Resources" from the drop-down menu.

Young Women

LWML encourages young women to deepen their relationship with God while making a meaningful impact on their communities. Bible

studies, retreats and mission trips empower members to grow spiritually and to contribute to local and global mission projects. Through its Young Woman Representatives program, LWML provides opportunities to attend district and national events, fostering both personal growth and a sense of purpose. This offers a welcoming platform for young women to use their talents and skills in service.

Participation in various initiatives helps young women develop leadership abilities and connect with a network of like-minded individuals. The group also offers unique opportunities for mentorship, allowing young women to learn from experienced members and strengthen their faith. LWML stands as a supportive and empowering space for young Lutheran women seeking to make a difference in the world while living out their faith.

**2024-2026
Mite Goal: \$403,000**

Mites received through Oct. 31:
\$103,927

(\$299,074 still needed)

Mission Grants paid through Oct. 31:
\$61,657

Send your mite offerings

along with a remittance form to:
LWML Texas District

Attn: Alissa Elley, Financial Secretary
PO Box 183 • Seguin, TX 78156

