

“Be courageously persistent in prayer...” Colossians 4:2



Welcome to the Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

December 20, 2015
Merry Christmas



Happy Birthday —

Evelyn Atkinson December 21
Olivia Yrineo December 25
Mini De Luna December 26

Events This Week —

NO WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT SERVICES

Events This Month —

Three-fold COMMUNION Dec. 27, Sun., 12:15pm
NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES: DEC. 30
DRIVEN – Ice Skating @ LA Live Dec. 30, Wed., 6:00pm

For The Record —

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 51, Worship Service: 100

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY & YEAR 2016: If you have any events to be added to the church calendar for January or events for 2016 to add to the wall calendar, please see Lisa Patton or leave a note on her desk in the church office. Thank you.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...
TIME TO BEGIN OUR 2016 CHURCH DIRECTORY—needing your information!

Please fill out one form for each family IF you want to be included in the directory. Please print clearly, tear off and place in offering bag or the church office (due by December 31st). Thank you so much. ☺ Lisa P.

Name _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

Birthdays:

Anniversary: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone numbers:

Home: _____

Cell numbers: _____

Email addresses:

Services Today at Grace —

Sunday School: **9:30am**

Class: 3 - 5 yrs. old (Kinder.) **Class:** 1st - 3rd grade (KIDMO)
Teacher: Caroll Ann Perkins **Teacher:** Lisa Patton

Class: 4th - 6th grade (5A) **Class:** DRIVEN (Jr. & Sr. High)
Teacher: Robin Predmore **Teacher:** Timothy Lansing

Class: Adults (6B) **Class:** Adults (Conf. Rm.)
Teacher: Dave Goodwyn **Teacher:** Ron Muir

Class: Young Adults
Teacher: Vet Gonzalez

Praise & Worship Service: **10:45am**

Children’s Church for 3-5 years old & K-3rd grade after opening

Those Serving Today at Grace —

Ushers for the month of December:

Rob Kimsey, Eddie Morales, Kyle Predmore, Sebastian Bosi

Nursery – Today 12/20

9:15am Maggie Olmedo
Josie Lankford

10:30am Alyssa Echevarria
Susan Klements

Nursery – Next Week 12/27

9:15am Leticia Posada
Clansy Cabrera

10:30am Lisa Patton
Ruth Hurtado

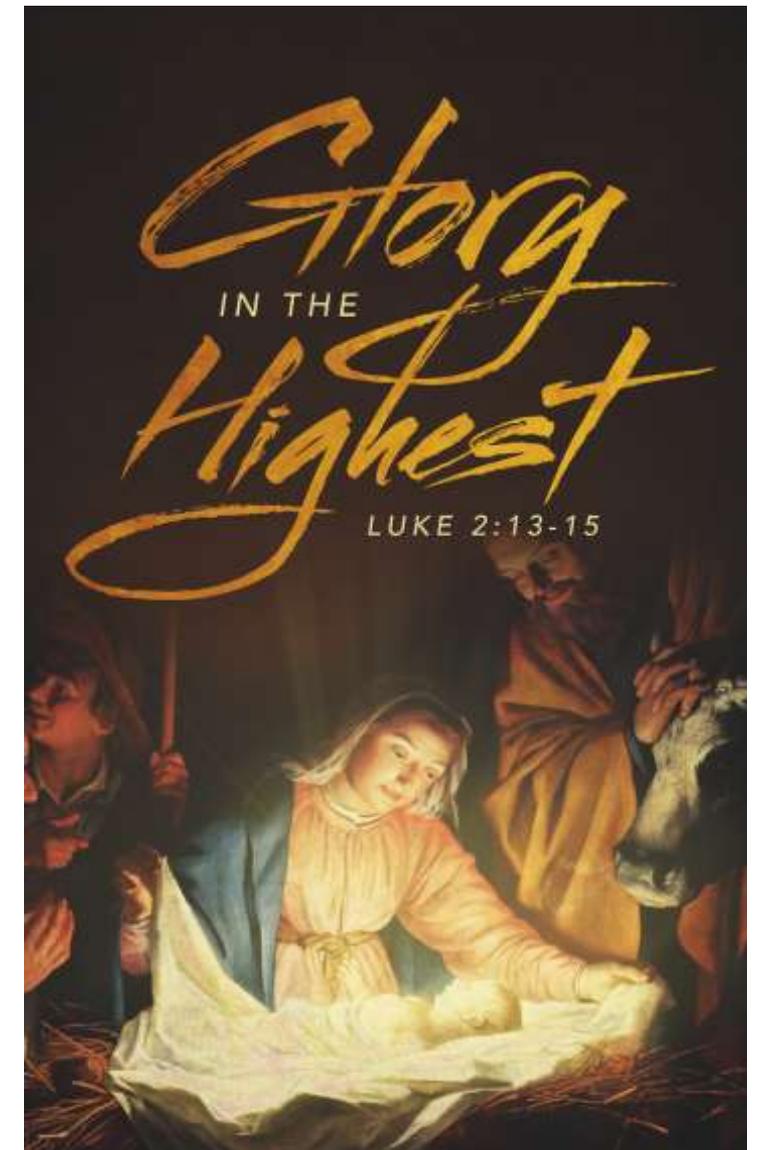


The world has gone “Star Wars Crazy!” It’s been 10 years since the last movie, and 30 since the last good one. This epic space opera will never be overtly Christian, in fact it promotes dualism: the belief that the universe is under the dominion of two opposing forces (not living beings but inanimate power sources), one good and one evil. But in the spirit of 2 Corinthians 10:2-6, we can take every thought captive to obedience to Christ.” We can take captive 5 biblical principles from Star Wars to use as teaching opportunities. First, we are all part of something bigger than ourselves. Luke, Leia, Obi-wan, and the others are all individual pieces fighting for the greater good of galactic freedom, just as each believer in a local church is a single member of the entire spiritual body, contributing something to the greater good. The Christian life is not about one’s self, but about God’s Kingdom and God’s people. Secondly, Obi-wan called the lightsaber “an elegant weapon,” and every Christian needs an elegant weapon. A lightsaber is an offensive weapon, a defensive protection, and brings light to dark places, and with it the Jedi is a formidable foe; without it he is in trouble. Like a lightsaber, the Bible is called a “weapon” in Ephesians 6: “the sword of the Spirit.” To battle the enemy, we must keep it close and learn how to use it for offense and defense. Thirdly, even the best of us can fall, just like the menacing Darth Vader, who once was good and fell into darkness. This violent soldier of darkness used to be the bright and faithful Anakin Skywalker, but pride and anger led him to the dark side. Even the best follower of Jesus can be tempted and succumb to the dark temptations of sin, and so we must constantly be on guard. Fourthly, extraordinary things can come from unlikely places. The most unremarkable planet in the Star Wars universe is the desert world of Tatooine. Tatooine is in the galaxy’s outer rim, harsh, desolate, and the home of gangsters, and ignored by the Empire and the →→→



- P. 2

Rebellion. But many remarkable people sprang from Tatooine: Anakin was born there, Luke grew up there, and Han Solo was discovered there. Like Tatooine, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, an obscure, back-country little town that barely appears on any map, and yet our Savior was born there. Outcast, tossed-aside shepherds were the first to hear the angelic news of His birth. Even Mary and Joseph were unlikely parents: poor, blue-collar, teenage pregnancy, on the run, living in a crime-riddled town Nazareth. Yet God has an extraordinary way of transforming the ordinary into the truly exceptional. The last lesson is perhaps the most important: it’s never too late for redemption. At the very end of *Return of the Jedi* something extraordinary and unexpected happens: just when it seems that all hope is lost, the evil Darth Vader sacrifices himself to save his son and defeat the emperor. Vader had believed the lie that he had fallen too far away to ever find redemption. He had done so many terrible things, betrayed so many good people, how could he ever be forgiven? But Luke never lost faith that Vader could be redeemed, and was willing even to pay the ultimate price to see that redemption come. It doesn’t matter how far we stray or how mangled we have become, Jesus gave His life so that we could be forgiven, redeemed, and purchased back into the Light (John 3:16). Jesus is the Bright Morning Star, and He has already won the war to redeem us. Check out the excellent resource: ***“The Real Force: A 40 Day Devotional”*** by Paul Kent.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk
11005 Foster Rd.
Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 863-7322
www.GraceLive.com
info@gracelive.com