



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALL PREVIEW & EDUCATION GUIDE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE

-STILL THE WELCOME PLACE-

BUILDING HOURS AND OFFICE HOURS

M-THURS 8A-3P AND FRIDAY 8A-12P

PH 507.583.6621

EMAIL FIRSTLUTHOFFICE@YAHOO.COM

WEB FIRSTLUTHERANBP.COM

FALL 2025

WORSHIP SUNDAYS @ 9AM

ALSO BY RADIO: KOWZ 100.9FM OR

VIDEO: [FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTLUTHERANBP](https://www.facebook.com/FIRSTLUTHERANBP)

FULL ARCHIVE OF WORSHIP & EDUCATION
VIDEOS ON WEBSITE



8th & 9th Grade Confirmation Fund Day

10th Grade Confirmation Retreat



From The Senior Pastor

Blessed are the flexible...
...for they shall not be bent out of shape.

Flexibility might not show up on the official lists of spiritual gifts in Romans or Corinthians, but for anyone who has ever served on committee or church project, you've learned: it's *sacred*.



When you're the kind of person who can view construction detours as nudges to learn a different way through town, or who shrugs when a casserole burns, saying, "guess we're ordering pizza," you might be more spiritually gifted than you think.

Think about how Jesus responded to interruptions, situations and dilemmas with grace rather than rigidity:

- a woman touches his robe mid-journey;
- children clamber into his lap while he's teaching;
- a party runs out of wine, and he's summoned by his mom to take action.

This entire summer, First Lutheran leaders have been juggling projects from steeple to roof to carpet (and what's *beneath* carpet)... from treetops to the tiniest new courtyard plantings. Naturally, these projects bring discoveries and new decisions along the way.

This fall, leaders are adapting to improve the flow of Sunday School, while adding video potential *and* keeping the best of our program. You will hear hymns played by a fresh instrument, delivered right through most hearing aids via *Hearing Loop* technology. And amid it all, the dollars, and the hours volunteers give, endure. We! Are! Blessed!

As we continue to live into our mission as The Welcome Place, I see time and again how **flexibility isn't just practical. It's truly a form of trust, a posture of the heart.** It's even *evangelism*: showing *others* that we're open to where the Spirit takes us.

A flexible spirit offers something consequential to us *all*—peace.

See you in worship,

For the sake of my family and friends, I will say,
"Peace be within you." -Psalm 122:8

Rev. Heidi Heimann

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings!

Summer, a time of warm breezes and slow lazy days.

What?!

For First Lutheran Church, this has been an extremely busy summer.

Here's a checklist of some of the many activities tackled:

- *8 sad Ash trees removed by the city- Check!
- *Tree trimming by avid members excited to wield their chainsaws-Check!
- *Phase 1 Roof Repair- Check!
- *HVAC Repair-Check!
- *Courtyard beautification, new plantings, watering fairies, trimmings-Check!
- *Possible arrival of our long-awaited church directory- almost a Check!
- *Repaired plugged roof drain from overgrown tree shade and debris leading to a "rainforest experience" in Pastor Laurel's office, and elsewhere- Check!
- *Oops, drone sighting confirmed steeple damage, investigation continues to determine if due to past lighting strike?- Stay Tuned!

Now we are seeing signs of Fall with sports practices, county and state fairs, Sunday School registration (over 55 families so far!), Labor Day weekend, Gopher football, and back to school schedules. Oh and then Confirmation and thoughts of Lutefisk dancing in our heads.

And, our First Lutheran special sauce continues to work it's magic in us to make all of this happen with much more to come!

So, take a breath and enjoy the remaining summer days so that you may have a continued supply of FLC special sauce to help make our fall amazing.

Blessings!

Diane Olson

Diane Olson, FLC President

CHURCH MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPT 14th

We will worship at 9:00am. Sunday School will be from 10:00 am – 10:45 am for all students, 3yo-Grade 6 - see Sunday School page for more info. Sunday School kicks off on **September 14th**.

Please register for Sunday School using the QR code!



GRIEF SUPPORT SERVICES A free service offered by Hospice at Mayo Clinic Health System. *For more info check out our bulletin board or to register call 507.284.4002 or 800.679.9084.*

IF YOU ARE IN NEED of a pastoral visit, or know someone requesting spiritual support, please contact the church office at 583.6621.

