LUKE 1:5-25, ANNOUNCING JOHN THE BAPTIST (PM)

Gabriel promises Zechariah that Elizabeth will give birth to the forerunner of Yahweh.

1. The historical context (5-7).

2. The heavenly messenger (8-13).

3. The herald of Yahweh (14-17).

   a. He will be _____ to God.

   b. He will spark widespread _____ in Israel.

   c. He will prepare Israel for _____ arrival.

4. Help believing (18-25).

ON THE HORIZON (CONTINUED)

LADIES' BONFIRE

This year's Ladies' Bonfire will be held at the church on Friday, October 9th, starting at 7 PM. This change will allow us to use it as an outreach to the moms of youth who attend youth group. The rain date is set for Friday, October 16th.

Please bring your own lawn chair (we can bring a few chairs from the church if needed) and any snack you would like to contribute. The Women's Ministry will provide all things s'mores-related. We will also provide bottled water. A sign-up sheet is in the lobby so you can indicate your attendance and what you plan to bring.

PASTOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT

THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

In Christ we find all we need to attain true wisdom and knowledge. In Him "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). Knowledge is a true understanding of God, ourselves, and the world. Wisdom is the God-given ability to live a holy life. Christ is the key to both. Peter writes, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence" (2 Peter 1:3).

A treasure hunter must find the hiding spot to gain the treasure. If he cannot find the spot, he will not enjoy the riches. But if he finds it, they are his. The world entices us to seek wisdom and knowledge in the opinions, traditions, and philosophies of man. The flesh draws us to seek them within ourselves—our thoughts, feelings, desires, and inclinations. And the devil deceives us to seek them anywhere but God and His Word, most especially in manmade counterfeits of God, i.e., idols.

Many seekers never find the hiding spot of wisdom and knowledge. But for all who find Christ, all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are theirs. They grasp the truth about God, mankind, and the world, and God enables them to live a holy life, striving to honor and please God in all things. They gladly and gratefully enjoy their newfound riches to the glory of God.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ministries - October 4th

Nursery Workers
I AM (Crib) - Cheryl Brown and Bill Fornoff
II AM (Toddlers) – Phoebe Evans and Verla Evans
PM– Combined I/II – Linda Mack and Marie Reid
Prayer Intercessor – Susan Dougherty
Greeters - Wayne and Sharon Hudson
Ushers - Gil Brown, Josiah Brown, Mark Evans*, Wesley Evans*, Mark Huna, and John Steplowski
Today's Ushers - Bob Burman, Frank Cicone*, Jim Feldbush, Gary McAllister, Tom Neunaber*, and Steve Sugarman
* *ushers who greet in the lobby*

NORTH HARFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

To live for Jesus and not ourselves.

September 27, 2026



This week's Bible readings are:

Matthew 25-28	Job 39 (God)
Daniel 1-4	Job 40 (God & Job)
Daniel 5-8	Job 41 (God)
Daniel 9-12	Job 42
Catch-up day	

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship Service*
	After Church	Christmas Choir Practice (Fellowship Hall)
	5:30 PM	Deacons' Meeting
	6:30 PM	Evening Worship Service*
Tuesday	9:15 AM	Precept Ladies' Bible Study
	5:00 PM	GriefShare (Youth Café)
Wednesday	6:15 PM	Fellowship Supper
Friday	4:45 PM	Youth Arrive to Leave for the Youth Retreat Promptly at 5 PM

** Nursery Provided (birth-3 years old), Downstairs in Rooms 8 and 9*

Scan the QR Code to visit our Sermon Audio page to view our pastor's articles and sermons.

NEXT PRAYER MEETING: October 4th , 6:30 - 7:15 PM, in the sanctuary

Scan the QR code or email info@NorthHarford.org to sign up for weekly emails and inclement weather announcements.

