# Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, November 20, 2025 | No. 38


## AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Covenant Preparation Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, November 23, 2025 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Andrea Haldy presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Wär' Gott nicht mit uns dieser Zeit" No. 1019 Seite 1001

Testimony: Br. J. A. Gruber, Büdingen, Germany July 4, 1716 (Rules 17-24)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6,
Psalm 25: 1-10

Closing Hymn: "Sieh! Wie lieblich und wie fein" No. 923 vs 1, 12-14 Seite 912

The Late Service will start at 10:00 A.M. with the following hymns:

Opening Hymn: "If God Within These Evil Days" No. 101

Closing Hymn: "O How Lovely 'Tis To Be" No. 62

The Wednesday Evening Prayer Service (Nachtgebet) begins at 7:00 P.M. in Middle.

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

The live link for the 10:00 A.M. service is --- https://www.facebook.com/theamanachurch

Links to services posted online may be found at: *https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/*

## Amana Church December Events

*Everyone is Welcome.*

**Prelude to Christmas Church Bazaar** Fri. Dec. 5 & Sat. Dec. 6
Drop off donations for the bazaar Thursday 9 - 4, Friday morning or call for pick up. Thank you!
Friday Noon - 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. At the Amana Church in Amana.

**Prelude to Christmas Cookie Walk** Saturday, Dec. 6
Drop off donations Friday afternoon or Saturday morning before 9 or call for pick-up. Thank you!
At 9 a.m. pick up cookie walk tickets. Cookie walk starts at 10 a.m.
At the Amana Church in Amana.

**Sunday School Christmas Program "The Colors of Christmas"**
Sunday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program
At the Middle Amana Church.

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

**Christmas Morning Worship**
Thursday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. at the Amana Church in Amana
Welcome our Lord with prayers, praise and song with the Amana Church Choir.

## FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION AT COLONIAL MANOR

Colonial Manor Nursing Home is collecting Non perishable food donated to those who are in need this holiday season.

We will be collecting in November, December and January at our facility. Questions/concerns Contact Joey. at 319-622-3131.

Lakeview Village

Assisted Living Apartments

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## AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

**Sponsor a Family with CCA Student Council**

The Clear Creek Amana High School Student Council has completed this important service project each year for decades. Last year over 80 families in our school district received help during the holiday season.

The CCA Student Council is raising funds now for this important outreach. The fund drive ends Dec. 15 and every dollar contributed will be used to support the families. To help send donations to Clear Creek Amana Student Council, Marissa Moore, and mail to PO Box 199, 551 West Marengo Road, Tiffin, Iowa 52340. Please write on the check memo line – Sponsor a Family.

Or you can go to the CCA website look for the https://ia-clearcreekamana-lite.intouchreceipting.com/SponsorAFamily to access the pay on line portal.

**Thanksgiving Dinner at the Amana Church**

The annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Amana Church in Amana is open to all. Dine – in with friends and neighbors or carry-out a meal on Thursday, Thanksgiving day, Nov. 27. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. at the Amana Church, located in the center of the block north of the Chocolate Haus.

The Amana Church will have its annual covenant service at 10 a.m. at the Middle Amana Church. Everyone is welcome to worship and to dinner.

The dinner is being prepared by Amana Church volunteers and youth group members. Turkey, a second entrée for those who do not care for turkey, mashed potatoes, side dishes and dessert will be served. If you wish to reserve a carry-out meal please call the Amana Church office at 319-622-6155. before Nov. 24.

No reservation required for dine-in.

**Don't Miss TKM's Holiday Shows**

Two big shows and so much holly jolly Christmas fun with TKM is in the works.

First it's the "Swingin' Christmas" holiday show with Rod Pierson's Big Band and Craig Boche at the Mic at the Amana Performing Arts Center, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m.

One show only, folks. Book your tickets today. From Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey to Guy Lombardo and Woody Herman, Rod Pierson and his band really swing. Then add Boche's Buble-like crooning and you have one show stopping tune after another.

Get ready to see a brand new, original comedy by the one and only Jonesy McElroy. "Fruitcakes!" will be two in stage two weekends: December 5 – 7 and Dec. 12 – 14 at the Performing Arts Center with shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

About a small nonprofit facing eviction and a small town in panic as its being terrorized by a dread beyond reckoning, a little band of heroes and offbeat eccentrics will have to dig deep through tinsel-tossed chaos to save their neighbors and Christmas, yes it's "Fruitcakes!" Best cast ever. We can't wait to see it. Sponsored by Compass Memorial Healthcare.

For tickets head to the TKMTheatricalproductions.com website or contact Deb Kennedy at 319-899-3799 or via email at deborahkennedy@aol.com Tickets are $25. Check on group rates for your school, club or business.

**Tannenbaum Forest Opens Thanksgiving Friday**

Is it possible? Yes, Prelude to Christmas Tannenbaum Forest opens Friday, Nov. 28 and boy, are we excited to see what our friends and neighbors have dreamed up for this annual enchanted forest of Christmass trees at the Festhalle.

Decorating will begin Monday, Nov. 24 from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. and continue Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 9 am. until 5 p.m. but yes, many volunteers have already spent hours planning their trees and making or obtaining their decorations.