ONLINE GIVING Every week = more users. Why not try? **firstlutheranbp.com** Click the blue button.

Give Now

administered by Vanco Payment Solutions

...AND WHILE YOU'RE ONLINE become a fan of



your church on Facebook! Daily posts for news, inspiration, and fun. **facebook.com/firstlutheranbp**

UPCOMING:

The Scholarship Committee will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025 from 8am-11:30am. Check out the flyer in this newsletter.

24rd Annual BP Cancer Auction Sept. 5 & 6, 2025.

Friday night Live Auction under the Big Tent @ 6:30pm. Saturday events include 4pm Family Bingo and 6:30pm Live Auction! Many, many activities going on! See you there!

The BP Veterans Memorial Breakfast Buffet Fundraiser and Silent Auction will be held on **Sunday, Sept. 21st, 2025** at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club from 8am-12pm. This is a free will offering. Menu: pancakes, muffin, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, milk and coffee.

WOMEN'S BIBLE CIRCLE



Everyone is invited to Women's Bible Circle on Sept. 17th at 9:30am here at First Lutheran in the Luther Rooms (the 3rd Wednesday of every month). Hope to see you there!!

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

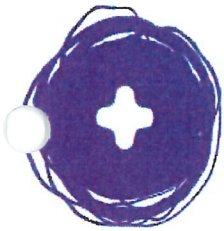
Income YTD:	\$221,215.25
Expenditures YTD	<u>(\$220,980.71)</u>
Total:	\$234.54

3 YO SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION



for all 3-year-olds *and a parent* on **Sunday, September 14th at 10:00 am**. Join us for a time of welcome, introduction to teachers, and information that will help our little ones understand what to expect each week.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION for all 8, 9, 10 graders and a parent **Wednesday, Sept 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary**. Bring your calendar, your checkbook (small fee for materials), and your willing hearts. It's going to be a great year! [Grade 7: your orientation will be October 29th @ 6:30pm.]



NEW TO OUR CONGREGATION? Welcome! You are invited to enroll your child/ren in Sunday School and Youth activities. Please call the office and talk directly with Director of Children's Ministry Tracy Madsen or another staff member. Adults are welcome to attend our Bible Study opportunities & Sunday Morning Adult Forum, between services in the Fellowship Room.

JOIN OUR MUSIC PROGRAMS!!!

SENIOR CHOIR RESUMES practice on Wed, Sept 3rd at 7 pm. *All interested adults (incl confirmed youth) are welcome to participate!*



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE WORSHIP TEAM ...please contact **Melissa Stoen** at **melissa.stoen@gmail.com** or stop by the church office and we will make sure to get your name to Melissa!



CHURCH MINISTRIES

LUTEFISK DINNER is scheduled for **Oct. 11, 2025**

Tickets will go on sale: **Sept. 22 @ 10am** -

firstlutheranbp.com

Ticket Prices: \$25

Worker Tickets: \$15

Times: 11:00am, 12pm, 1pm / take-outs also available. All tickets are preregister and prepay.



Lutefisk Baking Dates:

Oct. 2 @ 8:00am Krumkake Baking

Oct. 6 @ 9:00am Rosette Baking

show up anytime and stay as long as you are able. *(Please bring your fryers and Rosette irons if you have them!)*

Oct. 10 will be: Peeling potatoes, wrapping fish, and rolling meatballs

There will be a **Craft Room** *(crafters please start making your craft items).*



SERVICE GROUP LEADERS:

September: Kaye Toquam & Carol Kruckeberg

October: Linda Klemmensen & Cheri Krejci

November: Kaye Toquam

December 1-7: Shelley Prihoda

December 8-14: Laura Dale

December 15-21: Kaye Toquam

December 22-28: Joanne Sorenson

December 29-31: Bev Hoveland

COMMUNION PREPARER: *(1st & 3rd Sundays)*

Sept: 7 & 21 – Gloria Trom

Oct: Leanne Holland

Nov: Vikki Wacek

Dec: Sadie Steele (7 & 21)

Christmas Eve 3pm – Bev Hoveland

5pm – Kaye Toquam

Christmas Day 9am – Marilyn Meshke

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Sept 7 - Joan Mast, Becky Braaten, Holli Naatz

