

# Life in the Valley

## THINGS TO DO IN DECEMBER

**Lee Clarkson**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

### Holidays at the Capitol

The 38th annual event featuring area choral group performances and holiday lights and decor throughout the building, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday, Dec. 4 to 24; building open for decoration viewing 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE. Free. Go to [www.oregoncapitol.com](http://www.oregoncapitol.com) for a detailed performance schedule.

### Friday, Dec. 13

**"Winter Lights":** Salem Confluence Chorus' annual holiday concert, featuring songs old and new to brighten and warm the long, cold nights of winter, 7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church of Salem, 700 Marion St. NE, Salem. \$12-\$15. [facebook.com/events/424571195142572](https://facebook.com/events/424571195142572).

### Dec. 13-20

**Curiously Wonderful Christmas Stories:** An evening of storytelling and Christmas cheer that celebrates holiday traditions from around the world, 7 p.m. Dec. 13, 14, 19 and 20, 2 p.m. Dec. 14 and 15, Theatre at the M. Lee Pelton Playhouse, Willamette University, 900 State St., Salem. \$12-\$15. [www.theatre33.org](http://www.theatre33.org) or 971-599-1029.



**Holidays at the Capitol comes to the Oregon State Capitol from Dec. 4 to 24.** MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

### Saturday, Dec. 14

**Eugene Ballet's Nutcracker:** Celebrate your holiday season with a marvelous journey to The Nutcracker, 3 and 7:30 p.m., Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE, Salem. \$27-\$47 adult; \$17-\$37 age 17 and younger; \$22-\$42 for groups of 10 or more. 503-375-3574 or [www.elsinoretheatre.com](http://www.elsinoretheatre.com).

**Keizer Holiday Lights Parade:** Bundle up and see a magical night of twinkling lights and holiday music, 7 p.m., River Road N from Lockhaven Drive NE to Glynbrook St. N. [fb.com/431985247550668](https://facebook.com/431985247550668).

**Stayton Holiday Kickoff:** Downtown stores open for sopping from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., a 3:30 p.m. showing of "Arthur 3D Christmas" at the newly refurbished Star Cinema, hot chocolate and cookies from New Hope Community Church at 5:15 p.m., Christmas carols with the Stayton Community Singers, and Christmas tree lighting at the corner of Third Ave. and Ida St. between 5:45 and 6 p.m., Downtown Stayton. Free. [fb.com/2471490453105862](https://facebook.com/2471490453105862).

### Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 14-15

**"Carols for the Season":** Willamette Master Choir presents its annual holiday concert featuring a collection of Christmas carols and orchestra, chorus and soloist performances, 3 p.m. both days, Hudson Hall at Mary Rogers Music Center, Willamette University 900 State St., Salem. \$20-\$30. [willamettemasterchorus.org](http://willamettemasterchorus.org).

**Silver Falls Christmas Festival:** Fun for the whole family at this 42nd annual event including crafts, live music, free refreshments, wreath making, a visit from Santa Claus, holiday lights and winter hikes, 10 a.m., Silver Falls State Park, Silver Falls Hwy. SE, Silverton. Free admission, but parking is \$5 per vehicle. [oregonstateparks.org](http://oregonstateparks.org).

**"The Hope of Christmas":** A contemporary drama/musical with comedic and hard-hitting moments and a story that points out that in a world filled with hopelessness, there is hope in Christ, 3 p.m. Dec. 14, 6 p.m. Dec. 15, Grace Baptist Church Salem, 4197 State St., Salem. Admission is free, seats are limited. 503-585-2667 to reserve tickets. [fb.com/408129656757630](https://facebook.com/408129656757630).

### Sunday, Dec. 15

**"Sing We Now of Christmas":** Festival Chorale Oregon presents its annual holiday event with traditional carols, an audience sing-along and the opportunity for children to gather on stage for the telling of a classic holiday story, 4 p.m., Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE, Salem. \$10. 503-375-3574 or [www.elsinoretheatre.com](http://www.elsinoretheatre.com).

**In the Kitchen with Mrs. Claus:** Cupcake decorating, holiday cookies, hot cocoa, mason jar crafts and a keepsake photo with Mrs. Claus, 11 a.m. or 2 p.m., Salem's Riverfront Carousel, 101 Front St. NE, Salem. \$20 per person by reservation only. 503-540-0374.

### Thursday, Dec. 19

**O Holy Night: A Classical Christmas:** An Emmy-nominated production featuring Marco Panuccio of London Symphony Orchestra, Beijing Symphony and the Lyric Opera of Chicago fame and collaborative pianist Evan C. Paul, 7:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3737 Liberty Road S, Salem. \$15-75. [brownpapertickets.com/event/4408122](https://brownpapertickets.com/event/4408122).

### Tuesday, Dec. 24

**Children's Christmas Eve Service:** All children and their family members are invited to attend a service geared for children, including a puppet show, a special gift for each child and lots of Christmas carols, 3:30 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1770 Baxter Road SE, Salem. Free. [fb.com/2435847800037232](https://facebook.com/2435847800037232).

**Salem Tuba Holiday:** The annual tradition returns with musical merriment performed by players of conical bore instruments: baritone horns, euphoniums, tubas and Sousaphones, noon, Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE, Salem. \$10. 503-375-3574 or [www.elsinoretheatre.com](http://www.elsinoretheatre.com).

### Tuesday, Dec. 31

**Blue Skies Concert:** One of the premier dance bands in the Pacific Northwest, Blue Skies brings its smooth big band sound for a 20s-themed New Year's Eve party, doors open 7 p.m., swing dance lessons 8 to 9 p.m., Blue Skies performs 9 p.m., countdown and champagne toast at midnight, The Grand Hall at The Oregon Garden, 879 West Main St., Silverton. \$75 for single ticket, \$130 for couple ticket, prices increase Dec. 15. [christmasinthegarden.com/concerts](http://christmasinthegarden.com/concerts).

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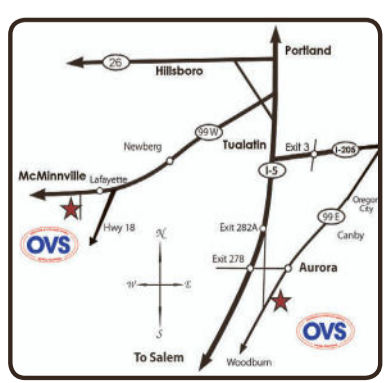
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