The forest will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Nov. 28 through Dec. 21. Santa hours have been posted and include Saturday Nov. 29 from 11 – 4. For a full list of all the hours Santa will be in the forest go to the Amanacolonies.com website.

Here's what we have: Santa hours – Saturday, Nov. 29, 11 – 4p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 – 4 p.m.; Friday, Dec 12, 1 – 6 p.m.; Saturday Dec. 13, 11 – 4 and Sunday, Dec. 14 noon till 4 p.m. and finally Saturday, Dec. 20 from 11 - 4 p.m.

**Prelude to Christmas was Born 40 Years Ago**

From 1980-1986 while the Amana Colonies were tapped to host both the World Ag Expo and then the Farm Progress Show, week-long September agricultural events that drew up to 40,000 people each day, Oktoberfest stopped. No more parades. No more music.

In the post Oktoberfest hush, Emaline Bendorf owner - creator of the Cellar Door Gift Shop, and a few of her friends got to thinking; What if they could create a Christmas event that would celebrate Amana's communal heritage?

So Prelude to Christmas was born; the angelic dream child of Emaline Bendorf, Elsie Oehler and Terry Roemig, three very creative and well-organized women, who wanted to share an Amana Christmas with visitors. They enlisted help from the Amana Heritage Museum staffers and all Amana merchants and held the first meetings in Bendorf's home. Tom Burgher and Don Krauss both recall the meeting to discuss the new idea for a holiday festival. "I remember thinking this could be really nice," said Don Krauss, Village Winery.

Caroline Ertz, Mary Burgher and Barbara Hoehnle created a 40- minute program, A Glimpse of Amana Christmas Past for the Amana Heritage Museum. Hoehnle researched and wrote the parts performed by volunteers. Ertz and Burgher sang and recited verse with "Captain" Ken Denzin, Betty Parvin, Nola Moser, Liesel Burgher Yunek, Erin Moser, Barbara, Peter and Charlie Hoehnle, Stuart Wendler and others taking part. With poetry, Christmas carols and

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


**The Amana Print Shop**
amanaprintshop@southslope.net
PO Box 06, Middle IA 52307
☎319-622-3912

**AMANA COMMUNITY LIBRARY**
**HOLIDAY HOURS**

Monday, Nov 24 - 9am-3pm
Tuesday, Nov 25 - 9am-6pm
Wednesday, Nov 26 - CLOSED
Thursday, Nov 27 - CLOSED
Friday, Nov 28 - 9am-Noon
Saturday, Nov 29 - 9am-Noon

**CHRISTMAS WREATH SALES**

Amana Boy Scout Troop 223, wil be selling Christmas Wreaths door to door on this Saturday November 22 starting at approximately 10:00 am.

Wreaths are $18.00 each. Payment is by cash or check only. Make checks out to Troop 223.

If you are unable to be home on the 22nd and would like to order a wreath please call Gary Heishman at 319-622-3039. Thank you.

**LOVE NETWORK**

The LOVE gift card tree is up at the Amana Family Practice and Amana Pharmacy. This year may seem early but it gives everyone more time to choose a card and return the gift to the tree. The date to return the wrapped gifts is December 1st. By taking time to pick up a gift card from the tree, buying the gift and returning it to the tree you put a smile on someone's face this Christmas. If you would like more information please contact Carmen Grimm. email, carmen.grimm@gmail.

Thank you! Have a happy Holiday season.

**AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP**
**Church Services SUNDAYS**
**9:00 AM, All Are Welcome**
Nov 23rd & Dec 7th
Amana Performing Arts Center
Nov 30th Koru Berry Farm,
1681 U Ave Homestead
www.amanaareafellowship.org

Herbal Spa Services
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Bulk Herbs
www.myherbplace.com
714 47th Ave., Amana, IA.
(319) 239-6167
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-Hebrews 6:7

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**OBITUARY**

Darlene G. Reihmann, 92, of Middle Amana, Iowa, died on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on December 2, 2025, at Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Cedar Rapids, with a Celebration of Life to follow in the Legacy Center at Murdoch-Linwood until 1:30 p.m.

Darlene was born February 23, 1933, in Bloomfield, Iowa, to Lois (Francis) and Charles Walter Blasi. She graduated from Pulaski High School and attended Iowa State, completing her BA degree at the University of Iowa. She married Ivan William Reihamnn on July 17, 1954, in Pulaski, Iowa. Darlene taught Home Economics at College Community Middle School.

