

# PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2024 Vol. 14 No. 7

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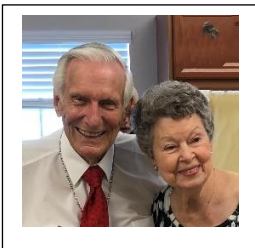
Website: evergladescommunity.church

Our 98<sup>th</sup> Year

*"The friendly little church on the Circle in Everglades City"*



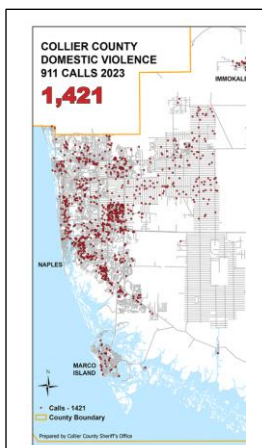
**1926-2024**



Pastor Bob & Millie

### SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**AS I SEE IT . . .** Domestic violence and human trafficking impact the whole community. The impact of domestic violence and human trafficking reaches far beyond the victims, because **violence at home does not stop at the front door.** It infects our workplaces, schools, places of worship, and other social places where people gather. It endangers our whole community and costs us tens of millions of dollars in medical care, social services, lost wages and productivity. **Last year there were 1,421 calls to 911 for domestic violence offenses in Collier County... thousands more incidents went unreported.** (Map includes data from the Collier County Sheriff's Office, Naples Police Department and Marco Island Police Department.) This is how we, as a church, help every year. As the 2024-25 school year approaches, you are invited to once again donate to *The Shelter's Back-to-School Fund*. This creates an exciting first day experience, as well as provides supplies throughout the school year to the children. Any funding beyond these needs will be used to support educational support for the families under the care of *The Shelter*. In 2023, the estimated cost of domestic violence in Collier County equaled \$30.8 million dollars conservatively. Law enforcement costs were \$18.2 million. Medical costs exceeded \$8.6 million. And local businesses sustained over \$4 million from lost work-days and productivity. In addition to costing us millions of dollars each year, abusers and traffickers pose a direct threat to our public safety, as the abuse and exploitation inevitably seep out into various aspects of our public life. Your donation can be made in the offering plate each Sunday July 7 through August 25, by mailing your check to the P.O. address, or the QR code above. Mark your donation to *The Shelter*. You will be blessed.



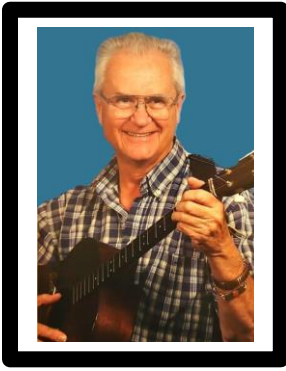
### THE FOURTH OF JULY IN EVERGLADES CITY

This is a significant holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It is the day the thirteen colonies declared their independence from British rule, which is considered the birth of our nation. Traditionally, this day is celebrated with a variety of events and activities such as parades, barbecues, fireworks, and public concerts. It's a time for Americans to reflect on their country's history and the values of freedom and democracy. It's also an opportunity for families and friends to gather and enjoy summer festivities, outdoor activities and patriotic displays.

Everglades City, Florida will be hosting their annual family fun festival to celebrate the 4th of July on **Saturday, June 29th, from 10 am to 9:30 pm.** The Opening Ceremony is at 10 am on the steps of City Hall followed at 10:30 am by the Patriotic Parade. There are prizes for the best floats which may be anything from a golf cart to a swamp buggy. The fun continues in McLeod Park when booths open at 11 am Kiddie contests, food, and activities till the afternoon. Fireworks will begin at 9 pm!

**CHECK THIS OUT**

<https://www.mustdo.com/events/everglades-city-independence-day-parade-andd-fireworks>



During the early morning of June 13, **Gerald W. (Jerry) Loar**, a child of God joined the heavenly chorus and “we wish we could have seen the angels faces when they heard his sweet voice sing.” A double rainbow rose over the sand bar on White Sand Lake and his lilacs bloomed as never before. He was 89 years old and married to Sauntra Dillman Loar for 64 years. They met when Jerry was 2-years-old. She was holding his hand as he gave his last breath to this world. His ashes will remain with many of Sauntra’s family in Bethany Lutheran cemetery in Irma, WI, at a future date when the hills are ablaze with the predictable miracle of fall colors. Jerry’s great loves were being outdoors, hunting and fishing, and singing gospel music with Sauntra. They had a gospel band, and they sang at churches, including ECC, nursing homes, and other spots around the country, creating CDs of their music and donating the proceeds to local churches. Services were held on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at Lake Tomahawk Bible Church at 10 am, with luncheon to follow elsewhere. In lieu of flowers, family would appreciate donations to Lake Tomahawk Bible Church. *-Nimsgern Funeral & Cremation Services*

**RUTH TROTSKY** was flown back to Indiana, Tuesday June 11 to be closer to her family. Her new address: Trustwell Living, 3304 Monroe Street, LaPorte, IN 46350.

I’ve been looking ahead to next Season what we will study in Sunday School. So, to give you a heads up and let you get ready for it, I’m letting you know in advance so you may begin studying the Minor Prophets, In the Bible, the terms “major” and “minor” refer to the length of the prophetic books, not their importance. The Minor Prophets consist of twelve books found in the back of the Old Testament, just before the New Testament, and are attributed to various prophets, including Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Despite their title, these prophets’ messages are anything but minor. They address significant themes, divine sovereignty, and the people of Israel’s relationship with God. To understand the Minor Prophets, we will explore their historical context to understand these prophets ministered during different periods addressing specific challenges faced by Israel.

### UNDERSTANDING THE NAMES, NUMBERS AND COLORS FOR SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR YEAR



May 28<sup>th</sup>, we began Ordinary Time in the church calendar. Why Is Ordinary Time called Ordinary? Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common, but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word *ordinalis*, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in the Christmas and Easter seasons, or in Advent and Lent, but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore, that the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is actually the first Sunday celebrated in Ordinary Time) always features either

John the Baptist's acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle—the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that! But why is green the color of Ordinary Time? The liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green, symbolizing growth and the spread of the Gospel to all nations

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#### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 19 – Garey Kostens
- 27 – Joe Stem
- 29 – Michael DeJesus

#### Your donation is important!

You can make a “one-time” gift, or you can make a recurring gift. Click GIVING at the top on our website, then click ↓↓↓



**Or you can mail your check to: Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Avenue, P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139**