Amana Society Bulletin

Vol. XCIV | Amana, Iowa, Thursday, January 01, 2026 | No. 44

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The New Year's Eve Service will be in Middle Church, Wednesday, December 31 at 8:00 P.M. with Sw Betsy Momany presiding

Opening song: "Wir danken Gott" No. 1120 vs 1-4. Seite 1099

Testimony: Johann Friedrich Rock, Ronneburg, June 16, 1748

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-18
Psalms 51:1-17

Closing song: "We praise the Lord," No 28, vs 9-12

The New Year's Day Service will be in the Middle Church, Thursday January 01, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. with Sw Andrea Haldy presiding

Opening Hymn: "For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace" No. 276

Testimony: Excerpts: Johann Friedrich Rock, Bern Switzerland, July 9, 1741

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2: 14-19
Psalm 33

Closing Hymn "O Lord, Our Father, Thanks to Thee" No. 176

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, January 04, 2025 starting 8:30 A.M. with Sw Kristie Yoder presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Folget Mir, ruft uns das Leben" No. 281 vs 1-4 Seite 282

Testimony: C Metz, Endekoben, April 19, 1840.

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40
Psalm 112

Closing Hymn: "Folget Mir, ruft uns das Leben" No. 281vs 11-14 Seite 282

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

Opening Hymn: "Follow Me the Savior Calleth" No. 24

Closing Hymn: "Thou Art the Way" No. 235

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 SANITARY DISTRICT MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Amana Sanitary District will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 07, 2026 in the Amana lift station.

AMANA HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

The Amana Heritage Society collects, preserves, and interprets the 300 years of cultural heritage of the Amana Colonies. We strive to be the historian of our community, growing our collections and ideas, and making them available to our community and visitors. In order to carry out this important mission, we seek the support of our membership and try to make it grow. Your annual membership is vital to our current and future success. 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. Help us to keep Preserving Our Heritage and Sharing Our Culture.

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 homebound, 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.

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***

Lakeview Village

Assisted Living Apartments

- Meals Provided
- Housekeeping Services
- Wellness checks – Medication management
- Activities

Units Available

Call Tanya Powell for a tour 622-3131

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AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

New Year's in Communal Amana

With a long winter to work their way through, the week between Christmas and New Year's was cherished and celebrated with work days made short as possible and time spent visiting relatives and friends.

Did they work at the textile mills and calico dye work from December 24 and January 2? The mill schedule was determined by the outstanding orders, so it's doubtful they took a full week off, but they certainly did take December 26, 31st and New Year's Day off. Meanwhile craftsmen put down their tools and did not light the fire in the stoves of their craft shops, though the general stores remained open as out of town trade continued.

Arranging to borrow a sleigh, wagon or buggy to drive to visit relatives in other villages meant a mid-December call on the farm boss who gave his permission, made a note in his book, and had a word with the boss of the horse barn. Because there were only so many horses and so many wagons, buggies or sleighs, this meant that it did take the whole of a week or may be longer for those who wanted to borrow a rig to have the opportunity to do so as everyone had to wait their turn. If practical, folks walked from village to village, or hitched a ride with the "mail wagon." Of course, if it was very muddy, icy, very deep snow or very cold, everyone stayed home.

Now the doctors each had a team of horses, a sleigh and a buggy they could use at a moment's notice and so each of the doctor's homes had a small stall barn nextdoor for the horses and someone nearby, a teenager or the doctor's son, was assigned to be on call to hitch up the team immediately while the doctor got his medicines and prepared whatever he might need to bring to the housecall.

My grandmother told the story of the South Amana midwife having to go out in the worst blizzard anyone had seen in years. Now she was the aunt or perhaps great aunt of Emma Setzer who delivered so many Amana Colony babies through the 1940s. This woman knew her duty and never let weather bother her.

But on this particular night in mid-winter when someone came to pound upon the midwife's door to tell her that a telegram had been received in the Lower South Amana railroad

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

AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP
Church Services
SUNDAYS 9:00 AM
All Are Welcome
Amana Performing Arts Center
www.amanaareafellowship.org

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.

Happy New Year!!

News & Notes *from page 1*

depot stating that she was urgently needed in West Amana, even she had to pause to say a prayer as she got her nurse's bag.

As the howling windstorm of snow and ice would have upset any carriage or sleigh, the teamster who drove her knew they had to take a heavy sledge rather than a light-duty sleigh. So he hitched the sledge up to a team of the steady and stalwart draft horses. Sledges were used to carry heavy loads like lumber or block ice over ice and snow. They were wide and long and had no seat; so the driver stood balanced upon the rack, bracing himself against the cross bar.

