Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIII | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, 19 December, 2024 | No. 42

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Combined Sunday Service with Children's Christmas Program will be in the Amana Church Sunday, December 22, 2024 starting 10:00 A.M. with Sw. Elly Hoehnle presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Testimony: Johann Adam Gruber, Bergzabern, October 31, 1717 (excerpts)

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45, Isaiah 11:1-2,
Luke 1:46-56

Hymn: "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Closing Hymn: "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Song sheets will be provided

The Christmas Eve Service will be in Middle Church, Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 8:00 p.m. with Br. Peter Hoehnle presiding.

Song Sheets will be provided.

The Combined Christmas Day Service will be in the Middle Church Wednesday, December 25, 2024 starting 10:00 A.M. with Br. Tony Berger presiding.

Testimony: J.F.Rock, January 12, 1742

Scripture: Luke, Chapter 2 (Elder will read)

HYMNS: O Holy Night,
Angels we have heard on High

Song Sheets will be provided

The Choir will also sing

Visitors are welcome to join us in worship at all Amana Church Services. Childcare is available during Sunday's 10:00 A.M. Service.

Links to services posted online may be found by beginning at the gateway page:

https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/

AMANA CHURCH HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, Dec. 22 10 a.m. at the Church in Amana All community worship service with the Sunday School children.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. at the Middle Amana Church. An informal, come as you are, carol service by "candlelight."

Christmas Morning Worship Wednesday, Dec. 25 10 a.m. at the ***Middle*** Church. Welcome Our Lord with Praises and Song

New Year's Eve Prayer Service Tuesday, Dec. 31 6:30 p.m. at the Middle Amana Church

New Year's Day Worship Wednesday, Jan. 1 2025 at 10 a.m. at the Middle Amana Church

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SERVICE COMPANY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Amana society service company will be closing early on December 24th and will be closed December 25th and 26th due to the holiday! Incase of emergency we can be reached at 319-622-3053.

Please have a safe and happy holidays!

COX SANITATION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Due to the Holidays Cox Sanitation will be picking up garbage in the Amanas on Thursday December 26th and Thursday January 2nd.

AMANA LIBRARY NEWS

Amana Library Holiday Hours

Monday, December 23 - 9am-Noon
Tues & Wed, Dec. 24 & 25 – CLOSED
Thurs & Fri. Dec 26 & 27– 9am-Noon
Saturday, December 28 – CLOSED
Monday, December 30 – 9am-Noon
Tuesday, December 31 – CLOSED
Wednesday, January 1 – CLOSED
Thurs thru Sat Jan 2, 3, & 4 – 9am-6pm

Inclement Weather

With winter approaching, the Amana Library would like patrons to please call **319-622-3192** to make sure the library is open before heading out. If school has a late start, the library will open at 10:00.

If school is cancelled, the library will be CLOSED. If there is an early dismissal, the library will also close at the early dismissed time. We would like to keep all of our wonderful patrons and staff safe.

Thank you for your understanding!

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Last Weekend for Tannenbaum Forest

An icy Saturday, Dec. 14 led to closures, and the Tannenbaum Forest was no exception. But as a result, the Tannenbaum Forest had twice as many visitors on Sunday and the village of Amana was very busy indeed.

This weekend, Dec. 20 – 22 is the last weekend the Tannenbaum Forest is open.

It will be open Friday, Dec. 20 from noon – 7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 21 from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22 from 11 a .m. – 4 p.m.

Santa will be in the Forest only on Saturday from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. He's a busy guy so Saturday, Dec. 21 is his last day in the Forest.

Remember those of you who have trees in the Forest, please take down your tree Sunday, Dec. 22 from 5 – 8 p.m. or after Christmas, Thursday. Dec. 26 from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. or Friday, Dec. 28 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. No Monday, Dec 23 clean-up hours are planned as folks will be preparing for their own holiday. Volunteers are needed to help take down decorations in the Forest Thursday so if you have an hour to spare come on down to the Festhalle.

Amana Community Christmas Past

In chatting with friends and family we recalled some Amana Colony Christmasses past. Looking at old copies of the Amana Society Bulletin and Willkommen, here's our "Do you remember?"

• On Dec. 17, 1941 a Christmas program was sponsored by the Amana Young Men's Bureau at the High School Auditorium in Middle. It was a fund raiser for the AYMB and featured the very first performance of a new community choir, the Amana Young's Men's Chorus. This group of 20 men was led in song by Mrs. Rosalie Lowe (then the High School music teacher). A play called "The Empty Room" was presented by a small cast of Amana residents, and a speech was given by the club's president, Martin Dickel and by the Amana Society president, Dr. Henry Moerschel.