Sept 21 - Mark & Becky Noble, Joanne Sorenson

Oct. 5– Bill Rinkenberger, Kaye Toquam, Sadie Steele

Oct. 19 –Tammy Bordeaux, Deb Bjornson, Judy Bishop

Oct. 26 – 11am (Confirmands)

USHERS:

Sept: Bill Rinkenberger, Jay Johns, David Strenge, Roger Sorenson

Oct: Rick Hansen, John Swenson, Doug Kinny, Mark Noble

Nov: Jeff Kramer, Kurt Blome, Dean Naatz, Harvey Farr

Dec: Wayde Bishop, Doug Hillson, Larry Christianson, Matt Madsen

LECTORS:

Sept. 7 – Ruth Earl

Sept. 14– Pam Ingvalson

Sept. 21 – Linda Knutson

Sept. 28 – Ashley Boehnke

Oct. 5 – Becky Noble

Oct. 12 – Jaclyn Schlichter

Oct. 19 – Roger Sorenson

Oct. 26 – 9am – Kaye Toquam

11am - Confirmands

ACOLYTES:

Sept 7 – Cora Stoen, Maci Basness

Sept 14 – Linkynn Doocy, Raelynn Holdgrafer

Sept 21 – Cora Stoen

Sept 28 – Ethan Hullopeter, Cash Salinas

Oct 5 – Paisley Wolf, Laila Ebeling

Oct 12 – Lyanne Hanenberger, Skylar Valek

Oct 19 – Emma Trom, Linkynn Doocy

Oct 26 – 9am – Maci Basness, Raelynn Holdgrafer

11am - Confirmands

COFFEE ON SUNDAYS is on a volunteer basis.



The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen bulletin board. If no one has signed up you are welcome to make coffee, tend to it, and clean up afterwards.

We would like to say **THANK YOU** to all who helped



this summer with planting, watering, weeding, tree removal, roof repairs, and all other duties that happened around the church building! *You are truly appreciated!*



Confirmation:

Confirmation begins on **Wednesday, September 3!** This year we will be learning about the New Testament through the Echo the Story curriculum. This curriculum builds on the idea of echoing or repeating a story or theme. We will also have more adult volunteers and slightly more time in smaller groups this year. A few key dates to remember:

Wednesday, September 3 @6:30pm Orientation for 8th, 9th, and 10th graders. Parents are expected to attend this night with their students

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Mentoring: Our last mentoring session for **Grade 10 is October 1, 2025** and our first mentoring session for **grade 9 will be October 8, 2025**. There will also be mentoring **November 12** and **December 10**.

More information about specifics of this semester of confirmation will be available at the orientation on September 3rd and we look forward to seeing your students again! In the meantime, do you or your student have a favorite story about Jesus? A parable maybe? Or a time he healed someone? Do you have a favorite verse from Paul's letters? Maybe pull out a bible and read a few chapters of Romans or even the whole book of John 3!

Sunday School

Sunday School kicks off on **September 14**. Please register for Sunday School using the QR code!

Please make note of a few important logistic items for next year.

Sunday school will be from **10:00 to 10:45am**. This is a change from previous years when we ended at 10:50.

ALL STUDENTS will be dropped off in their classrooms and picked up **IN THE SANCTUARY**.

We will not have Sunday School the following days October 16 (MEA).

Three-year-olds and their parents are invited to the three-year-old Sunday School orientation on September 14, 2025. We will meet in the three-year-old classroom at 10:00am!



