The Welfare of the City  
By Rev. Deborah Hutterer, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

As Lutherans, we know that government is a helpful way that God is alive in our world. This is clear from Martin Luther and the first generation of reformers.

For example, Luther believed that education was an important way to help children learn their unique talents and make a difference in the world. In a letter to the Councilmen of Germany, he wrote:

*"Now the welfare of a city does not consist solely in accumulating vast treasure, building mighty walls and magnificent buildings and producing a goodly supply of guns and armor. Indeed, where such things are plentiful, and reckless fools get control of them, it is so much worse and the city suffers even greater loss. A city's best and greatest welfare, safety, and strength consist rather in its having many able, learned, wise, honorable, and well-educated citizens. They can then readily gather, protect, and properly use treasure and all manner of property."* (To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain Christian Schools, 1524)

Zaniya, Zyir, and Zayleen pick up back to school supplies donated by the congregational community.

[In a new study](https://wallethub.com/edu/best-worst-states-underprivileged-children/5403/), Arizona is highlighted as ranking 46th in the nation for issues of child welfare, including food-insecurity, health, and education.

Is this the community that you want to live in? Is there more that you can do?

As modern reformers, we are called to act. Your voice is needed.

Register and vote. Visit [lss-sw.org/vote](http://www.lss-sw.org/vote) for registration information.

