

Our Savior's Voice

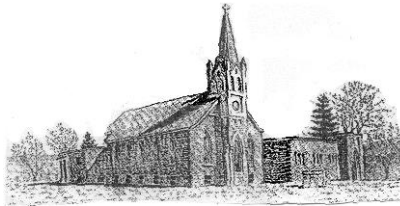
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard Street N - West Salem, WI 54669

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

608-786-0030

August 2023



Vision Statement:

***We are a church centered in Christ,
inviting all into a community of worship,
nurturing all to be disciples of Jesus.
Together we reach out to make a difference
here and throughout the world.***

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August 2023

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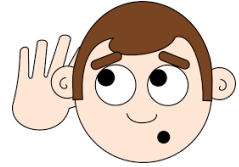
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Pastor's Reflections

Do you hear what I hear?

I'm writing this in mid-July ... on a Thursday morning ... and the solitude of my office is being broken, repeatedly! And I am thrilled!



What could possibly be so good? The sound of drills coming from the sanctuary ... the tech project is underway! Electricians, running the wires that will power the equipment. Equipment that will enhance worship, but also enhance our outreach. During the past six months we have averaged almost 40 views a week, or around 75 persons (we think). Over a six-month period for 2023 that's almost 2,000



worshippers. And when the project is complete, the audio and video presentation will be so much better. For the sick or the homebound, for those with work conflicts, for those just wanting to check us out. And then, for weddings and funerals, the possibility for family who cannot travel ... we will be able to extend the worship to them as well.

The project still has a way to go. Equipment will need to be installed, and we will need to learn how to use our equipment. But it's coming.

Good sounds ... good ministry ... good news!

But wait a moment, I'm hearing other sounds breaking into my solitude. Voices, doors opening and closing, water running, and the sounds of (I think) a cutting board. These sounds are coming from below, from the kitchen. They are the sounds of "Feed Our Children," our summer lunch ministry. The sounds of meeting the needs of people.

The details for Feed Our Children tell the story ...

- Serving 160 on non-Summer School days and 120 on days with summer school.
- Now including Bangor, with a few deliveries too.
- Corporate support from Linda's, Hansen's IGA, Kwik Trip, and others.
- And then some other sources, like a Thrivent grant, West Salem Schools, extra items from June Dairy Days, even dozens of buns leftover from a grad party.

Meals served to kids, with no singling out those who “need” from those who do not need. Just making sure all of our kids get a good lunch, at least twice a week.



But what of the crew? The voices I hear?

They belong to folks from Our Savior’s, from kids to seniors, sometimes under Angie Hemker’s leadership, but most of the time with other kitchen leaders, working together to make a difference, working together to do “God’s work with their hands.”

But still other voices – from other places – from St Teresa and Prince of Peace. Then, later in August I expect to hear voices from the Presbyterian Church. Voices of faithful people from different traditions, but hands that are also doing God’s work.

And in the midst of these voices, I’m pretty sure there are voices that would not call any church a home, but surprise, surprise! They too are doing God’s work, even if they wouldn’t think so!

Good sounds ... good ministry ...good news!

But in the midst of the sounds from the kitchen, I’ve heard yet another sound. I’ve heard ... laughter.

Yes, laughter. People working together, meeting the needs of others, making a difference ... and laughing. And that's a big deal.



A big deal because something more is happening here. The community is being served. We are about a mission and ministry. Feed Our Children has a purpose, a goal. Hungry kids needing the gifts of life in bread, meat, fruits and veggies, milk, and even a treat or two. That's a big need, and that's what this is about. That is our goal.

But while that may be our goal, more is happening here. For while the community is being served, community is also being created.

Think for a moment. The Biblical narrative, the story of God's people, from Genesis to Revelation, is always a story about the people, not just a person. God is always creating community. From Eve created to be with Adam, to the gathering of the people of Israel, to Jesus pulling together his disciples, to the early gathering of Christians we call the church. The story is never about a "lone ranger." It's always about community.