She was a resident of Middle Amana for more than 60+ years. Darlene was a 4-H and Cub Scout leader and served as a member and representative for the Iowa County Heritage Agency on Aging. She also volunteered for Essence of Life Hospice in Amana. Darlene, known as 'Garden Girl,' loved gardening, doing puzzles, and watching baseball - especially the Cubs - and always put others before herself. She found her greatest joy in spending time with family, particularly her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her children, Bob (Mary Lou) Reihmann of Denver, Colorado, Ron Reihmann, of Amana, Randy (Jeanne) Reihmann of Fort Myers, Florida, and Denise (Brian) Brown of Hiawatha, Iowa; her grandchildren, William (Andrea) Reihmann of Denver, Colorado, Karl (Leslie) Reihmann of Severance, Colorado, Kurt (Anne) Reihmann of Cedar Rapids, April (Nick) Nelson of Kennewick, Washington, Anna Reihmann of Denver, Colorado, Caitlin (Kyle) Shattuck of Ames, Iowa, Alexa (Luke) Quinn of Port Charlotte, Florida, and Brooke (Chris) Collins of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and great-grandchildren, Eliana and Adelynn Nelson, Aurora, Lewis and Samuel Shattuck, Hugo, Forbes and Wilder Reihmann, Roman Reihmann, and Westin Collins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ivan William Reihmann, in 2015; and her brothers, Charles Blasi, Jr., Edward Blasi, and Francis Blasi.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Darlene's charity of choice: Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, 200 Hawkins Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

Please share a memory of Darlene under obituaries at www.murdochfuneralhome.com.

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## *News & Notes* *from page 1*

vignettes it told of a communal Amana Christmas Eve.

The show, or a version of it, was presented at every Prelude to Christmas for over 20 years. Thus the line uttered after the Weihnachtsbaum is decorated, "It was the prettiest tree we've ever had!" included in twenty years of museum performances found its way into the hearts of many who loved A Glimpse of Amana Christmas Past.

Advertised to the general public for the first time in 1985, Prelude to Christmas offered evening events and evening shopping. Candle votives in small paper sacks (stabilized with sand) lined Amana's sidewalks for shoppers. The restaurants offered specials and the shops stayed open till 9 p.m. Christmas carolers went door to door ending up at Zum Burghof for a hot toddy.

The celebration grew as the Old Creamery Theatre Co. showcased a holiday production at their new theatre. Then Tom Johnson produced what became favorite here, yes, of course it was the Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol," which always featured local children in the cast.

In 1991 the Amana Church held the first cookie walk. An event that soon gained a huge following and has managed to be just as dazzling each of the past 33 years. The first cookie walk committee included Melissa Schuerer, Carol Zuber, Linda Setzer, Mary Burgher and Katy Berger, we have heard, but we haven't found a complete record of that first committee so most likely others were involved too. It was a novel concept and one every baker in Amana could get behind.

In 1999 when the Festhalle barn expanded the potential for weatherproof events, Susan Hollrah of the Amana Society had a brilliant idea. She had been the highly successful organizer of several Oktoberfests and new the ropes.

When she told Christmas shop owner, Tim Meyer (owner of Tiny Tim's Christmas Room) and Barb Buchanen (owner of Thimbleberry at Old Wine Cellar) they agreed. "I thought, around here everyone loves going to the forest in the fall, why not bring the forest to the Festhalle and decorate it for Christmas." Hollrah explained.

That's how Tannenbaum Forest came to be added to Amana's Prelude to Christmas and that's how Prelude became Amana's second largest annual event.

Terry Roemig and Allyn Neubauer both contributed their creative touches to the new Forest. Neubauer enlisted furniture makers from the Amana Furniture and Clock Shop along with woodworkers Lee Herr, Lial Selzer, Ray Berger, Leroy Graesser and Harvey Jeck to build a 17-foot- tall wooden Christmas pyramid. Roemig decorated it top to bottom creating Santa's workshop and scenes from the North Pole.

"It was, well it is, beautiful. The forest is just magical. I love it and I think everyone who sees it loves it," said Hollrah.

That first year Tim Meyer donated a European-made Nativity scene. The Harold Schuerer family contributed their sleigh for Santa to sit in when he greets kids at the forest.

Now Prelude to Christmas and the Tannenbaum Forest are a highlight of the year, attracting thousands of people who make it a part of their own family holiday traditions. In 2024 despite an ice storm that forced the closure of the forest one Saturday during its run, 16,247 people visited the forest. In 2023 we had 18,528 people see the forest. Hope, light and the joy of Christmas shared with thousands – that's our 40 year old community tradition.

**AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)**
**Tentative Agenda of the regular Meeting**
**Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Monday, November 24, 2025 6:30 p.m. at ACLUD office, 4304 220th Trail Amana And via Zoom**

I. Call HPC Meeting to Order
II. Set Agenda
III. Review/Approve the November 3 special meeting minutes:
IV. Welcome visitors and allow citizens to speak on items not on the agenda:
V. Discussion/Action on permit applications in a Historic Preservation Zoning District:

a. 2025-075 Amana Millwright LLC /794 48th Ave. (Warped & Woven)/ HP-I/ Replace front double wooden door with new fiberglass white doors.

b. 2025-078 Jack Hoehnle /733 47th Ave./ HP-R/ Replace rotten portions of window frames and doors with all aluminum trim in white. Install new 6" aluminum round gutters in white and 4" downspouts. Replace soffits and fascia with aluminum white.

c. 2025-077 Jeff Yates /505 45th Ave. /HP-R/ Replace 1 window on front of home that matches the current 33X40 window.

VI. Other Business -Paul Bruhn Update
VII. Administrator's Report (if applicable)
VIII. Adjourn