

## Daytime drop-in offers aid to homeless

Redeemer Lutheran Church is currently home to the Wednesday night PADS overnight shelter for the homeless and a Thursday morning daytime drop-in program.

Begun as a compassion ministry, the daytime drop-in offers the area homeless one day a week to relax and regroup a little.

"They were concerned about the fact that the PADS people had to get up

early every morning and be on the go from there. This way they could have one morning they could sleep," said Susan Hudson, a PADS volunteer and church member.

Since Redeemer hosts the Wednesday overnight, the guests can choose to stay for the daytime drop-in. "It gives them a place where they can rest, get a hot meal and socialize," said Arne Olsen, Redeemer's Woodstock Area Community Ministries representative. "It allows them to be more human."

Welcoming an average of 22 homeless people each week - from early November through late March - the

guests at daytime drop-in can wash clothes, use the washrooms, watch television, sit together and play games, snack on baked goods, and have access to computers. A hot lunch also is served.

"Everyone sits around together," said Hudson. "It's very communal."

"It's a very positive experience," said John Hudson, who is also a regular volunteer with daytime drop-in at the church. "You get to know people and see what's happening with their lives and encourage them to take the next step."

— Sandy Kucharski, *The Independent*