And communities are built on relationships. On the celebration of being together, with others, others who are also precious children of God. When we can come together, to work together, but also to engage, laugh, and even play together, we celebrate what it means to be community – to share with one another the life-giving connection that begins in our creation, nurtured by the grace of Jesus, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.



That makes the laughter special. But remember too, this is not just laughter of “OSLC” folk. This is the laughter of others in our community. This is laughter that transcends our differences as we work together, live together, and even play together.

Good sounds ... good ministry ... good news!

In a stressed world, where differences divide more than they ever had, the laughter and the community it enhances is more important than ever. Quite frankly, we need more opportunities to build those connections between our faith communities, and with the larger community around us.

And that is maybe the greatest ministry that Feed Our Children offers. Yes, kids are fed as hungry tummies are filled. A ministry of food and service. But to make that happen, people come together and work together.

Perhaps then, in a small way, this ministry is even more a response to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:22: “so that they may be one, as we are one.”

No, not necessarily “one church body.” Deeper than that. One in our service, in our care for each other, our love for one another, our willingness to see Jesus in each other.



One in the Body of Christ.

Pastor Jon



Worship Update

**Saturday 6 PM
Sunday 8 & 10 AM**

*Note the summer
worship time!!*

Meanwhile...

Virtual worship options
remain...



We **Zoom 10 AM Sunday worship** (check out our home page for the link and have your Communion elements handy!)

We also record worship and post it as a YouTube by 10 AM on Sunday. You can access this worship at any time through our web site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org/videos ... You can even catch up on previous weeks!

And soon ... livestreaming of the 10:00 worship. We hope to have the new tech work done sometime during the summer, with enhanced capabilities in the building, and a much-improved online experience as well.

Faith Formation ...

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers



Would you like to be a part of an exciting ministry here at Our Savior's? We would love to have you!!



We need folks who have a love for kids and a love for Jesus! Young or old, parent/grandparent or not, you can be that caring role model for our children.

We are looking for ...

- ♥ **Team Teachers** – the lessons and activities are scripted, there will also be a time for a video and music. Our goal is to have **two teachers** for each grade to make scheduling easier.
- ♥ **We are especially looking for a PreK/Kindergarten team.**



Talk to Pastor Jean for more information.



First Time in Sunday School?

Please remember that your child needs to be 4 years of age by September 1, 2023 in order to attend the Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School class. If your child is planning to attend Sunday School for the first time this year, please email the church office so that we can make sure that they are included on the roster. (office@oursaviorswestsalem.org)

It's almost time ...

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 10th

Gather in the Sanctuary at 9:15 AM



We will be inviting our Sunday
School Classroom Grandparents to join us, too ...

**Mark your calendars ... invite a friend ...
and join us!**



Note: Sunday School registration forms for all
grades are available on the church website
(www.oursaviorswestsalem.org).
It's not too early to sign up!

Backpack Blessing - September 9-10

If you are a **student (of any age!)** attending school, bring your backpacks, laptop bags, or whatever else you use. We will share a blessing and a reminder of God's love and presence as we begin another year of learning.



Faith Formation ...



Confirmation Ministry

As summer wears on, we are already looking forward to our fall ministries, including Confirmation instruction. Confirmation instruction is not about memorizing stuff, or jumping through hoops just to get confirmed – it's about exploring God's call to discipleship, as we study the Bible, learn about our faith, and engage in service toward others.

Confirmation is tentatively set to resume with **parent/student's** meetings on **Wednesday, September 6.**

- 6-8th grade at 6 PM
- 9th grade at 7 PM

There is always room for more ... invite neighbors to join us as we explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. For more information, contact Pastor Jon.



Sugar Creek Bible Campers

Please keep the following youth who will be attending Camp in *August* in your prayers:



July 30-August 4

Kirya Eckland
Marissa Eckland

Olivia Sprehn
Adelyn Tlustosch



Adult Bible Study

*Wednesdays 9:30-11 AM
In the Library – or join us by
Zoom*

We are still studying ... so much to learn! Come and join us as we study the coming Sunday's gospel reading, ponder God's message to us, and have some time for good conversation and fellowship.

