



2019

**Sunday Worship
10:00a.m.
Sunday School during
Worship**

**Fellowship Coffee
Following Worship**

**-Joint Board Meeting
Feb. 12 at 7pm**

**-Seniors Social
Feb. 15 at 1:00pm**

**-Shepherds meeting
Feb. 20 at 1:00**

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Joint Board Chair:
Anita Jones
Building: John Dyck
Congregational Care:
Shirley Klockow
Treasurer:
Steve Clarke

Good Shepherd Church

Mission Statement

**Good Shepherd Community Church:
Where God loves, Christ leads and people serve.**

Wisdom of the Watchword Living in Christ

The Moravian church has a few beloved traditions. One of them happens the first Sunday of each year. Scripture verses are printed on cards and members are invited to draw a card during worship. This is referred to as a Watchword. The intent is that this Watchword becomes a focus for prayer and meditation throughout the year. In addition, a text is drawn for the congregation. This year the congregation's Watchword comes from Colossians 2:6, "*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him.*"

We don't know yet how this scripture text will speak to us throughout the year, but let's take an initial look. First, the word "Lord" refers to one who has authority over us. This is a person we look to for direction, someone we have great respect for, someone we long to please. Our desire is to believe in him and follow his example. To "receive" such a person means to acknowledge this authority at the cost of our own. Instead of authority or autonomy, our desire becomes service. Knowing Christ to be a man of compassion, this surrender becomes a source of peace and joy.

This Watchword may be inviting our congregation to consider if our choices about ministry reflect our trust in Christ, or trust in ourselves. Do we embrace the full measure of grace that Christ offers us, or does fear cause us to water-down or even avoid the Divine call? There's an inner voice that will always try to undermine our movement toward God or our desire to follow Christ's lead. It would be worth considering how that inner voice presents itself.

The term "Christ" is a title and not a part of Jesus' name. It means Anointed One. Jesus was anointed by God to represent humanity as God intended; human and Divine, body and Soul, matter and Spirit, in union with our Creator. For centuries, Christian mystics have been pointing out that the very essence of our Creator is our truest identity. This is not to say that any one of us is God, but we're not other than God either. If we have received Christ, we are a new person in Christ and are intended to see the world through holy eyes.

But this text goes on to suggest that seeing like Christ is only the beginning. We must also live like him; from his perspective. It's one thing to BELIEVE that Jesus died to set us free from all that oppresses us. It's another thing to LIVE like one who is free from the oppression of fear. In John 14:1 Jesus says, "*Believe in God. Believe also in me.*" But if our belief doesn't influence every aspect of our lives it's worth nothing. In that same chapter of John, Jesus says, "*The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these*". To live our lives in Christ is to be Christ in today's world. It's a bold statement, but worthy of consideration that states "it's more important to BE Jesus than to believe in Jesus.

As you therefore have received (believed in) Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in (be) him.

Pastor Rick