MORNING WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements
Reminder of Grace: John 1:12-14, Grace and Truth
Prayer: Adoration and Confession
How Great Thou Art
Proverb of the Week: Proverbs 1:20-33, The Cry of Wisdom
Prayer: Thanksgiving and Supplication
Rock of Ages
Rejoice the Lord Is King
Offering (1 Timothy 6:6-10)
SERMON: Incorruptible Love
Ephesians 6:21-23 (Pew Bible Page 1575)
The Power of the Cross
Invitation to Christ and Benediction

EVENING WORSHIP

Welcome and Announcements
The Law of God: Exodus 20:1-3. The First Commandment
Prayer: Adoration and Confession
Holy, Holy, Holy
Psalm of the Week: Psalm 4, Calling Upon God
Prayer: Thanksgiving and Supplication
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
SERMON: Announcing John the Baptist
Luke 1:5-25 (Pew Bible Page 1333)
Prayer: Consecration
Take My Life and Let It Be

If you would prefer to give online, please scan the QR code for a secure online giving option.

PLANS FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Our church is in a time of transition. But God is faithful and more than competent to sustain us and work out His will among us. He is faithful, and He knows exactly what we need. The first and by far the most important thing **in** this process is to seek God's will through **humble prayer and private fasting**. Then, I hope to begin the process of forming a search committee near the end of September for an Associate Pastor who will focus on youth and young adults, also called student ministries.

FIRST, I plead with you to come to our prayer meeting tonight at 6:30 in the sanctuary. **SECOND**, please consider a time of fasting during which you can seek God in private prayer, while also experiencing and demonstrating a deep dependence on God to sustain you. There are different ways to fast, and you can choose the time and length of your fast. Just remember that fasting is **meant to be private (Matthew 6:16–18). Making a show of it is abhorrent to God.** People should not know that you are fasting, and you don't need to ask anyone else about their fasting! *(continues on the next page)*

PLANS FOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR (CONTINUED)

SOME IDEAS:

1. **Fast from food**, drinking only water or black tea or coffee. For example, skip dinner and breakfast for a 24-hour fast. Or skip a whole waking day for essentially a 48-hour fast. Go longer if the Lord leads you.
2. For health reasons, some cannot do #1. But you can eat only what is necessary, fasting from any extra indulgences, e.g., desserts, unnecessary snacking, or "treat" beverages.
3. **Fast from all screens and/or entertainment and games** to give that time to prayer and the Word. For this to be felt like a food fast, it would need to be longer **because food is a necessity, but screens and entertainment are not**—a week, two weeks, a month?

WHAT TO KNOW THIS WEEK

YOUTH RETREAT

We need cookies for the Youth Retreat (Oct 2-4). Please bring them to the church by noon on Friday (Oct 2) and leave them on the kitchen counter. Please pray for the 34 youth and 10 youth workers going on the retreat. They will be studying portions of the Book of Hebrews. The youth will leave on Friday promptly at 5 PM. Please arrive at or before 4:45 PM to allow time to load everything onto the bus. They will return to the church on Sunday at 2 PM.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice is in the fellowship hall downstairs immediately after church.

DEACONS' MEETING

The deacons will meet tonight at 5:30 PM.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

We are having a Fellowship Supper on Wednesday at 6:15 PM in the fellowship hall. If you are able, please bring a main dish and a side dish or dessert to share with your church family.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's choir will begin next Sunday, October 4th, immediately after the morning church service for 10 minutes. We will continue to meet every Sunday for 10 minutes until December 20th. The children's choir will be a part of the Christmas Concert on December 23rd. Please meet in the fellowship hall downstairs by the piano. The adult choir will still meet but will start 10 minutes later, directly following the children's choir. If you have any questions, please see Ruth Good.

ON THE HORIZON

GUEST PASTORS

On October 11th, Pastor Matt will be guest preaching for a close friend in New Jersey. Jason Manry will teach his Sunday School class and preach in the morning service. In the Evening Service, Pastor Matt will be here and Mike Christ will preach.

FALL WORKDAY - SAVE THE DATE

We are having a church workday on Saturday, October 31st, at 8 AM. All members of all ages are encouraged to come help! We'll be cleaning, painting, repairing, and whatever else is needed in the Ralph Minton Building. Lunch will be provided for the workers. Please sign up in the lobby if you can attend. *(continued on back)*

EPHESIANS 6:21-23, INCORRUPTIBLE LOVE (AM)

The blessings of God rest upon those who love Christ, and those who love Christ rejoice in the blessings of God.

1. The blessings of God for us and upon us

   a. _____

   b. _____

   c. _____

   d. _____

2. Love for Christ from us and within us

   a. _____