See Pastor Jon for more information, or to get the Zoom link.



**Coffee & Conversation
at Linda's Bakery
9:30 AM on Tuesday, August 8**



Off They Go ...

It's hard to believe but the summer is winding down and we are beginning to look to the fall and the activities that may be happening. One event will be our college students heading off to campus. Now is the time to help them on their journey ... why not get a (some) **Kwik Trip card(s)** to help with their travel expenses ... *that's one way to make sure they have gas money to come home and visit!*

KWIK TRIP

College-bound students ...

college+
connection



It's that time of year again ... already! Whether you're going to WTC and living at home or traveling to the far ends of the country, we need your **Campus address** and your **email address!**

You are important to us and we want to keep in touch –
Please get the information to the office or to Pastor Jean.

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir invites you to be a member of our group! We have a great time and love making music together. New members are always welcome. We usually sing for church services three times a month, and fall rehearsals will begin

Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00, in the balcony. Come and join us!



Handbells

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to play handbells?

Now is your chance to give it a try ... no pressure, no commitments, just have fun and see what you think!

On Saturday, August 5 (5-5:45 PM) and Sunday, August 6 (9-9:45 AM) join us in the Music Room (downstairs off the Fellowship Hall) to “test drive” the bells. Who knows ... you just might like it!!



Whether you're “new” or “seasoned”, we'd love to have you join us! Practices begin September 13 at 6 PM.

Corn Roast

**Wednesday, August 9
4:30 - 6:30 PM
at the Lion's Shelter**



We are once again looking forward to gathering with the West Salem community for our annual Corn Roast. The Corn Roast is our gift to the community, so invite your friends and neighbors – and join them with some great corn and other goodies.

We are looking for ***all-hands-on-deck*** to help make this work! Sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area.

Come be a part of giving back to our community.



**National Night Out
Tuesday, August 1 - 5-8 PM
Village Park**

National Night Out returns to West Salem ... and we will be there again! Come and meet neighbors, connect with the community, and support others in our midst. And ... stop by the Our Savior's table too! We are proud to be present, and pleased to provide financial support to this event. Don't miss it!

Gospel on the Green Worship & Potluck Picnic



**Sunday
August 27th
10:00 AM
@ the Lion's Shelter**

Join us as the S.O.S. Band leads us in worship, we hear God's Word, and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the great outdoors! Bring your own seating!

Following worship, you are invited to join us for a potluck lunch – the church will provide sandwiches and beverages. If you are able, we would appreciate you bringing a dish to pass as follows – last names beginning A-K – salads; L-T – main dish; U-Z – desserts. And even if you can't bring a dish (or if you forget), join us anyway ... there is always plenty and you are always welcome!



It's School Kit Time!

Watch for school supplies for the school kits we assemble and send, literally around the world, through Lutheran World Relief!

Each School kit contains the following:

- 1 – 30 cm ruler/12 inch
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – **BLUNT** scissors
- 5 – **UN**sharpened pencils
- 1 – box 24 crayons
- 1 – 2-1/2-inch eraser
- 4 – 70 sheet notebooks (no loose-leaf paper)
- 5 – blue or black ball point pens (no gel ink)



Watch for a collection box in the gathering area. Start your shopping and make a difference in the lives of children!

Hungry Jar Offering for August – New Horizons

New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers, a shelter for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence, was organized in 1978 through the cooperative efforts of an informal group of citizens in the La Crosse area who recognized the need for services to victims of domestic abuse. New Horizons Shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to provide emergency shelter and food to victims of domestic violence and their children. The shelter's Crisis Advocates provide support and advocacy for women and children throughout their shelter stay. Often, when women come into the shelter, they are forced to flee their homes quickly and under great stress, leaving most of their belongings behind. Through community donations, New Horizons is able to provide families with clothing and personal care items. We thank you for your support and care for those who are hurting.



Thank you for your generous donations to the Hungry Jar ...

