



The Evangel

Newsletter of Messiah Lutheran Church

November-December 2022

our 212th year

We are nearing the end of another election campaign season, and we will soon cast our votes. Unlike in days not so long ago, most of us are not feeling particularly lighthearted as we prepare to enter the voting booth. But whatever happens on Election Day, God will remain in control. It is so important that we maintain a proper perspective as Christians. Psalm 146 helps us to do so as it gives us five things to remember on election day.



Thoughts for Election Day

First, only God deserves praise. “Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long” (Psalm 146:1-2).

In our society today, we often praise people for taking political stands we agree with or making speeches that move us. But do such people really deserve our *praise*? Certainly, we should support our candidates and work with them to advance the causes that are important to us. But praise in the form of lavish admiration is to be reserved for God alone.

Psalm 146 is a celebration of the eternal sovereignty of God — a leadership position that has no term limits. To praise God is to give credit where credit is due to the Lord who is our creator, redeemer, and sanctifier. When we offer praise we are saying that God is God, and we—nor any other human being—are not.

Second, put your trust in something eternal. “Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish” (Psalm 146:3-4). We take a chance when we rely on political leaders to help us because they are as flawed, weak, biased, transitory, and limited as any one of us.

Everyone has weaknesses and limitations, from far left to radical right, across the political spectrum. The psalm warns us against putting our trust in mortals, because every one of us is made of dust and to dust we shall return. Our complete faith should be directed toward the one eternal God, maker of heaven and earth.

Third, don’t expect a candidate to make you happy. With all the energy that goes into an election campaign, we can certainly forgive voters for wanting their favorite candidate to bring them joy and satisfaction. But such an expectation is truly unrealistic and is often a recipe for disappointment. Whether the victor is a Republican or a Democrat, they are going to let down large numbers of their supporters (there is no need to list some of the most recent ones here).

But there is another path to take: Unreserved confidence in God. “Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever” (Psalm 146:5-6). Better for us to look for happiness in a relationship with the Lord God, who is eternally faithful. God is the source of every good and perfect gift and is a Lord who always keeps promises. With God, we have a leader who can be trusted to provide for us, and who never, ever flip-flops.

Fourth, vote the Lord’s values. God is the one “who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are

bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin” (Psalm 146:7-9).

Justice for the oppressed is fair treatment for those who have been mistreated, shoved aside, or ignored. *Food to the hungry* is access to nourishment, both in developing countries and in our own. *Freedom for prisoners* is both spiritual liberation while incarcerated and work opportunities once released. *Opening the eyes of the blind* is not only physical healing, but new visions of a better future for us all.

These are God’s values. While good Christians will certainly debate the ways that our society can address these concerns, there should be no disagreement about their priority to God. When you enter the voting booth, vote for the candidate who is best aligned with God’s priorities.










Fifth, take the long view. If you are joyful on election night, don’t get overly elated. And if you are disappointed when the election is over, don’t get too depressed. Before you know it, we will be into another Presidential election campaign and the political pendulum will begin to swing in the other direction.

As Christians, the most important leader in our lives is Almighty God, “The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 146:10). When we give praise to God, we are joining a community of faithful people who are linked together across the generations. The church has seen countless political victories and defeats, as well as numerous times of national celebration and heartache. Election days may be divisive and difficult, but they do not prevent us from looking up to God together and taking the long view of human history.

If your candidate wins, praise the Lord! If your candidate loses, praise the Lord! If you are excited about the future, praise the Lord! If you are worried about what will happen next, praise the Lord! There is nothing that can happen on Election Day that should shift your focus away from giving praise to the God who has created us, redeemed us, and sustained us throughout our lives.

In Christ’s service,




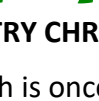




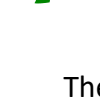

Pastor Eric









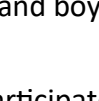
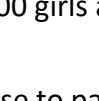
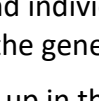
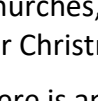

JOIN HANDS MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

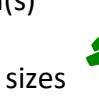
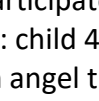
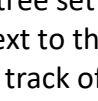
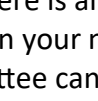
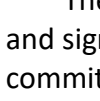
The social ministry committee of Messiah is once again supporting the Join Hands Ministry Christmas Program. Every year, parents living in Perry County with financial needs apply for this program. The applicants are vetted and their children are anonymously matched with sponsors from churches, businesses, and individuals. Last year over 800 girls and boys were given a brighter Christmas thanks to the generosity of sponsors.