• According to the Dec. 14, 1941 minutes of the AYMB which met that night at the West Amana Clubhouse (minutes collected/ compiled by Cliff Trumpold) gift boxes containing candy, chewing gun, stationery, a pen and a pack of cards were sent to young Amana men away in training for the service in 1941. Gifts were sent to: Lt. Carl Moershel in Texas, Cpl. Harry Leohardt in CA; Privates Louis Schmieder, LA; Walter Hess, FL; Henry Solbrig, TX; Ernest Bahndorf, LA; Ray Baumgartel, MO; George Erzinger, MA; George Schuerer, IL.

• On Nov. 20, 1945, members of the AYMB voted to send $2 money orders to each of the Amana men in service as shipping boxes was not permitted at that time to the Pacific of China-Burma theaters of war. They also voted to raise $250 for the erection of memorial to be placed at the Amana High School in honor of those Amana men who had died in WWII. Carl Eichacker, Secretary of the School Board, reported that the Amana School Board agreed to support this memorial and it's placement on school grounds.

• The Candy Kitchen on Court Avenue in Marengo advertised its "double malteds" along with an assortment of Christmas candies in the December 1947 Amana Bulletins. All retail stores in Marengo would be open Saturday nights in December of 1947 for Christmas shopping.

• According to the first Amana Society Bulletin of 1948, the annual husking of the corn harvest was completed just before Christmas. Thanks were given to all who had worked so hard in December to get it done.

• December 17, 1948 a Christmas party was held at the Amana Clubhouse with Harry Geiger master of ceremonies introducing AYMB president, Carl Selzer. Special egg nog was served by Billy Metz. Elmer Dittrich and his "all girl chorus" performed. Santa Clauses Harry Wendler and Bill Ackerman handed out gifts to the wives and girlfriends.

• The year Amana folks first tasted deer? 1953 was the first legal hunting season for deer in Iowa. A few Amana families prepared deer loin or steak for Christmas dinner that year.

***News & Notes** continues page 2*

Food Drive Collection at Colonial Manor Nursing Home.

Non perishable food donated to those who are in need this holiday season.

We continue to collect in December and January, at our facility. Questions/concerns?

Contact Joey 319-622-3131

WANT TO BUY

-Reloading Equipment -Bullets and Brass
-Presses and Dies -Shooting Sports Items
-Large and Small Estates -Supplies and Ammo
-Muzzleloaders and Firearms: Vintage & Modern
Will also do Appraisals & Consignment Sales
Call, Text or Email JOEL VZ (319) 530-1234
jvanzante@southslope.net

Holiday Deadlines -- Deadlines for both the Christmas and New Year's Bulletins will be Tuesday 5:00 PM on the 24th and 31st of December Bulletins will be distributed on Thursday morning after each Holiday

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

Please, please forgive me for not writing about the beauty and wonder of Christmas. Lately, I have been ill. Maybe the festivities have gotten to me and just made me too anxious about getting everything ready for the holiday. Since this is not my first Christmas, though, I doubt that is the case.

I would like, instead, to go back to 1960, when I was in junior high, and Kennedy and Nixon were debating each other. I was in the minority – a Republican because my family were of that party and I figured that they knew best. Truthfully, I did not know what the debates were about, nor did I really care.

I also did not understand why some people were worried that Kennedy was a Catholic and, therefore, would (supposedly) take orders from the Vatican. Looking back, through many elections, there was always "something" that was wrong about a candidate in the eyes of those people who opposed them.

I guess what bothers me the most are these organizations that still discriminate on the basis of religious faith, even today. In the 1950s, Catholics could not join an exclusive club in Hollywood, and Jews were prohibited from joining many organizations for far too long.

A rather wise man once said that there have been more wars fought over religious differences than anything else. Now, here comes Christmas and the angles proclaimed "peace among men." Obviously, we never listen and keep fighting and killing.

B.S.H.

AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE on DEC 22ND @ 9:00 a.m.

at the Amana Performing Arts Center

Next Sunday Church Services : January 5th & 12th

www.amanaareafellowship.org

HELP WANTED

Ackerman Winery is seeking an enthusiastic and experienced Tasting Room Manager to oversee our tasting room operations. The ideal candidate will have a passion for hospitality and a strong background in customer service. This full-time position requires weekends. To find out more, visit Ackermanwinery.com/careers or email resume to info@ackermanwinery.com

FOR RENT

West Amana. 1 Bedroom apartment, Stove/Refridge furnished. References, lease required. 319-573-5265

1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment for rent in Middle Amana. Located on 1st floor. $650 (includes utilities). Minimum 1 year lease. Available around December 1st 2024. Background check required. $40 app fee per applicant. Proof of income required. Credit check required. No pets. No Smoking. Please contact Gunther Sandersfeld at 319-826-4122 or Gunther@Skogman.com

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• Winners of the 1963 Christmas lighting contest were: Glenn Hoppe, (west end Homestead), George Scheuer (East Amana) and Martin Fels, (mid-town Homestead).