♥ May – Sugar Creek Camperships - \$754.58

♥ June – LWR School Kits – \$334.04



Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program

The 2023 Summer Lunch Program is going well. We are serving 160 meals daily and 120 during the weeks of Summer School. The numbers are higher than ever before and our help has expanded to regular Bangor families who come. The Food Service Director shared the need with us and we stepped up!

Currently we are looking for donations of fruit cups and granola bars. Financial contributions are also always welcome – make checks out to Our Savior's, but **note** the gift is **for Feed Our Children**. We are grateful for the recent \$1,000 donation from Kwik Trip.

There are still spots available to volunteer! We serve through August 17. If you would like to help prepare the lunches (9:30 am – 12:30 pm), contact Angie Hemker (608/780-9172) or use the link on the home page of our website: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org.

For more information and updates on how you can help support this important ministry, check out the Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program page on Facebook.



Synod Assembly

The La Crosse Area Synod Assembly was held June 2-4, in La Crosse under the theme of “Cultivating Life Giving Relationships”. Eric Ender, Jaime Fortier, Carolyn Karl, and Jen Linse served as voting members to the assembly. The following are their reflections on the assembly ...

From Carolyn Karl - A wonderful opportunity to be with sisters and brothers in Christ with the theme of loving each other. Information of what other churches are doing and sharing concerns. Worship service at Riverside Park was awesome especially because there were so many kids involved.

From Eric Ender - I thoroughly enjoyed the entire Assembly. The worship on Friday evening set the stage for everything that was to come on Saturday and Sunday. Having the Assembly at the La Crosse Center was perfect. Listening to keynote speaker Rev. Jay Wittmeyer weave his stories was great. His travels have taken him around the globe, and it was interesting to hear his experiences. An opportunity to attend a seminar on the Gen Z generation was also helpful. Assembly musician Jon Ailabouni provided us with amazing music all weekend. His interpretations on the liturgical music were refreshing.

From Jaime Fortier - This was my first time attending Synod Assembly. What a great opportunity to connect with others from around our synod. There was so much energy at the Friday night worship with engagement and wonderful music. Saturday was time for smaller group connections with the breakout sessions. Sunday was a little windy and cool however the excitement was still present at Riverside Park gathering for worship. One thing that I will remember is the music and watching the children bring the many, many, many donations forward. We have a very generous synod!

New Members



Everyone (and we mean, *everyone!*) is welcome at Our Savior's, and welcome to our ministries and activities, even if you are not a member.

But ... if you'd like to join the congregation ... we'd love to have you! If you come from another Lutheran congregation, a transfer works best.

Or, if you come from another Christian tradition, we periodically offer a new member class to help you learn more about how Lutherans understand the faith we share. **Pastor Jon is looking to get a class started, so this is a great time.** For more information on membership and how it can happen for you, see Pastor Jon or Pastor Jean!



Tech Project Update

As this is being written, in mid-July, we expect the first steps for the tech project to happen tomorrow! The initial electrical work will be completed, allowing the equipment to be installed.

We thank you for your patience, and we look forward to an enhanced worship experience, in person and on-line. Keep watching – it's getting closer!



Building Projects

At a special Congregational Meeting on June 4, the congregation approved several building proposals:

- Replacing all portions of flat roof on our building.
- Replacing the walkway lights by the Leonard Street entrance.
- Tuckpointing and resealing windows around the building.

The contract includes supervision of these projects by managers from DBS Group. The total cost is not to exceed \$158,500. These projects should be completed by fall. Already, almost \$13,000 has been given to make these things happen, and with resources already earmarked for these projects, we have over \$35,000 toward the final cost.

In addition, as we look ahead to coming years, we are aware that there are other needs that will need to be addressed, including the parking lots, organ, pitched roof, sanctuary air conditioning, and more. We know that's a big list – but we also know we have a generous God.

Thank you for your continued support. Your gifts will continue to make things happen, as we care for the resource of our building!



Thank you ...

