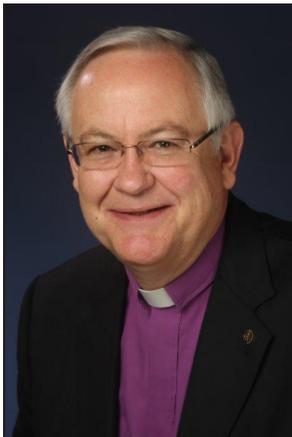


# The Spirit

## Come Lord Jesus by the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop



*The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them..."*  
Exodus 3:7-8 NIV

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.* John 1:14 NIV

I have made it my own personal practice to use the Season of Advent as a time to imagine more fully what it means that God has taken up residency in our world. Preparing for the birth of Christ, for the coming of Christ is for me a deep desire to know Jesus in the flesh.

God coming to us is at the center of what the good news is all about. This action of drawing near reveals the depth of God's love for us. I know having four children how important it is for me to try to be there for them, especially if I think they are hurting. No doubt I have been an overly protective father but it is in my bones. I felt the same way

when my parents were dying. I wanted to be with them even though I was helpless in being able to do anything for them.

It is one thing for God to come, it is quite another that God would come in the flesh. Taking on flesh is - in and of itself - full of grace. I so admire people who know how to get down on the same level as others. Two of my heroes are Craig Rennebohm and Dick Lutz. These two pastors devoted their lives to working with the mentally ill on the streets of Seattle and South King County. I watched them patiently, painfully and with great love learn the language of those whom others only viewed as crazy. They began to find meaning in the images, themes, dramas, and hallucinations of those who make so little sense to most of us. Craig and Dick knew what it means to enter into another's world.

How powerful is the might of one who empties the self and becomes one with us and one of us.

Friends, may this advent season be a time when you experience more fully God's great love for you and God's presence in the world where you are living your life. In turn, may you be drawn into the care of others in ways in which you more fully enter their world.

Come Lord Jesus!

**ALL are invited to the Synod Advent Open House Gatherings**

December 2, 1pm-5pm at Fir-Conway Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon

December 3, 1pm-5pm at the Synod Office, St. John United, Seattle

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## Advent Opportunities Around the Synod

### A PLU Christmas Hallelujah!

Pacific Lutheran University's inspirational Christmas concerts feature the Choir of the West, University Chorale and members of the University Symphony Orchestra performing hymns, carols and a choral orchestral masterwork, all in the great tradition of Lutheran choral music.

Visit: [www.plu.edu/christmas](http://www.plu.edu/christmas)

Seattle - Benaroya Hall on Wed. Dec 4, 7:30pm

Tacoma - PLU's Lagerquist Concert Hall on

Sat. Dec. 7, 8pm; Sun. Dec. 8, 3pm; Fri. Dec. 13, 8pm

### Advent Quiet Time

**Dec. 7th 1pm - 4pm at Trinity, Lynnwood**

Whenever things got hectic, Jesus would invite his disciples to come away to a quiet place. You are invited to come away, to spend three hours of quiet preparing for the holy-days.

Contact [beejaymar@gmail.com](mailto:beejaymar@gmail.com).

### Las Posadas

**Sun Dec. 8, 4pm at Burlington Lutheran**

El Camino de Emaús invites you to a celebration that commemorates the journey Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. They searched for a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. Las Posadas is celebrated nine days before Christmas in cities and towns across Mexico and some other Latin-American countries.

The Gospel doesn't narrate this pilgrimage in detail, but with this celebration we re-enact the difficulties that Joseph and Mary may have had faced looking for a place to spend the night.

Come and celebrate an evening of singing, candle light and worship as we make our way around Burlington Lutheran Church (inside and out) looking for a place for the baby Jesus to be born.

This simple service is followed by a fiesta with Mexican food and piñatas! Bring the whole family as we celebrate the holy hospitality of Christmas!

¡Entren Santos Peregrinos!

"Come in, Holy Pilgrims!"

### Christmas Extravaganza at Chancel Arts

**Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3pm at Kent Lutheran**

Join the Kent Lutheran Church Festival Choir under the direction of Sean Haley and Bell Ringers directed by Jane Wilson, and special guests Chris McCafferty with members of the Illumni Men's Chorale for an afternoon of music, song, and inspired readings for the holiday season. This year's theme of "That Glorious Song of Olde (and New)" is sure to put people of all ages in the holiday spirit.

For more information: [www.chancelarts.com](http://www.chancelarts.com)

### Bethel4All: Christmas Around the World Sunday Dec. 22, 6pm at Bethel, Shoreline

The United Ministries of Bethel4All invite you to worship and a "potluck of sweets." Join them for this celebration of diversity in Christ! Bethel4All is the combined effort of Bethel Lutheran Church, Bethel Ethiopian Church of Seattle, Church of Good News for all Nations, Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Seattle: Ambassadors, Iglesia Evangelica Lirios de Los Valles, and the Reborn Church.

## Advent Devotionals:

### From Vibrant Faith Ministries:

Each day of this devotional provides a scripture reading, a short devotion and four-key activities to do with your loved ones. Their office team, coaches, board members, several associates and writers for the Faith Formation Learning Exchange and Vibrant Faith @ Home have contributed to this devotional: [www.vibrantfaith.org/brochures/taking-the-advent-story-home.pdf3](http://www.vibrantfaith.org/brochures/taking-the-advent-story-home.pdf3)

### From Church of Steadfast Love:

During the Season of Advent we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ. As Christmas approaches the craziness of our lives traditionally increase as gift buying and parties are added to our daily routines, but not everyone has the comforts that many of us enjoy without giving them a second thought. It is for this reason that we call our devotional, "**Silver and Gold Have We None.**" Those whom we serve have not the material possessions that our society prizes, but they have the wonderful gifts of hope and promise. And we, those who find ourselves on the streets this holiday seasons, in the shelters, and securely housed, would like to share of ourselves with you this season. [www.lutheransnw.org/files/publications/silver\\_and\\_gold\\_have\\_we\\_none\\_13.pdf](http://www.lutheransnw.org/files/publications/silver_and_gold_have_we_none_13.pdf)

**The Spirit**, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is intended for members, leaders, and clergy of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy *The Spirit* to include in their own newsletters. *The Spirit* can be downloaded from the Synod website.

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