SEPTEMBER

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



3 GR 8, 9, 10 CONFIRMATION
ORIENTATION W/ PARENT
SR CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS

7 SS TEACHER
ORIENTATION

8-13 SANCTUARY UPGRADES

14 RALLY DAY!
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
& 3 YO SS ORIENTATION

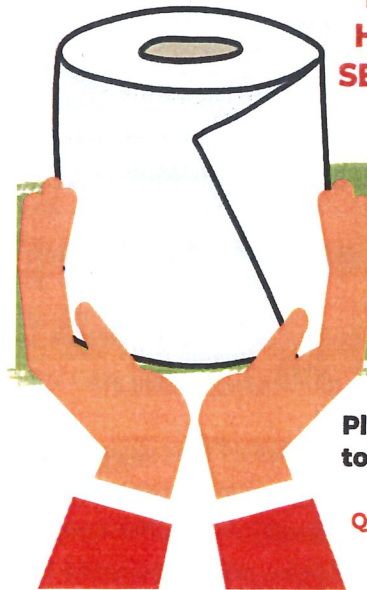
21 CONTEMPLATING
MEMBERSHIP CLASS

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - THE WELCOME PLACE -

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

TOILET PAPER DRIVE

BLOOMING PRAIRIE
HOMECOMING WEEK
SEPTEMBER 14-21, 2025



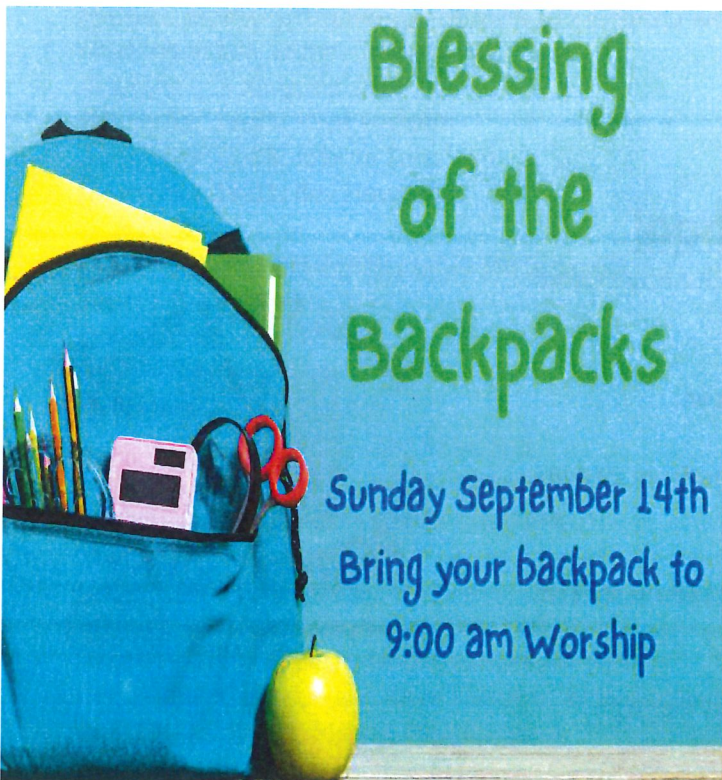
THROW A ROLL,
GIVE A ROLL

Please drop off unopened
toilet paper in the sanctuary

Questions: Contact Pastor Laurel

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday September 14th
Bring your backpack to
9:00 am Worship



Rise and Shine,
It's Pancake Time!

Scholarship
Committee Pancake
Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, Sept. 14

8am - 11:30am

Pancakes, sausages, orange
juice, milk, & coffee
Free Will Donation

Proceeds go towards
Lutheran College Student
Scholarships



First Lutheran Church
434 First Street SE
Bloomington, MN 55917
firstlutheranbp.com 507.583.6621



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	1 Building Closed Labor Day	2 4:00 PM Exec. Team Mtg	3 8:00 AM Wed AM Bible Study 6:30 PM 8-10 Gr Confirmation Orientation w/parent(s) 7:00 PM Sr Choir Practice	4	5	6																																																																																											
7 9:00 AM Worship/HC & on Radio & Video 10:00 AM SS Teacher Orientation	8	9	10 8:00 AM Wed AM Bible Study 6:30 PM 8-10 Gr Confirmation 7:00 PM Sr Choir Practice	11 4:00 PM Memorial Cmte Mtg	12	13																																																																																											
14 8:00 AM -11:30 AM Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM Worship & on Radio & Video 10:00 AM 3yo SS Orientation 10:00 AM Sunday School 1:15 PM Prairie Manor Worship Rally Sunday	15 1:30 PM Brayside Bible Study	16 6:00 PM Deacons Mtg 6:00 PM Trustees Mtg 7:00 PM Council Mtg	17 8:00 AM Wed AM Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Bible Circle 6:30 PM 8 - 10 Gr Confirmation 7:00 PM Sr Choir Practice	18	19	20																																																																																											
21 9:00 AM Worship/HC & on Radio & Video 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Welcome Milestone Class	22 Lutefisk Tickets go on Sale starting at 10am	23	24 8:00 AM Wed AM Bible Study 1:15 PM Prairie Manor Worship 6:30 PM 8 - 10 Gr Confirmation 7:00 PM Sr Choir Practice	25	26	27																																																																																											
28 9:00 AM Worship & on Radio & Video 10:00 AM Acolyte Training 10:00 AM Sunday School	29	30	<div> <div>Aug 2025</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Oct 2025</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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**Please join us
for our
Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner**