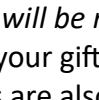
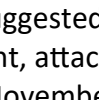
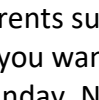
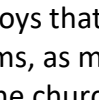
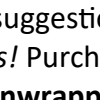
There is an angel tree set up in the Narthex. If you choose to participate, pick an angel(s) and sign your name next to the angel’s number and letter (example: child 4B) so that our committee can keep a track of the angels being sponsored. On each angel there are either sizes of clothing or suggestions of toys that the parents suggested. *Note: this year there will be no shoe purchases!* Purchase items, as many as you want, attach your paper angel to your gifts and deliver them **unwrapped** to the church by Sunday, November 26th. Gift wrap/bags are also greatly appreciated as we like to include them to the parents for wrapping their gifts. The committee will take it from there by sorting and delivering everything to Join Hands Ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Lis at 717-582-7977.


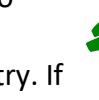
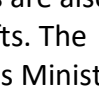
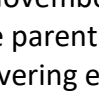
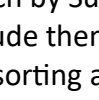































Water Well Update



Significant progress has been made in the last few months on the well water project.

Background: The new well that was required by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and drilled a couple of years ago has not been able to be utilized to date. The primary reason is that an acceptable water treatment system needed to be designed and installed to their satisfaction. The DEP granted a permit to use the well subject to confirmation that a suitable way to discard the treatment system waste was determined. After researching our options and consulting with experts, it was determined that the existing septic system was working fine as long as the water system discharge could go into an alternative discharge mound. This was a big savings to the church since it alleviated the need for a new septic at this time.

Laverne Black from Blacks Water was hired by the church in 2019 as a “water operator” to navigate the DEP process and assist with the design and installation of the water treatment system. Blacks Water has been very generous with the church while helping with this process.

Jay and Dottie Smith donated a piece of property adjoining the back of the cemetery. This property will be the site of a new water discharge mound and a future site for a new septic when needed. Thank you to the Smiths for this donation.

Local engineers at Burget and Associates recently completed a site survey for the Smith subdivision, obtained the Township and County approvals and completed the design for the water discharge mound as well as perk tests for a future and mound septic system (when needed).

Next Steps: Several bids have been received for the construction of the discharge mound and construction is expected to begin in early November. A new pressure tank will be installed and once the discharge mound is completed, Blacks Water will be able to begin the water treatment system installation. When the water treatment system is functional, the church and daycare will once again be able to use the well water for everyday use. A new in-line water cooler has been purchased and will be installed outside the church office to replace the bottled water cooler.

The goal is to have the discharge mound, new pressure tank, and water treatment system functional in the next month or two, which will allow the Church and Daycare to use the new well water by the end of the year.

Denny Meisel

The council has approved the collection of a Special Offering in memory of Jacob Nicholl on **Sunday, November 6**. This offering will be given to Four Diamonds at Penn State Health Children’s Hospital in his memory. In addition to cancer research, Four Diamonds pays for medical bills not covered by insurance and funeral expenses when needed. You can find out more about them at www.fourdiamonds.org

There will also be a Special Offering for Property on **Sunday, November 27**.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Harry Trout
9	Helen Stitzel
10	Blair Kolak
16	Amy Leshner
17	David Koons
24	Jim Stambaugh
24	Landon McKee
27	David Nace
29	Nora Weber

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Brian Kolak Zain Martin
5	Rosalie Woomer
9	Dottie Smith
11	Lexie Wolford
12	Keith Kahley
14	Jaxson Bower
23	Vic Lis
31	Bev Beam

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

7	Michael & Jeannie Takach (1981)
29	John & Laura Lyons (2013)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

10	Logan & Alexis Eppley (2016)
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*Please inform the church office of
any corrections or omissions to the
Birthday & Anniversary Lists.
Thank you!*