... to the June/July newsletter mailing crew: Larry & Connie Blunck, Bev Bockenbauer, Carolyn Karl, Judy Morzinski, Carol Thompson, and Marion Twite-Stensven.

... to the Iliff family for hosting our Beer & Hymns Campfire! We had a great time singing, snacking, s'more roasting, and socializing!

Received from others ...

... Please know how grateful we are to have all your help for our June Dairy Days Fun Run! Blessed with a beautiful morning and great help! Thanks to Jim, Easton, Carlie, Carla, Karen, Stacey, Elliot, Mabel, Marjorie, Jim, Leslie, Tom, Emily, Emma, Denise, Tim, Dori, Trudy, Naoko, Shawn, Lynette, Ilene, Steve, Laurie, Phil and Judy ... and others if missed. We had 82 race participants and 1 dog! Many thanks.

... Thank you for the prayer shawl you gave me. It' keeps me warm.

Annie Thompson

... Thank you for the campership. I love camp so much and can't wait for next year! I had lots of fun making new friends and meeting new people along the way! I love the horse riding and all the Bible studies, worship is so fun too! I love this camp. Thank you for the opportunity to go. Sincerely,

Anna Gross

... Thank you church for giving me money for camp. My favorite thing at camp was meeting new friends and animals at camp. I can't wait to go back next year! Love,

Leah Gross

In Loving Memory



Memorial Gifts Received ...

In Memory of Marilyn Romskog
From Beth Jones

In Memory of Mary Kokott to Feed Our Children
From Family & Friends

In Memory of Marion Severson and Ken Severson to Feed Our Children
From Mike & Connie Miller



Pastoral Acts:

Baptism – Norah Larson – July 23
Funeral – Mavis Valley – June 3
Funeral – Paula Hase-Mickelson- July 21
Funeral – Dick Marking – July 25
Death – Robert Roraff – July 17



Congregation Council

The Congregation Council met on Monday, June 19, with President Jeff Haldeman presiding. At this meeting the council:

- Shared in devotions based on 1 Corinthians 8 and 9, and focusing on both Juneteenth and July 4th.
- Approved the minutes from the April and May meetings, and received financials for those months and the pastors' reports.
- Approved the minutes of the June 4 congregational meeting.
- Discussed some of the building work being done.
- Approved a bid of \$3,200 from Wehrs Electric to replace electrical panels.
- Approved a gift of \$200 to National Night Out, and decided to participate again this year.
- Approved a lease renewal for Johnson South, with an increase in the monthly rent.
- Approved closing the Mission Endowment Fund accounts at River Bank and shifting them to Union State Bank.
- Heard about the Living Faith Project, pairing Our Savior's with Bethany Lutheran Church in Mauston for story sharing.
- Decided to use the July meeting as a time of conversation over the Living Faith Project.

The council met again on July 12, where the council:

- Shared in devotions around favorite Bible stories.
- Heard the electrical work for the tech project will start soon, and that Pastor Jon will also address with them the parking lot light that is not firing properly.
- Heard that the roof work will start in the fall at the earliest.
- Discussed plans for National Night Out.
- Spent time "figuring out our story" for the Living Faith Project with Bethany Lutheran Church, Mauston.

The council next meets on Monday, August 14 at 7 PM. If you have questions, or if you have ideas for enhancing the ministry of Our Savior's, contact Jeff Haldeman or one of the pastors.

By the numbers...



Ministry is not a numbers game, but numbers can help us get a feel for what is happening as we carry out our part of God's work in the world! Numbers help us

measure our faithful response to God's call, both in our financial support and our worship life. So...here is a snapshot of our ministry...by the numbers!

2023 Ministry at Work			
	Actual- May/June	Actual-YTD	Budget-YTD
Income	\$43,104.55	\$156,665.97	\$180,712.50
Prepaid		\$13,362.00	\$13,362.00
Expense	\$58,997.12	\$183,120.43	\$190,555.56
Net	(\$15,892.57)	(\$13,092.46)	
2023 Worship Life – Weekly average			
	In-building Actual	Online Estimate	TOTAL
May/June	149	53	356
Year to Date	166	77	243

Worship Leaders - August



Aug 5-6

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Zander Clements
Communion Assistant Bonnie Gensch
Welcoming Team Jon Hetland

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant Candace Drury
Communion Assistant Carla Burkhardt
Welcoming Team Drury Family

10 a.m.