• Final designs for the new high school addition to Lakeside Elementary were shown at the Amana High Christmas concert of 1968 in Middle Amana. In the fall of 1968 the Amana community had passed a bond issue of $250,000. The vote was 423 "yes" to 32 "no." The addition to the Lakeside Elementary consists of high school classrooms, a home economics room, industrial arts room, band and music room, teacher's work room, superintendent's office, school office and library for the Amana High School. Two moveable units were to add classroom space. Construction was completed in 68-69 by Schoff Construction of Lisbon, Iowa. The new high school wing opened in August of 1969.

• Bertha Wilson's Christmas programs at the Lakeside Elementary School of 1965 to 1971 were the talk of the community. One notable performance in the new auditorium featured a living Christmas tree made of students dressed in green felt wreath shaped tops, standing next to one another on a series of risers on the stage. Arranged in the shape of a pine tree, some students were dressed in gold and others in red to appear as the decorations. They sang "O Tannenbaum" and "Deck the Halls." Principal Swanson dressed as Santa Claus handed out gifts to each child after the concert.

• Julie Wilson introduced the use of pop songs in 1975 when high schoolers entertained the elementary school children at a school Christmas program by singing a popular tune by Simon and Garfunkel, "The Sound of Silence." After the performance Wilson was asked to explain the song to the Amana School Board who voted that it was ok to sing such songs in the schoolhouse.

• In 1984 Emmaline Bendorf advertised The Christmas Room as Iowa's first shop dedicated to Christmas. The store was located in the Bendorf's converted garage, remodeled entirely The Christmas Room (now The Noble Stone.)

• Also in 1984 Oehl Plumbing and Heating held their Christmas party at Zum Burghof. The Ronneburg's "new pub" was now open Monday – Saturday till 10 p.m. serving "short orders and brats" with beers on tap and cocktails, according to a November ASI Bulletin advertisement.

• The Prelude to Christmas took place in Decem

• Winners of the 1985. That means that next year will be our 40th anniversary. It did not include the Tannenbaum Forest which is believed to have been started sometime after 1991.

• In December 1989 during Prelude to Christmas, Amana's new "winter festival" called "Winter Carnival" was announced. It was held January 13 with a snow date on Jan. 20. Speed skating competitions on the Lily Lake, the opening of a cross country skiing trail and a parade were planned.

• Der Leder Haus (owned by Tony Patti) next to Blackbird Pottery on Amana's main street offered Amana residents 25% off all handmade leather belts for Christmas 1990.

• Christmas at the Amana Heritage Museum 1991, Prelude to Christmas, a special program by Caroline Ertz and Mary Burgher with help from others will be offered at the annual Prelude to Christmas celebration the first weekend of December.

• The "Wreaths for Wishes" silent auction at the Tannenbaum Forest 2010 helped raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation. According to forest chairman, Jon Childers, over 5,630 patrons visited the forest in 2010 and raised more than $5,000 after expenses. Childers thanked Brandi Jones of the Amana Heritage Museum, Terry Roemig if the Kitchen Sink and Stephanie Brandenburg of Fern Hill for their help. He noted that the "top year" to date at the forest which was 2006 with over 6,500 guests.

• A Soup supper was held the Amana Church, Dec. 18, 2016. Chicken noodle soup and a Christmas Cookie buffet were offered along with other light dinner refreshments following the annual Sunday School program at the Amana Church at 4:30 p.m.

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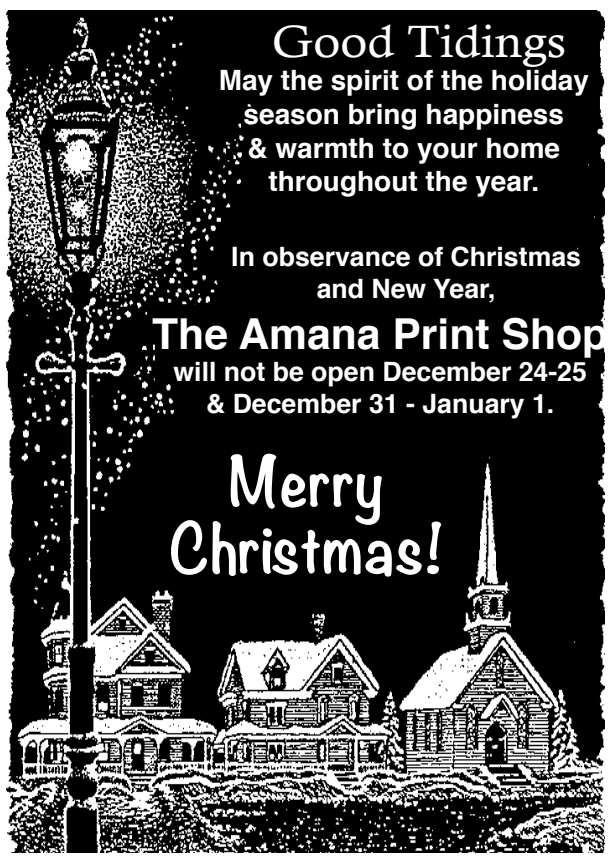
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