The brave midwife, wrapped in wool from head to toe, held onto the driver's waist as they braved the north wind driving from South Amana to West Amana. The narrow bridge was drifted shut so when they came to the Iowa River they had to descend the drifted bank and go across the ice, in the dark, up the next bank. This was highly dangerous for there were felled trees and unseen gullies beneath the drifts that could entrap them. When they came to the first bank, down they plunged and the midwife was swept from the rack and thrown into a snowdrift. The teamster heaved too and dug her out.

"Surely we must go back!" he said. But she was determined, and so off they went again the big horses pulling the sledge up and over the drifts and mounds with jolting strength. Once across the river, they still had the Mill Race to cross. Twice more the midwife was thrown into the snow. And twice more she climbed back on the sledge. By the time they reached West Amana, she was near frozen and had to be unwrapped and defrosted, but she was determined and undaunted and did her job assisting the birth. The doctor, from Middle Amana, had farther to drive and did not reach West Amana in time.

As was the routine then, the midwife stayed nine more days in the newborn's home assisting mother and baby and making sure both were doing well. For a period of many weeks after the midwife would visit the newborn's home frequently to check the new mom and the newborn to see if both thrived. New moms did not return to work at the kitchen house or the village garden and stayed home with their babies until they were three years old or so.

The midwife, a brave and very hardworking woman, took her adventure in stride. Indeed she remained a midwife for many years until Emma Setzer took her place in South Amana.

I wish I knew her name and will have to do some research as to who exactly she was. She might have been a Siegel or a Setzer but she was certainly made of the right stuff.

- Emilie Hoppe

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

AUTHOR VISIT, BOOK TALK & SIGNING
MELINDA WICHMANN
Tuesday, Jan. 13 · 6:00 p.m.
Amana Community Library

Please join the Amana Community Library, 3023 220th Trail, Middle Amana, for a special evening with Homestead author Melinda Wichmann. Melinda will talk about her experience writing and publishing her first novel, How to Live with a Ghost, a mystery/romance that follows a restoration-minded home buyer who moves into a historic landmark—only to discover it already has a permanent resident.

Wichmann spent a 35-year career in journalism as a reporter with The Pioneer-Republican, The Star-Press Union and The Hometown Current.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase during the event, and attendees are welcome to bring previously purchased copies for signing. Cash, check, or PayPal are accepted.

How to Live with a Ghost is published by Pearl City Press and is also available on Amazon.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 15. Please watch for updates on the Amana Community Library Facebook page. We hope to see you there!

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 now - 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

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

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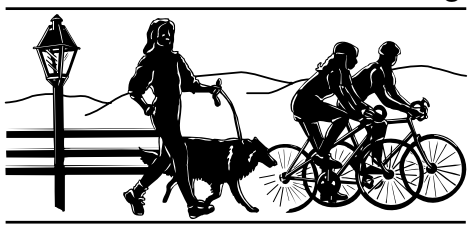

Amana Colonies Recreational Trail

Trail Etiquette

- Motorized vehicles (including snowmobiles and ATVs) are prohibited from using the trail.
- Please wear a bike helmet.
- Go with the flow! Stay to the right.
- Allow faster moving bikers & walkers to pass on your left.
- Signal turns and stops, and announce yourself when passing someone on the trail.
- When stopping on the trail, step aside so others can pass you safely.
- Please clean up after pets if necessary and please keep pets on leashes.

PLEASE RESPECT PROPERTY OWNERS' LAND - DO NOT LITTER OR DISTURB LIVESTOCK OR WILDLIFE.

Kolonieweg use is monitored by volunteers and the local law enforcement officials.

Amana Community Library

Stuff the Stocking Fundraiser

The Amana Community Library is proud to offer our patrons a wide range of services — from quality reading materials and computer access to educational programs and community events. Your generous donations help us maintain and grow these services.

This year, we hope to expand our programs, events, and summer reading opportunities. Your support makes a real difference! With your donations, we're able to maintain our services and expand programs that benefit the entire community.

Thank you For Your Continued Support of the Amana Community Library!

Library Hours:

Monday: 9am-3pm
Tuesday: 9am-6pm
Wednesday: 9am-Noon
Thursday: 9am-6pm
Friday: 9am-6pm
Saturday: 9am-Noon

***Contact Information**: Rhonda Hegewald – Library Director*

amanalibrary@ccaschools.org
319-622-3192
website:
https://amana.ccaschools.org/parents-and-students/amana-community-library
Like & Follow us on Facebook: Amana Community Library
You may also use this link or scan the QR code to donate online.
https://ia-clearcreekamana-lite.intouchreceipting.com/Stuffthestocking

Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and use the enclosed envelope to return your donation.

Happy Holidays!

Sponsored by: CLEAR CREEK AMANA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount for your tax-deductible contribution: _____

Please make checks payable to: Amana Community Library and return in the enclosed envelope.

Our Address: Amana Community Library, 3023 220th Trail, Amana, IA 52203