

## The Need for More Space to Serve our Community

### Food Pantry

Beginning in April 2020, St. Paul began offering monthly drive-thru food pantries open to everyone in our community. When over 100 families attended our first drive-thru pantry, we realized there is truly a great need for food in our city. Due to the generous supports of our members and other Christians throughout the Green Bay area, we have continued to provide drive-thru food pantries twice per month over the past year.

A committed group of volunteers prepares bags of food, while another group of volunteers distributes the bags on our food pantry days. Each person who comes receives two paper grocery bags of food, along with bread and eggs. Read Dan's story below for a personal view of the positive impact this program provides.



*Volunteers prep bags of food in a classroom several evenings a month.*

Since April 2020, we have been blessed to serve food to over 625 different families. We average about 50-70 families at each one-hour pantry. Those who come are very appreciative of the food they receive. We've been especially excited to make connections with people in our own neighborhood who didn't even know our church existed until they saw the sign for our food pantry. They share stories of lost jobs, family struggles, and the shame of needing to ask for food. We're grateful to provide a safe, caring opportunity to share Jesus' love with them.



*Food Pantry distribution during COVID.*

## Dedicated Food Pantry Space is Planned

Due to the growth of our school, our food pantry lost our dedicated space so that it could be made into a classroom. Our Built on the Rock building program will provide a dedicated space for our food pantry and offer us the space to continue serving those in need for years to come.

Jesus makes us this promise:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). The Built on the Rock building project will allow us to continue to share God's physical blessings with those who most need them.

When our capital building project is complete, the new building will provide over 1900 square feet for food pantry storage. This work of our congregation has received great support and is highly appreciated by our community.

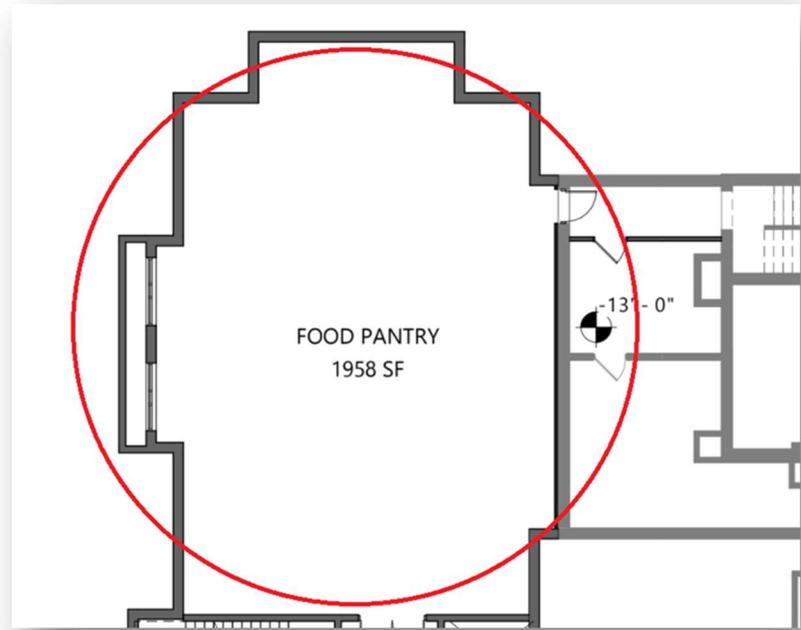


Figure 12: The food pantry will be in the new lower level of the new building.

### Dan's Story

St. Paul's Food Pantry has a special place in my heart. At one point in my life I was unemployed and in need of assistance. I will never forget the humbling nature of having to ask for help and how grateful I was for those groceries. That food bank was in another city, but I vowed to repay the kindness shown to my family.

When COVID hit, St. Paul didn't know how we would deliver our Food Pantry groceries. A call went out for volunteers to help with the drive through pantry and I've been a volunteer ever since. Being able to look those people in the eye and assure them that "God's got you in his hands" as we load groceries has been the best way I've found to show God's love.