

FROM YOUR PASTOR

On a recent Sunday during the Sharing of Peace, a person handed me a small metal box telling me, "There are mustard seeds in there. Maybe you can use them." I am thankful for this gift which reminds me of Jesus' teaching: *What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches* St. Luke 13:18. This growing of God's kingdom is within us and around us and I sense that each of us has room to grow in kingdom awareness. Mustard seeds grow and grow, you know.

Right now we may be aware of so many seeds needing to be planted. Situations call for attention so choosing where to help is puzzling. One need which stands out is helping with the aftermath of floodwaters which swept across southern Louisiana. We can donate through our Lutheran Disaster Response Fund, which is an effective way to have our money used for real help and not administrative overhead.

How does a mustard seed relate to this one need concerning flooding? When you and I take time to actually give seed money to our Lutheran Disaster Response Fund, it is like planting a mustard seed. The gift may be small, you think, yet that tiny gift, or large one, helps foster the growth of God's kingdom work for all in need.

Another example is our mission within God's kingdom with Christmas Shoeboxes for Honduras. This is a way to give a mustard seed gifts for a direct approach helping poor children. Maria and John Wagner have given us the means of helping in a special way. As you know, Maria was born in Honduras and has a "heart felt desire" call it - a mustard seed, which is growing more than she and John and others who help could possibly imagine. Small seeds come from the mustard bush and our generosity in giving mustard - seed - like - gifts, grow and grow.

A well meaning person gave me a very small gift - some mustard seeds. Small as the seeds are, they remind us of Jesus' teaching and desire for us to give gifts to others. We tend to give more and more as our kingdom awareness grows and grows. The kingdom seeds are planted in us by God. Tended by the Word and refreshed in the powerful Waters of Baptism and we grow with the food from heaven in the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar.

God's good kingdom growth is happening. I thank our Lord Jesus for you and all He teaches us with a mustard seed.

Pastor Folmar