# Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, November 27, 2025 | No. 39


## AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Covenant Service will be in the Middle Church Thursday, November 27, 2025 starting 10:00 A.M. with Sw. Emilie Hoppe presiding.

Opening Hymn: "I Am Thy God" No. 67

Testimony: Excerpts from the testimony of Christian Metz, Armenburg, May 23, 1834

Scripture: Deuteronomy 29:12-15
Deuteronomy 30:1-19
Hebrews 8 - A New Covenant

Closing Hymn: "Lobe Zion deinen Gott" No. 642 vs 1, 2, 4 and 11

Closing Hymn: "Hallelujah! Let Praises Ring" No. 34. Song Sheets will be provided.

Please join us at the church in Amana on Thursday, November 27 for our Thanksgiving Dinner starting at 11:30 am. Thank you!

The Early "Dankversammlung" Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, November 30, 2025 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw. Kristie Yoder presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Nun danket alle Gott" No. 728 Seite 723

Testimonies: Metz, October 8, 1859; Mayer, July 16, 1715; Rock, February 5, 1720

Scripture: Hebrews 12:18-29,
Psalm 103

Closing Hymn: "Hallelujah, Lob, Preiss und Ehr" No. 362 Seite 359

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

Opening Hymn: "Now thank we all our God, (all verses)" No. 89

Hymn: "Of God's great love I sing today" No. 56 vs 1,2,9,10

Hymn: "Oh that I had a thousand voices" No. 1 vs 1,2,8

Closing Hymn: "Hallelujah let praises ring" No. 34

Song sheets will be provided

The Advent Service will be on Sunday, Nov. 30 at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Amana Church.

*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

## SERVICE COMPANY CLOSED

The service company will be closed on Thursday Nov. 27th and Friday Nov. 28th due to the holiday

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## AMANA HERITAGE SOCIETY TO HOST PROGRAM FOR NEW BOOK ON COMMUNAL-ERA MARRIAGE

The Amana Heritage Society is pleased to welcome local historian R.C. Eichacker for a special program on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Amana Heritage Museum (705-44th Ave. Amana). Eichacker will share insights from his new book, Marriage by Committee, exploring the fascinating traditions and communal practices surrounding marriage during Amana's communal era from 1855-1932. The evening will include a brief presentation, audience Q&A, and a book signing. Copies of Marriage by Committee will be available for purchase at the event—perfect for holiday gift-giving. All are welcome. For more information, please contact the Amana Heritage Society at 319.622.3567 or amanaheritage@southslope.net.

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## LOVE NETWORK

There are still some gift cards on the LOVE tree at the Pharmacy. Please consider picking one up and filling the gift as you head out shopping this weekend. The gifts need to be back to the Clinic or Pharmacy by Tuesday morning next week. Your gifts will make someone's Christmas season a little brighter. Merry Christmas! If you would like more information please contact Carmen Grimm. email, carmen.grimm@gmail.

Thank you! Have a happy Holiday season.

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## 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.

## AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

### AAG Haus Tour Dec. 6 and 7

How do you take an 1800s building and make it your home? That's the question charmingly answered in the upcoming Amana Arts Guild Holiday Haus Walk.

On Saturday, Dec. 6 open 10 - 4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 open noon - 4 p.m.

Four colony homes will be open to the public, plus the West Amana Blacksmithing Shop and the Arts Guild Folklife Center in High Amana where a pop-up art/ craft show will focus on Amana heritage artists who will be selling and making willow brooms and baskets, knitted hats, crochet work, tin ware and handwoven rugs. Be sure to stop by the Amana Arts Guild's new Gallery in Amana right across from the Visitor Center.

Hour tour ickets are $20 (children under 10 are free). Your admission ticket is for both days and enters you into a raffle to win a handcrafted, three foot tall, Christmas pyramid for your home. Tickets may be purchased during the event at any of the homes or at the Amana Arts Guild Gallery, 619 46th Ave. in Amana or the Arts Guild Folklife Center, 1210 G. Street, High Amana.

***The Myers Home at 23 220th Trail, Upper South Amana*** In 1883 the Chicago, Milwaukee and St Paul Railroad built a rail line one mile south of South Amana and "Upper South Amana" was born on this scenic hilltop.

The Amana Society built general store there which opened in 1885. The store was a retail destination for Iowa County and Johnson Country residents as it sold groceries, housewares and Amana-made furniture along with factory - produced furniture from the "outside." The Upper South Store closed in the 1940s so the Amana Society converted the space into a huge commercial bakery baking and selling bread and baked goods to a wide market under the Amana Society Bakery label. In 2024 the Myers family purchased this 19,000 square foot building and wasted no time creating their home using every ounce of their considerable abilities and creative craft.

