



The outdoor gathering area has giant sails for shade and expansive river vistas

The St. Stephen Christian Retreat and Conference Center sits on the west bank of the Indian River in beautiful Titusville. The serene campus grounds include a swimming pool and abundant green space with shaded seating areas. Some of the breakouts meet “down by the riverside.”

The gentle sounds of nature, combined with the calming waters, create an atmosphere of total relaxation. It’s the perfect setting to meditate, reflect, and reconnect with oneself and with others. Away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, you’ll find a space where serenity reigns, allowing you to rejuvenate both mind and soul.

A beautiful communion worship service takes place the last evening of the conference with a chance afterwards for more socialization.

The Kennedy Space Center, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, and the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum are all nearby. The Brevard County Enchanted Forest boasts miles of hiking trails allowing visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the region. Wildlife observation, nature photography, and hiking are popular recreational activities. The Enchanted Forest is just 10 minutes from the retreat center.

The facilities are clean and accommodating. The price of the gathering includes meals and rooms based on double occupancy. Watch Lutheran LIFE for information about registration dates, details and costs. The price of the gathering includes meals and rooms based on double occupancy. Registration will open soon on the District website.



Conference Center Meeting Room

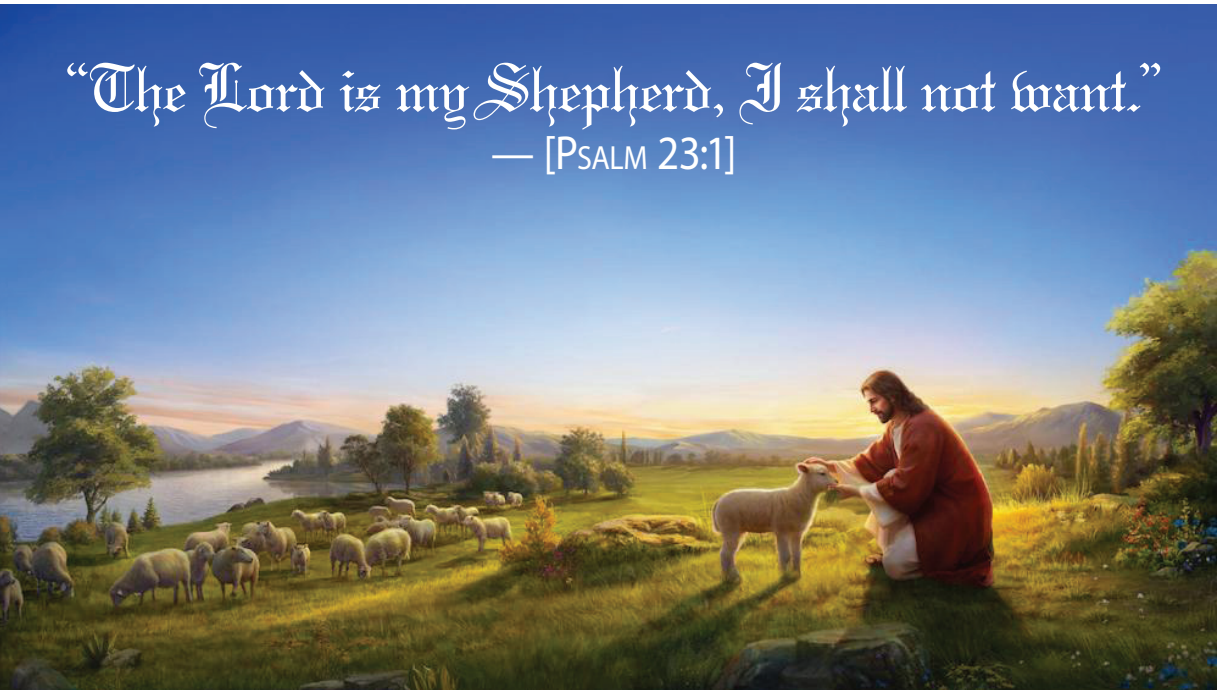


Clean & Comfortable Accommodations



5850 T. G. Lee Blvd.
Suite 500
Orlando, Florida 32822-4410

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“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”
— [PSALM 23:1]

Keynote Speaker Festival Worship Preacher



The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer served 12 years in parish ministry (St. Salvator/Venedy, IL; St. Peter/New Memphis, IL; Holy Cross, Collinsville, IL; and various vacancies in the Southern Illinois District). He was *The Lutheran Hour* speaker for 12 years and served 22 years at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO – the last 15 as President. He currently is writing the Concordia Commentary on 1 Peter.

Meyer, along with his wife, Diane, lives in Collinsville, IL. They have two grown daughters, Elizabeth (Darren) Pittman who is a director at Concordia Publishing House and Catharine (Charles) Bailey, legislative director for United States Senator Mike Braun of Indiana.

The Meyers have five grandsons, Christian, Connor and Nicholas Pittman, and Andrew and Jacob Bailey.

VOC Event Bible Study Leader



The Rev. Dana Brones, pastor of Bethlehem/Jacksonville Beach, FL will serve as the Bible Study Leader for the event. A Denver, CO native, he did his undergraduate work at Concordia Teachers College (now Concordia University), Seward, NE. He is a 1983 graduate of Concordia Seminary/St. Louis, MO.

Brones planted Fuente De Vida (Fountain of Life) Lutheran Church in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. The first young man he confirmed in 1986, later became the pastor of that congregation and ultimately, the president of the Lutheran Church of Venezuela.

Prior to his call to Bethlehem in 2000, he served three congregations in Pennsylvania. He’s been senior pastor at Bethlenhem since 2004.

Pastor Brones is happily married to Diane. They have six children: Rick, Justin, Joel, Jonathan, Paul and Lena.

The greatest blessing any of us can know is to be bought and born into the flock of God. The pressures of this world can lead us astray. Like sheep we wander off and no longer enjoy the true joy found in following the voice of Jesus. We get disorientated by injustice, drained by conflict, disappointed by outcome, or disheartened by suffering.

Like King David we plead:

**“Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.” [PSALM 51:12]**

Those who attend the 2025 Veterans of the Cross Gathering at St. Stephen Christian Retreat & Conference Center in Titusville, Florida will rediscover the meaning of the beloved words of PSALM 23, especially vs. 3:

**“He restores my soul,
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” [PSALM 23:3]**

God will use the gatherings sessions, fellowship, and worship to bring fresh strength, hope, comfort and encouragement to His flock. This Gathering is for all retired lay and rostered Servants of Christ. Plenty of rest, reflection, and replenishment await all attendees. Participants are invited to come and enjoy the ‘still waters’ of the Indian River at the St. Stephen Christian Retreat and Conference Center in beautiful Titusville, near the Space Center.