Worship Assistants

	Nov 6	Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 23 7pm	Nov 27
Reader	Helen Stitzel	Linda V	Karen Lis	Lisa Kennedy	Barbs Woods
Offering Counter	Carolyn R.	Jane Stam.	Patty Turner	Amy Leshner	Lexie Eppley
Ushers	Helen & Kim Stitzel	Jane & Woody Simonton	Hunter Stam. & Patty Turner	Carolyn R. & Peg K.	Jim & Jane Stambaugh
Projector	Vic Lis	Zain Martin	Deb Rock		Barb Woods
Communion Assistants	Cindy Bower Patty Turner Carolyn R. Don Lyons		Helen Stitzel Kim Stitzel Barb Woods Carolyn R.	Lisa Kennedy Becky Reisinger Patty Turner Carolyn R.	Amy Leshner Rhona Chap. Denny Meisel Don Lyons
Communion Setup	Pat Kolak		Patty Turner	Patty Turner	Amy Leshner

	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 24 4pm	Dec 24 7pm
Reader	Eric Berger	Deb Rock	Patty Turner	Eric Berger	Denny Meisel
Offering Counter	Eric Berger	Barb Woods	Pat Kolak		Vic Lis (count both)
Ushers	Jane & Hunter Stam.	Denny & Bonnie Meisel	Deb Rock & Amy Leshner	Jane & Woody Simonton	Carolyn R. & Cindy Bower
Projector	Bonnie Meisel	Barb Woods	Vic Lis	No Projection	No Projection
Communion Assistants	Cindy Bower Patty Turner Carolyn R. Barb Woods	Helen Stitzel Kim Stitzel Deb Rock Zain Martin	Lisa Kennedy Amy Leshner Becky Reisinger Rhona Chap.	Barb Woods NEED NEED NEED	Cindy Bower Patty Turner Denny Meisel Carolyn R.
Communion Setup	Amy Leshner	Cindy Bower	Cindy Bower		

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

Council President



Autumn is upon us in all its glory. We have so much for which to be thankful. Our church, our pastor, our members. We look at the colorful leaves, we feel the crisp breeze, we enjoy the bounty of the harvest.

As we enjoy this season, look around you and thank the first person you see. The farmers, teachers, bank tellers, grocers. Thank those who do the work of the church and consider offering your time and talent in any way you can. There are so many who do so much, thank them. We welcome each of you and are truly thankful for you.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Harvest Blessings to each of you!

Barb Woods, Council President

Youth

We will continue to have Bible study for ages 3 to 10 on the first and third Mondays of each month.

The youth group is collecting donations for the food bank through November 6th. Any non perishable foods are accepted. We encourage anyone with kids to get them involved in the shopping process.

On December 3rd at 4:00 the youth group will be having a winter party in the basement of the church. Pizza, snacks, and an ice cream sundae station will be provided. The kids will be making Christmas cards for our church shut ins followed by board games and activities.

Lexy Eppley, Youth Chair

Worship & Music

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

November 6 All Saints Sunday Communion and remembrance of those who have died this year.

November 13 Membership Anniversary Recognition

November 20 Christ the King Sunday Communion

November 23 Thanksgiving Eve, 7 p.m. Communion

Lighting of advent Wreath Candles all four Sundays in Advent.

November 27 First Sunday in Advent Communion

December 3 (Saturday) Decorating the Sanctuary, 10 a.m.

December 4 Second Sunday in Advent Communion

December 11 Third Sunday in Advent Communion

December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent Children's Christmas Program and Communion

December 24 Christmas Eve Children's Service at 4 p.m. and Candlelight at 7 p.m. Communion at both

December 25 Christmas Day Joint service with St. Paul at St. Paul in Newport.

Decorate the Church



Remember or honor a loved one with a donation to Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Bank or Join Hands instead of placing a poinsettia in the church. Any questions, contact Carolyn Reeder.

Volunteers are needed to decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, December 3rd, 10 a.m. Sign-up sheet is on the table in the vestibule

Carolyn Reeder, Worship and Music Chair

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

Social Ministry

September 11th we celebrated our new members: Keith and Brenda Kahley; Brendon, Jasmine and Solomon Hobart; Bud and Judy Schalles; and Ryan, Jessica, Avery, Ella and Ryan Hinkle. We are so blessed to have all them join our Messiah family. We then enjoyed good food and fellowship at the church picnic.

Sunday, October 23rd we had refreshments and cake to recognize Zain Martin, Jaxson Bower, Campbell Kolak, and Blair Kolak on the completion of confirmation. May God Bless them and guide them as they continue their journey of learning and growing in faith.