Anna Gross
Michelle Witte
Gross Family

Home Communion Ilene Pavelko
Altar Guild for August Cindy Averbeck/Jaime Fortier

Aug 12-13

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Campbell Laack
Communion Assistant Judy Gilbert
Welcoming Team Laack Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant Landon Labus
Communion Assistant Jim Quamme
Welcoming Team Labus Family

10 a.m.

Leah Langrehr
Jaime Fortier
Ihle Family

Home Communion Rasmussen Family

Aug 19-20

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant Casey Mathison
Communion Assistant Jon Hetland
Welcoming Team Mathison Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant Lily Muellenberg
Communion Assistant Melody Schmitz
Welcoming Team Marinelli Family

10 a.m.

Mya Peterson
Melissa Haldeman
Baumgartner/
Fullwood Family

Home Communion Carol & Scott Thompson

Aug 26-27

6 p.m.

Worship Assistant	Madison Phillips
Communion Assistant	Jill Iliff
Welcoming Team	Phillips Family

8 a.m.

Worship Assistant	E Quackenbush
Communion Assistant	Naoko Giblin
Welcoming Team	Johnsrude Family
Home Communion	Daryl Wermedal

10 a.m.

Gospel on the Green

Anya Tenner
Wendy Amundson
Blunck/Skittone



- ♥ Jesus is Lord and Savior.
- ♥ All are welcome, and we are intentional about that welcome.
- ♥ God gifts and calls every one of every age to be a difference maker in the world.
- ♥ We treasure the gift of creation and embrace the call to protect God's world.
- ♥ We value the gathering of God's people in worship and all our ministries.
- ♥ We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a world that has changed dramatically.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Financial Support Ministry

THANK YOU!!! *Thank you for your continued financial support of our ministry together!* You make a difference in the lives of children and adults, in those across the globe, and those right here in our midst.

Like our school kit ministry, as we gather materials for school kits to allow displaced children the opportunity to learn. Your general gifts allow us to provide the space and resources to make this ministry happen!

Financial gifts can be shared in worship, by mail, or placed in our locked mailbox. You can also make gifts electronically. Go to www.oursaviorswestsaalem.org/giving to find out more!

*Thank you for your support.
We are grateful for your partnership as
we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ!*



**WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL
SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE**
West Salem High School Library 490 N. Mark St.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8th
11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Check out our ...



QR Code!

To be found in the Sunday bulletin ...and here in the newsletter... the QR code takes you to our online giving page. You can set up electronic gifts to support the work we share in the gospel of Jesus Christ! Direct payment or credit

cards, one time or recurring, the general fund ... or summer lunch ... or world hunger ... or youth fund ... or the building fund. Your gifts and regular support make a difference, and the QR Code makes it easy to find!

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Remember that if you are a Thrivent member you may have “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to direct. Our Savior’s is one of the many potential recipients of your choice dollars, but your direction needs to be made each time. A number of Our Savior’s folk direct their choice dollars – do you? See Thrivent’s web site for more information or stop by the office and we will help you out.

Scrip Cards Available

Help support Our Savior’s Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger!

KWIK TRIP



Culver’s, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman’s, and Ship Shape car wash.

WOODMAN'S



**Feeding the
Community**

Care and Share Food Pantry

The Care and Share Food Pantry is open Saturdays, 10 AM to Noon. Food can be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!

Web Site: www.oursaviorswestsalem.org
OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

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Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director
Karen DeSchepper, Financial Secretary
Josh Corning, Custodian



**Newsletter Deadline –
August 15**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 Leonard St N
West Salem, WI 54669

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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West Salem, WI
Permit #21

Change Service Requested