***Rawson B and B and the Roads Home at 4424 V Street, Homestead.*** (We apologize for the spelling error two weeks ago.) This 1862 brick home is a stunning example of communal Amana residential architecture. The Roads family embrace every inch of it and have created the most charming country home which they decorate for Christmas with loving care and in great style. A magical country home that expresses the Roads' creative vision - it's comfy cozy yet elegantly appointed with period antiques and elegant touches. When they took on this home they had so much to do to make it their own and to create a thriving bed and breakfast - hear and see how the Roads family has transformed the house located just next door to the new Amana Folk Art Museum in Homestead into a photo op masterpiece.

***The Brost Home, 705 E Street, West Amana*** The second oldest village among Amana's seven villages, West Amana was founded mere months after the village of Amana to give the community a western outpost to bust sod and begin farming here. That first winter was so bleak they slept in hastily constructed log and frame cabins with roofs that were no more than thin canvas. But within two years they had a block of sturdy homes built of sandstone quarried from a hillside just 1/4 mile away.

The Brost home built in 1858 is the oldest home on the tour. It was the original village bakery and for a short period it also served as the general store and cobbler shop for the new village. In 1998 Robert and Jill Brost bought the home and set about doing a full scale restoration paying close attention to the history of the structure. So much has been done to recreate and preserve the unique elements of this house including the vaulted ceiling and the original stone hearth. Serenely elegant this home exemplifies a thoughtful approach to design and contemporary living.

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

## 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.

- Herbal Spa Services
- Loose Leaf Tea
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-Hebrews 6:7

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**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

*Lakeview Village*

Assisted Living Apartments
- Meals Provided
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- Wellness checks – Medication management
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Call Tanya Powell for a tour 622-3131
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jvanzante@southslope.net


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

***The McCarty Home, 2605 J. Street Middle Amana.*** Built in 1888 on Middle Amana's "back street" this was the wagon shop for the village Middle and that made sense as it was located right next door to the Cooper shop where wagon wheels were made. During Amana's "Great Change" when the communal order was set aside the Trumpold family purchased the building and made it their family home for three generations. Today it is lovingly occupied by the McCarty family who have blended rustic, yet contemporary touches with the simplicity of Amana colony design. There are design elements that speak Amana, handcrafted furniture and art by local artists, plus treasured family pieces and so much holiday sparkle and joy in a home created by one of Amana's most celebrated designers, homeowner, Lyndsey McCarty.

**Sweets for the Best Cause - Kids!**
**Amana Church Christmas Bazaar**
**and Cookie Walk**

This has become an Amana Colony Christmas. Yes, it is happening this year and yes, funds raise benefit the Summer Vacation Bible School open to all kids and the weekly Sunday School, plus the pre-teen and teen youth group.

The Amana Church Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk are at the Amana Church in Amana – everyone is welcome! Enter on the west side. Offering all sorts of wonderful handcrafts and handmade breads, sweets, candies and more, the Bazaar opens on Friday, Dec 5 from noon until 5 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The Cookie Walk is Saturday only. The last two years there has been a delightfully large assortment of cookies and treats so do not hesitate to come! Yes, we have cookies! Stop by the Bazaar at 9 a.m. to pick up your Cookie Wal reservation. The Cookie Walk opens at 10 a.m. Here's how it works – starting at 10 a.m. a group is let into the Cookie Room to select their boxful of cookies (4 to 5 plus dozen-cookies).

Just 20 boxes will be sold as online orders (filled by volunteers and to be picked up on Dec 6 at the church). Here is the link to order (max of 2 boxes per order): https://forms.gle/4er8kFNjEM9v2hwb8.

**We are Thankful!**

Take a few moments this week to say a prayer and express your gratitude for the things in our community that we cherish/ Here's a list (and there are many more things we can all add to this list) of things to be thankful for in the Colonies:

- Our schools. With caring staff our CCA Schools are among the best in the state.
- Our volunteers. In the Colonies volunteers fight fires, lead churches, mow lawns, deliver meals to the home-bound and ill, support the nonprofits, donate to do good, collect and distribute food, maintain our Amana Colonies Food Pantry, help our young people learn, keep the Lily Lake full of water, maintain the canal, shovel snow, maintain the cemeteries, hang Christmas decorations, host festivals, organize events, welcome strangers, offer rides, keep the AC Nature Trail and Kolonieweg open, teach Sunday School and VBS, maintain the library, pick up trash and so much more.
- For everyone who is maintain a historic home. These cherished treasures are a legacy for our community and so many people are working hard to maintain their historic home or business.
- For merchants who care. Guess who gets asked to support, donate, give and create. Merchants. Plus they employ over a thousand part-time and full time people in our seven villages.
- We have jobs. More people work in the Amana Colonies than live here. We supply jobs.
- Our forests. With the purchase of a permit, you may walk your dog, hike, enjoy the forests. No permit needed to use the AC Nature Trail or the Kolonieweg. The Amanas have the LARGEST contiguous forest in the state of Iowa. In a state that has largely lost its native forests, this is remarkable. Thank you Amana Society for maintaining the forests, paying the property taxes and keeping them open for permit holders.
- Our underground electrical system. Remember the derecho? The ice storms of 2009 and 2016? We had power when many other towns did not. Thank you ASI Service Co.
- Our cultural nonprofits. The Amana Arts Guild, the Amana Heritage Society, TKM Theatrical Productions, the Safe Haven pet shelter, the Amana Colonies Historical Sites Foundation. So much good work is being done by volunteers and staff at our nonprofit groups.
- Our new Amana Village Playground, the new "Cellar" at the Festhalle, the successful renovation restoration of the Amana Church and the Middle Amana Kinderschule/ Food Pantry, water in the Lily Lake. Work has been completed this year to improve our landscape and townscapes.

The ***Amana Society Bulletin*** is published by the Amana Print Shop for the **Amana Society Inc.** and distributed free as a public service to the Amana Community.
On-line at: ***amanacoloniestoday.com***

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Come visit the Amana Community Library and explore our new Terry Roemig Book Club Shelf.

This special shelf was purchased in Terry's memory by her family, the Amana Book Club, and through generous contributions from our community. Terry was the founder of the Amana Book Club and a long-time member of the Amana Library Board. Her dedication to reading, learning, and community connection has left a lasting legacy here in Amana.

The shelf was handcrafted by local woodworker Alan Trumpold and showcases both past and current Book Club selections chosen by Terry and fellow members.

Accompanying the shelf is a meaningful painting by Terry's mother, Ruth Schmieder, dedicated in memory of Phyllis Schuerer Burgher, as well as a memorial plaque honoring Terry.

This space serves as a tribute to Terry's love of books, her leadership, and her devotion to our community. We invite you to stop by, browse, remember, and enjoy.

If you're interested in joining the Amana Book Club conversation, the group meets at 9:00 AM on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Amana Community Library in Middle Amana. The library provides the monthly book selection for all participants.

On December 16th (3rd week because of Christmas), the group will be discussing Distant Sons by Tim Johnston, the 2025 All Iowa Reads selection. The book will be available on 11/25 for pick up. We would love to have you join us! Please contact the library for more information at 319-622-3192.

**HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The Amana Heritage Society collects, preserves, and interprets the 300 years of cultural heritage of the Amana Colonies. In order to carry out this important mission, we seek the support of our membership and try to make it grow. Please consider supporting Amana's heritage by becoming, or remaining, a member today. Visit us at https://amanaheritage.org/ to purchase an online membership or give us a call at 319.622.3567 for more information.

**Dear Families and Friends,**

The Amana Elementary School is excited to inform you that we are participating in an incredible program that allows us to earn FREE classroom equipment and supplies!

**Here's how you can Help!**

Shop at Big G Food Store in Marengo from September 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Save your receipts (the date must be on the receipt to be valid) and send them to school with your child

Your receipts will earn us points for free classroom equipment, donated by the store!

Please submit your receipts to our school by April 4, 2026. Receipts can also be dropped off at the Amana Community Library.

Thank You! Amana Elementary School

**IOWA PREMIERE OF FRUITCAKES,**
**a Holiday Comedy by Jonesy McElroy**

Coming to The Amana Performing Arts Center, 39 38th Ave, Amana, is a brand-new holiday comedy, ***Fruitcakes*** by Jonesy McElroy, Dec 5, 6, 7 & 12, 13, 14. Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 PM, Sundays 3:00 PM

Tickets: $25 for group rates & info call 319-899-3799 or contact: deborahkennedy@live.com to order tickets.

**ESSEN WAGEN- HOME DELIVERED MEALS**

The Amana Church, in conjunction with Colonial Manor, sponsors the Amana Essen Wagen, which provides a hot noon meal to home-bound, adults or their adult child, delivered to your home (even to your chair!) each weekday, except holidays. Enjoy not cooking and enjoy visiting with one of our volunteer drivers.

Please contact Colonial Manor at 319-622-3131 to sign up for this service. You can register for a short time while recuperating at home, or on a permanent basis. The suggested donation per meal is $4.00.

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