Monday November 14th we are hoping to organize a group of anyone interested in taking a road trip to the Shoe Box Supply House in Shippensburg in lieu of filling our own boxes. The shipping fee this year is \$10 per box. At The Shoe Box Supply House for \$16 you can walk through their designated isle and choose items to fill your box. The \$16 includes the items and shipping. After filling our boxes we will be stopping at Diffy's Family Restaurant for lunch. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We will car pool from the church at 9 a.m.

We will be having a winter dinner in January; date to be announced.

Amy Leshner, Social Ministry Chair

Evangelism

The Evangelism Committee will be hosting a "Drive In" Movie on February 3rd. This is a family event and will begin at 6:00. Supper will be provided as well as popcorn during the movie. The youth are encouraged to make a "car" out of a cardboard box. The movie is *Groundhog Day*. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more details closer to the event.

Patty Turner, Evangelism Chair

Christian Education

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

If you haven't checked out the Sunday School room, please take a look! Thanks to the Stambaugh's – Kayla, Hunter and Jane – the walls have been painted and decorated, there are new curtains, a new rug, a treasure chest, mailboxes for each child, a small table with chairs, and the storage closets have been arranged for easy finding of materials.

In September, we began the new Sunday School year, with new incentives for the children. There is a chart to mark Sunday attendance, Bible verse learning, and attending the children's Bible Study. Each month the children will be given a new Bible verse to memorize. After 10 stickers have been placed on the chart, they get to choose a prize from the treasure chest. The children's birthdays are also on the wall and during their birthday month, they are able to choose a gift from the treasure chest.

Our Trunk or Treat was held on Saturday, October 22, with 11 trunks decorated. Other activities held that day were pumpkin decorating, rice cake decorating, and refreshments. A big thanks to all that helped to make this a success.

We have begun planning for the children's Christmas Program to be held on Sunday, December 18th. Children will be given parts and be learning some songs. We will practice a little during Sunday School time. Speaking parts will have some extra practices and the final whole group practice will be Saturday, December 17th.

Jane Simonton, Christian Education Chair

Symbols of Christmas



**Children's
Christmas
Program**

**Sunday,
December 18**

9:00 A.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

Stewardship

Meeting Minutes from October 2, 2022 6pm

Members Present: Bonnie Meisel, Deb Rock, Ben Dum, Pastor Petty, Jane Stambaugh

Pastor Eric opened with a word of prayer.

Bonnie Meisel gave a detailed breakdown of the proposed budget.

Discussion highlights of 2023 Budget:

- Transfer of funds took place as noted in budget. Perhaps another transfer to be proposed to Council.
- Board Budgets: All stayed the same except the following:
 - Property: The majority of the well, water, and septic upgrades are planned to be completed by the end of 2022 so Property budget decreased in that area. Increase in electricity, fuel oil, and insurance. Water system will need ongoing maintenance. ***Bonnie will contact Becky Reisinger, insurance agent, for latest increase. Bonnie will email the Stewardship members when she gets more information from Becky.
 - Stewardship is proposing to remove the following Benevolence organizations: Perry Human Services, Bethesda Mission, PA Sunday School Association. The monies from Perry Human Services - \$100 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors Perry County Food Bank & \$75 to Join Hands. \$25 from Bethesda and \$25 from PA SS Assoc was added to the newly created Perry County Conference of LLS. \$300 increase to Cemetery Association from a request from Cemetery Association. Lay Ministry was increased to cover additional costs for postage, office supplies, and payroll services.
 - Youth Ministry was increased by \$350 per request, noting camps for kids.
- Bonnie Meisel will be submitting the Pastor's medical benefits on Portico October 3-14th. Pastor Petty and Bonnie shared information about some features of the pastor's benefits and compensation choices.
- VANCO is being used by about 15 members. This service does pay for itself in more dependable offerings.



**STEWARDSHIP
UPDATE**

Jane Stambaugh, Stewardship Chair

Congratulations
to our four
Confirmands:
Campbell Kolak
Jaxson Bower
Blair Kolak
Zain Martin



Property

It has been a busy year for the Property Committee. All of the 2022 projects are done, except for the painting of the Pavilion roof. (The painter has had trouble getting the paint).

Our 2023 projects include purchasing a back up microphone and adding a permanent wall in the Sunday School room.

The water station unit is here and awaiting the well system completion to be installed.

Lyle Biting, Property Chair

Among those who will be remembered on All Saints Sunday, we will recall in a special way those who have died this past year:

Pat Swab, Beth Kingsborough, and Scott Mullen

May the promise of the Resurrection bring to all who grieve hope and comfort.