**First Lutheran Church
434 1st Street SW
Blooming Prairie, MN**

Saturday, October 11, 2025

\$25 per meal

**Reservations and prepayments required for
dining room seating and take-out / NO Walk-ins**

11 am, 12 noon or 1 pm seatings

**Tickets Sales Begin Monday, September 22 @10am
Reserve & Pay Online with QR Code below
OR By Phone During Office Hours: 507.583.6621**

*All proceeds are divided between local,
regional and worldwide organizations.*

No Refunds

**Lutefisk Dinner 2025
First Lutheran Blooming Prairie**



scan for tickets



From The Associate Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have a confession. I know absolutely nothing about farm animals. Cows, goats, pigs, horses, chickens and sheep are a complete mystery to me. Frankly, I'm a little afraid of them (Especially the chickens, those beaks freak me out). I think this lack of knowledge is why I am continually impressed by the work of the 4H kids I see at the fair. I'm just as impressed when I watch a sporting event or listen to a concert or hear about a trip someone took or a book they read. The confirmation retreats we do over the summer are some of my favorite days of the year, not because I am teaching students but because I get to learn from them. I learn about their passions, the events of their lives and their plans for the future.

In the coming months I will get to learn even more from these wonderful students and their families. Here are the places and ways we get to connect this Fall!

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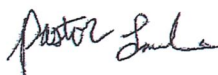
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We can't wait to see both familiar and new faces in a few weeks!

Thank you all for the time and attention it takes for our student programs to succeed. I look forward to seeing all of you this fall and to a wonderful year of growth, learning and joy!

Pastor Laurel

God's Peace,



FROM YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Dear Church Family,

As we often say, "where did the summer go?" For me it seems to pass quickly, for others their time may move more slowly.

Harvest time is almost here. Some have been harvesting from their gardens. Farmers watch and wait for their harvest that will soon begin. All of us are blessed with the bounty God provides us every day.

Our church committees have been doing their assigned responsibilities. The Trustees have, as we say, had a full plate this year. The first roof project has been successfully completed. Other roof issues are being addressed. Dying ash trees are coming down. A carpet project has yet to be completed.

Thank you to the Trustees and all committee members for the work that you do!



Ron Kubista, FLC Vice-President

Fall Preview & Education Guide

www.bloomingprairie.com/firstlutheranchurch

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Organization

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*Consider automated giving as a one-time
or recurring way to practice stewardship.*

Click the blue button online to begin

SEPTEMBER
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ORIENTATION W/ PARENT
SR CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS

7 SS TEACHER
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MEMBERSHIP CLASS

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - THE WELCOME PLACE -

Sunday Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:00 am in person or on
KOWZ 100.9 FM & FB Live

In-person Education Hour 10:00 am – 10:45 am
(September – May)

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm

Contact the Church Office 507.583.6621 phone

Emergency Phone Numbers

Pastor Heidi Heimgartner 507.583.2001 home
507.269.9056 cell

Pastor Laurel Meester 641.425.5921 cell

Gary Thorson 507.676.1050 cell

LATEST INFORMATION ON THE WEB @

firstlutheranbp.com



facebook.com/firstlutheranbp

Staff

Senior Pastor Rev. Heidi S. Heimgartner
pastorheidiheimgartner@hotmail.com

Associate Pastor Rev. Laurel Meester
ljmidthun@gmail.com

Director of Children's Ministry Tracy Madsen
tracymadsen03@gmail.com

Admin. Secretary Danielle Hein
firstluthoffice@yahoo.com

Accompanists Betty Ingvaldson, Christine
Butler, Karla Iacovino

Worship Team Melissa Stoen
melissa.stoen@gmail.com

Tom Blome, Dustin Kremer, Dennis Sauke,
Jaclyn Schlichter, Allyson Skillestad, Isaac Stoen

Wedding Coordinators Holli Naatz, Gwen Kubista

Custodian Gary Thorson

Visitation Pastor Rev. Dick Hegal
lutherbp65@yahoo.com 507.259.0243

Mailing Address: First Lutheran Church / PO Box 697 /
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / UNSUBSCRIBE
phone 507.583.6621 email firstluthoffice@yahoo.com