



# New Journey Lutheran Church

An instrument of God's love for all

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Senator John Kavanagh  
Room 200, Arizona State Capitol Complex  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

April 7, 2024

Dear Senator Kavanagh,

As members and friends of New Journey Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills, we have regularly worked to reduce hunger by supporting the Extended Hands Food Bank; packing hundreds of heat respite lunches annually for persons experiencing homelessness in Phoenix; hosting an annual Food for Kidz meal pack that this March distributed 64,000 meals locally and internationally; and contributing regularly to ELCA World Hunger, this year celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Yet, we know that our and others' good works are not enough; they must be joined by legislation that systemically addresses broad hunger needs.** Thus, we write to urge your support for extending funding for healthy school meals into the next fiscal year. With Arizona budget negotiations set to begin soon, we are asking you **to ensure that the \$4.5 million needed to continue funding free and reduced-price school meals is included in the upcoming budget**, funding that is set to expire in June.

More than 12 million meals (reaching 52% of Arizona students in USDA participant schools) have been made available to children from low-income families, thanks to funding covering the co-pays for free and reduced-price school meals. **These children are your and our neighbors** as 53% of elementary, 40% of middle school, and 30% of high school students **in Fountain Hills Unified School District** qualify for free and reduced breakfast and lunch. Arizona's investment has reduced school lunch debt, improved school meal participation, and positively impacted classroom performance and attendance across the state. The meals improve learning and early childhood development, affecting positive health outcomes long into the future.

We firmly believe that no one deserves to go hungry, especially not children. Our churches and food banks are not able to meet that demand on our own, and school meals are an incredibly important way for children to access the food they need. We understand that the Arizona budget is tight and that your role as chair of the Appropriations Committee is challenging. We thank you for your hard work to allocate the \$4.5 million to fund school meals that support the next generation of smart, healthy Arizonans.

Sincerely,

<signatures below>

Members and Friends of New Journey



New Journey Lutheran Church  
16748 E. Parkview Avenue  
P.O. Box 19652  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-9652

Email: [NewJourneyLutheran@njlc-fh.org](mailto:NewJourneyLutheran@njlc-fh.org)

Website: [njlc-fh.org](http://njlc-fh.org)



# New Journey Lutheran Church

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Representative Alex Kolodin  
Room 310, Arizona State Capitol Complex  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

April 7, 2024

Dear Representative Kolodin,

As members and friends of New Journey Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills, we have regularly worked to reduce hunger by supporting the Extended Hands Food Bank; packing hundreds of heat respite lunches annually for persons experiencing homelessness in Phoenix; hosting an annual Food for Kidz meal pack that this March distributed 64,000 meals locally and internationally; and contributing regularly to ELCA World Hunger, this year celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Yet, we know that our and others' good works are not enough; they must be joined by legislation that systemically addresses broad hunger needs.** Thus, we write to urge your support for extending funding for healthy school meals into the next fiscal year. With Arizona budget negotiations set to begin soon, we are asking you **to ensure that the \$4.5 million needed to continue funding free and reduced price school meals is included in the upcoming budget**, funding that is set to expire in June.

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We firmly believe that no one deserves to go hungry, especially not children. Our synagogues, churches and food banks are not able to meet that demand on our own, and school meals are an incredibly important way for children to access the food they need. We understand that the Arizona budget is tight, so we thank you for your hard work support allocation of the \$4.5 million to fund the school meals that support the next generation of smart, healthy Arizonans.

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# New Journey Lutheran Church

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Representative Joseph Chaplik  
Room 224, Arizona State Capitol Complex  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

April 7, 2024

Dear Representative Chaplik,

As members and friends of New Journey Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills, we have regularly worked to reduce hunger by supporting the Extended Hands Food Bank; packing hundreds of heat respite lunches annually for persons experiencing homelessness in Phoenix; hosting an annual Food for Kidz meal pack that this March distributed 64,000 meals locally and internationally; and contributing regularly to ELCA World Hunger, this year celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **Yet, we know that our and others' good works are not enough; they must be joined by legislation that systemically addresses broad hunger needs.** Thus, we write to urge your support for extending funding for healthy school meals into the next fiscal year. With Arizona budget negotiations set to begin soon, we are asking you **to ensure that the \$4.5 million needed to continue funding free and reduced price school meals is included in the upcoming budget**, funding that is set to expire in June.

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