

## ▶ YOUR VIEW

### Small church, big mission

As a member of a local Protestant church, I'd like to lift up a neighboring congregation that Woodstock residents should be aware of. Once a month, I volunteer at a McHenry County Public Action to Deliver Shelter emergency site in Woodstock at Redeemer Lutheran on Dean Street. I work with the Tebo brothers and Elly, a working mom, to make breakfast for between 25 to 40 people. For many years, Redeemer Lutheran has served lunch for the homeless, but this year the congregation has taken on the additional responsibility of providing beds for homeless once a week.

Many people volunteer their time. Other churches, Woodstock High School Key Club and Student Council and youth groups provide meals and toiletry items for the homeless. Some of the faces of our guests are familiar from past years, while others use the site only once. Some grab a lunch before breakfast and leave for work. Some bring families with small children; some are single women. All need a safe warm place for the night.

Redeemer has chosen to look outside of itself in its response to Jesus' teachings. Whether or not this is your faith, I propose that this community

mission work belongs to all of us. If it's important to you as you read this, help Redeemer with the operational costs of running the program. Attend a service and give in the offering plate, drop a check at the church office or mail a check to Redeemer Lutheran.

*Ron Bendis,  
Woodstock*