

## Traditional Nordic festival celebrated in dark days

The annual Sankta Lucia Festival of Lights is at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, in the auditorium and commons at Astoria High School, 1001 W. Marine Drive.

The festival is sponsored by Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association.

In the Nordic countries, Lucia is traditionally celebrated on Dec. 13, the shortest day of the year in older calendars. Lucia was honored with sainthood for carrying food and drink to the hungry

The Sankta Lucia Court at last year's festival.

Scott Docherty/  
Red Hare



in Sweden during a period of famine.

On the North Coast, the annual tradition is celebrated the day after Thanksgiving as

a family friendly way to dispel the dark and cold of winter and focus on the Christmas Season.

Isabel Talley, Miss Denmark 2019, is this year's Lucia bride and the attendants are other members of the 2019 court.

After the Lucia ceremony, Astoria's new accordion band, The Polka Dots, will play music for dancing around the Christmas Tree. The Lower Columbia Danish Society will serve Scandinavian treats.

The Sanka Lucia Festival is open to the public and it's not necessary to be Scandinavian to enjoy the tradition.

Admission is \$1 per person or \$5 per family.

## Thanksgiving: Free meals and activities

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ing of the event.

- Astoria Armory will be the site of Riverfolk's annual Thanksgiving dinner from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 28.

The dinner is free and all are welcome. The armory is at 1636 Exchange St., Astoria.

- Astoria Rescue Mission will have a community Thanksgiving dinner at 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 28, at the mission, 62 W. Bond St.

All the traditional foods will be cooked by house staff. Donations of food and money are welcome in the days before the dinner.

- A Community Thanksgiving Lunch is from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 28, at



**Left:** Eli Miles portrays the role of the young gentleman in the 2019 production of Little Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker."



**Right:** Kilee Svensen dances the role of grandchild, while her sister, Hailey, has the role of young lady in the 2019 production of Little Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker."

## Nutcracker tickets on sale

Little Ballet Theatre's 45th annual production of "The Nutcracker" will be performed Dec. 7 and 8 on stage at the Astoria High School Auditorium, 1001 W. Marine Drive.

The full-length production includes a 55-piece symphony orchestra directed by Cory Pedersen, guest artists from Ballet Idaho, beautiful sets and costumes.

Performances are at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7,

and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

Tickets are \$21 for adults and \$16 for seniors and those younger than 12.

A \$5 discount is available to active military members with ID and their families for the Saturday matinee (available only at the box office an hour before the performance).

Tickets are available at [libertyastoria.showare.com](http://libertyastoria.showare.com).

For more information, call 503-861-1971.



Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. The meal is sponsored by Helping Hands and Sunset Empire Park and Recreation.

- Two churches will have Thanksgiving meals on Sunday, Nov. 24.

Christian Church of Warrenton's Thanksgiving pot-

luck is open to the public from 2 to 4 p.m. at the church, 1376 S.E. Anchor Ave.

Participants are urged to bring a dessert or side dish, but a food contribution is not required.

Calvary Assembly of God will have a community Thanksgiving dinner at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, at the church, 1365 S. Main Ave. The dinner is free and all are welcome.

Calvary Assembly also will host a holiday bazaar from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The public is welcome to browse for gift items during the day and return for the meal that evening.

For more information, call Pam at 503-791-4961.

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