Do we have your correct **CONTACT** information



Hopefully we will not need to use it, but it is time to make sure our church-wide Call List is current. Please check your information in the 2021 Directory and/or June 2022 Update. Inform the church office of any corrections. Thank you.

Deadline for the next issue of *The Evangel* is **Sunday, December 18, 2022.**

Have all items into the church office by that date for inclusion in the next issue.

Joint Christmas Worship

Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year. We will have a joint service with St. Paul at 10:00 AM. This year we will meet at St. Paul in Newport and enjoy their beautiful sanctuary with the altar painting of the Nativity.

*Come, let us adore the newborn Lord!
10:00 AM at St. Paul in Newport.*



Christmas Day Worship



Volunteers Needed to Help Working Families with Tax Preparation

Volunteers are needed to offer free tax preparation to help working families receive the federal and state tax credits they are eligible for.

The service is offered through the Money in Your Pocket (MIYP) program, a community partnership led by United Way of the Capital Region that is committed to the economic stability of local families.

No previous experience is required and training is provided. Volunteers are also needed to serve as greeters (no tax preparing required for this position). Scheduling is flexible with daytime, evening, and Saturday opportunities available at sites throughout Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry counties.

For those interested in learning more, several informational sessions will be held throughout the Capital Region during November. For more information, contact Heidi Neuhaus at 717-724-4055 or by email at hneuhaus@uwcr.org



Sunday, November 6

- ♦ Time Change
- ♦ Special Offering in memory of Jacob Nicholl

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 PM



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Sunday, November 27

- ♦ Special Offering for Property

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 AM

- ♦ Decorate the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 17

- ♦ Christmas Program Rehearsal for Everyone

Sunday, December 18

- ♦ Newsletter Deadline
- ♦ Children's Christmas Program

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

- ♦ 4 PM Children's Service
- ♦ 7 PM Candlelight Service

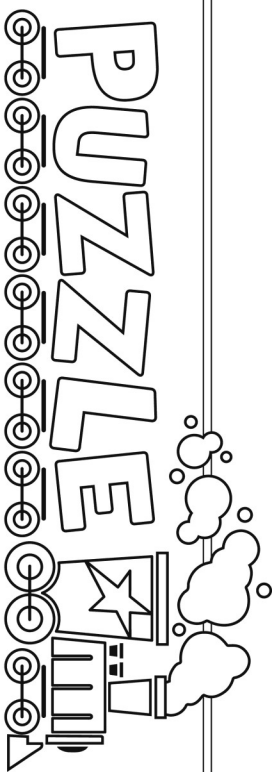
Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

- ♦ 10AM Joint service at St. Paul's



"Why call it Daylight Savings Time when the service feels so much longer?"



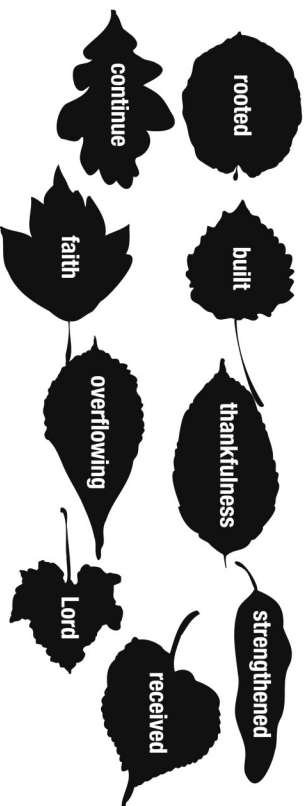


Puzzles

Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.

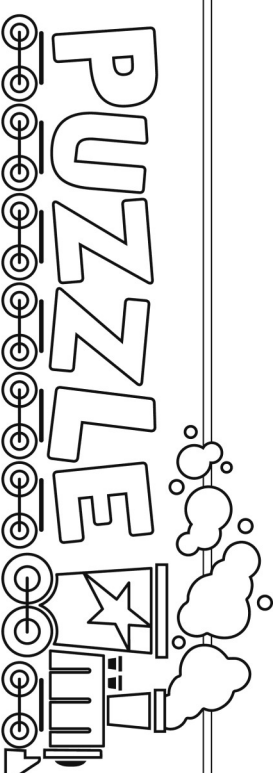


So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____,
_____ to live your lives in him, _____ and _____
_____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you
_____ were taught, and _____ with _____.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness

KIDS FUN PAGE



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior