

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Combined Building Rededication Service will be in the Amana Church Sunday, March 23, 2025 starting 10:00 A.M. with Sw. Elly Hoehnle presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Of God's Great Love I Sing Today" No. 56 vs 1-6

Testimony: Christian Metz, Amana, april 23, 1856

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 11-14
Psalm 122 (Elder will read)

Closing Hymn: "Of God's Great Love I Sing Today" No. 56 vs 7-11

Song Sheets will be available.

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.

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

PINE RIDGE TRIP

The final reservation for Pine Ridge will be made on April 1st and we need to know if you want to go!!! If you would like to join us at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to volunteer with Re-Member August 2-8, 2025 we need to hear from you by April 1. The cost for adults will be \$800, this includes the Re-Member fee and transportation. Please provide the Amana Church administrator with your name, email address and a check for \$400 to reserve your spot. The second payment of \$400 will be due on July 1, 2025.

BULLETIN DEADLINE CHANGE

The March 27th Bulletin deadline (next week) will be Tuesday at 4:30 PM (16:30).

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

The month of March can be eliminated from the calendar! My sister and I used to look forward to it because three quarters of our family had birthdays that month, but times have changed, and I am no longer waiting for dandelion salad and Easter eggs. Do not even get me started on daylight savings time.

If you give me a good reason for this month, let me know. It is getting as if every single month has some sort of holiday to celebrate. I do like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter but, honestly, to have a "President's Day" or a "Dairy Month" is taking it a little far. Even St. Patrick's Day is a little ridiculous – what about all the other saints – including the legendary St. Barbara?

Look, I like celebrations as much as the next person, but looking for holiday cards and gifts almost every month gets old.

So what does March have to offer? MUD – which equals house cleaning. Why can't we just combine this month with the others, so I'll stop complaining and maybe appreciate things more? Then again, I am a curmudgeon.

BSH

FEATHERS IN THE WIND

Last week was my birthday. I am at that point in my life when I no longer am awaiting a large gift and balloons, but there is one item that I do look forward to – cake.

It began with my mother who baked lots of cakes and, in return, always received two cakes on her birthday that I especially enjoyed. One was a chocolate orange cake from Tante K. Moershel and the other was a pineapple upside down cake from Lina Clemens.

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AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Arrest at Railroad Maintenance Facility

Iowa County Deputies and Williamsburg City Police responded to a call Tuesday, March 18 at 4:30 a.m. at the Iowa Interstate Railroad Maintenance Facility between South Amana and Homestead on Highway 6.

According to a March 18 press release from the Iowa County Sheriff's office, railroad employees reported a male subject inside a locomotive parked inside the service facility.

The responding officers were able to take into custody a person identified as Justen M. Linker age 35 of Clinton, Iowa. He has been charged with burglary, theft, criminal mischief and interference with official acts and was being held, as of Wednesday, in the Iowa County Jail awaiting an initial court appearance.

Arts Guild Hires New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Amana Arts Guild is pleased to announce that Emma Walker has been hired as the new executive director of the guild.

Walker of Amana replaces Rachel Farrier who left to pursue an advanced degree.

According to the Amana Arts Guild, Walker is a working artist specializing in photography. Her priority is to ensure a smooth transition and a continuation of all the AAG's popular programs and workshops.

Minnesota Bison Association Visit This Weekend

About 100 members of the Minnesota Bison Association will be visiting the Amana Colonies this weekend, staying at Hotel Millwright.

This is a group of farmers and ranchers who raise bison and promote bison. They are having their 32nd annual spring conference here in Amana at Hotel Millwright. They plan a fun and interactive weekend for their members to share resources, best practices and learn more about raising bison as they work together to market bison effectively. You can check out their website at mnbison.org.

Over the River Generating A Lot of Buzz

Having an ear to the ground, many are hearing a lot of fun buzz around the new TKM show, "Over the River and Through the Woods."

This hilarious comedy by Joe DiPietro will be at the Amana Performing Arts Center next weekend, March 28 - 30. Tickets on sale now at tkmtheatricalproductions.com or by phoning 319-899-3799. Tickets are \$25.

An all star cast of super strong comedians is cast: Meg Merckens, Adam Burnham, David Morton, Tom Milligan, Marty Norton and Claire Boston directed by Cheryl Moon Thomason.

Here's the plot in a nutshell: One close-knit, Italian American, Jersey family has dinner together EVERY Sunday, but when the beloved grandson throws a monkey wrench into the tradition, the elders go a little nuts.

Amana Communal Life Continued: School Days

Perhaps the best description of the schools in communal Amana was given by Bertha Shambaugh in her book, "Amana That Was and Amana That Is."

The first volume, "Amana That Was" was published in 1908. In 1932, as events in Amana were unfolding to dismantle the communal way of life, Shambaugh was here and wrote a second book she called "Amana That Is." These were published together in one volume in December of 1932. This book has been kept in print by Penfield Press and can be purchased at the Amana Heritage Museum bookstore and the High Amana Store. It is packed with facts and is a must-read for anyone interested in Amana's story. She wrote a 24-page description of schooling in communal Amana that is a fascinating read.

As she notes, the belief that all children should be led to love the Lord and live a godly life is part of the Inspirationist ethos. In 1717 Johann Adam Gruber wrote a book of verse and prayers clearly setting forth these views called, "Kinder-Stimme" (Childrens Voices). This book was taught in Amana through the 1930s and prayers from this little book

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Rosemarie Geiger will celebrate a milestone birthday on March 23!!!

Help make her day special by sending a greeting to:

Rosemarie Geiger
c/o Colonial Manor of Amana
3207 220th Trail, Amana, IA 52203

lswoods@amanas.net."/>

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When those ladies went to their reward I figured that my days of sneaking a sample of those wonderful cakes were over.

Wrong! I was blessed to have Lina's daughter, Gaycia, begin a tradition of her own where she invited her aunts, and even me, to a party on her birthday. Everyone had to bring a cake which was then sliced and divided among the guests.

Naturally, everyone had a "special" cake that we looked forward to and would take an extra slice home from for our families. Even a few years after this tradition ceased because the aunts were passing away.

A few years ago I told Wilma and Robin Rettig all about how I longed for that cake once a year. Those two angels took pity on me and have shown up, this year, with THE CAKE.

The only trouble is that they have a parade of people behind them, complete with forks and plates ready to eat the cake. The Rettigs were not even out the door before the cake had been sliced.

Looking around at my family, you would never think that they were starving for cake, but there they were, in the parade of knives and forks awaiting the first delicious slice.

B.S.H.

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

Are you in need of receiving free
 produce this growing season?
 Call or text Erin @ 319-270-0794

PET ETIQUETTE

There has been a marked increase of reports of dogs (not coyotes) running wild through town. Please respect your fellow residents and do your due diligence by maintaining control of your four legged family members.

Please also note that the Iowa County Sheriff acts as animal control in the Amana villages.

Also, please remember to be a good neighbor cleaning up after your dog(s) if you take them for a walk, on a leash.

Thank You

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OBITUARY

Jennifer L. "Jenny" Jeck, age 45, of Walford, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Jennifer Lynda Jeck was born February 9, 1980, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the daughter of David and Diane Bierman Jeck. She graduated from Prairie High School, then attended University Nevada Las Vegas for hotel management. Jenny loved going to movies, Star Wars, Harry Potter and The Nightmare Before Christmas were some of her favorites. She enjoyed reading, crocheting, gardening and her flowers. Jenny especially loved spending time with her mom, Diane. Together they went to garage sales, walking nature trails, craft shows and canning her garden produce together. They participated in many breast cancer walks. She loved her cats Chubby and Page and her dog Scampy. Jenny was a very social person and will be missed by all who loved her.

Jenny is survived by her mother, Diane Jeck; brothers, Jeremy Jeck and Jason (Karen) Jeck; two nieces, Elizabeth Coghlan and Isabella Jeck; three aunts, Julie Jeck, Linda Zapata, and Elaine (Bob) Sample; and several cousins and many friends.

She is preceded in death by her father David; sister, Megan Jeck in infancy; paternal grandparents, Howard "Buddy" Jeck and maternal grandparents Kenneth and Harriet Bierman.

A private memorial service will be held at Kloster Funeral Home, Marengo with Emilie Hoppe and Elly Hoehnle officiating. Burial will be at High Amana Cemetery. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held at a later date. A memorial fund has been established. Kloster Funeral Home, Marengo is caring for Jenny and her family. Online condolences: www.klosterfuneralhome.com

SERVICES

Mowing, Aerating, Thatching, Spring Yard Clean-up, Garden Tilling, and Stump Grinding. Call Rob Jeck at 319-521-4018

FOR RENT

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

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

For Rent; The Homestead Welfare Club

4215 V St Homestead offers an exceptional 1100 square foot setting in our historic 1860 home for family reunions, social gatherings, or business meetings. It includes a mini kitchen, tables and chairs for 80+ persons plus a 1/2 acre private, beautifully shaded back yard perfect for outdoor activities. It includes picnic tables and small shelter. The cost is \$75 per day. An additional 500 square foot full-service kitchen is available for an additional \$25.
Call 319-622-3620 for details & scheduling

**AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)
 Tentative Agenda of the Meeting Historic
 Preservation Commission (HPC) Monday, March
 24th, 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 February regular 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. 2025-005 Amana Colonies Historical Sites Foundation / 17 220th Trail South Amana /HP-C / Demo permit to tear down the barn located behind (west) the Upper South Hotel.
- VI. Other Business
 - Lighting Ordinance
 - Provide wordage for trailer ordinance
 - Preserve Iowa Summit
- VII. Administrator's Report (if applicable)
- VIII. Adjourn

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were taught in Amana Sunday Schools through the 1950s.

When settling in Iowa, school teachers were sent from Eben-ezer to set up schools immediately. Samuel Scheuner, the first man buried in West Amana, was its first school teacher though he also helped build the first houses and barns, working long hours the first three years here.

All teachers were appointed by the *Grosser-bruderrat* and it was considered a very important job. Often teachers were church Elders or became Elders. In Amana as they needed more teachers, talented boys were asked to start high school correspondence courses under the tutelage of the school teachers, then they were sent to high schools in nearby towns and college as they progressed. Once licensed they were assigned a school. Schools were operated in each village and they often required two or three teachers each with the eldest teacher in charge.

Amana's communal school system was public and every colony school was governed by all rules and policies set by the State of Iowa. When Iowa began requiring that teachers be certified (sometime after 1870) Amana teachers took the certification tests. They taught reading, writing, mathematics, geometry, botany, basic zoology, history and geography. Music and drawing were taught if the teacher had the inclination. Amana teachers instructed their pupils in beekeeping, tree grafting, gardening and basic farm practices if they could fit it in.

World War I laws made speaking German in public illegal, so Amana schools became "English." Hence Amana employed a handful of female teachers from the "outside" to instruct children to read and write English. They lived in the villages and took their meals in a communal kitchen. After the war the practice continued. One such young lady teacher lived in High Amana and was a friend to all the girls in High. Lina Leichsenring and her cousins, Susanna "Sanja" Wendler and Emilie Wendler

had tea with her regularly. They grew to cherish her friendship and corresponded with her for years after she left the Colonies.

After World War I Amana classes continued in English, but pupils were taught German grammar, reading and writing as well. Kids between the ages of 5 and 10 were taught to knit and crochet. These lessons were given at "Strickshule" (knitting school) held at 2 or 3 p.m. or so and taught by several older ladies in the village.

School children attended school 5 and one-half days each week, year-round. They attended church same as their parents so Wednesday mid-morning they broke for a church service. There was no summer vacation and only a few days off for holy days. Good Friday and the Monday after Easter were days off, so was Christmas Day, December 26 and New Year's Day.

Kids went to school basically 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Yes, there was a "recess" for playtime each day and kids went home for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Kids attended school from age 5 to age 14. At 14 they were assigned a job in the community.

Kids ages 4 to 5 attended Kinderschule. One was located in each village where kids were looked after by several older ladies. This day care allowed for their moms to work at home, in the kitchens and gardens. Each Kinderschule had beds for napping, a play area, a sandbox, and little tables and chair for games and snacks.

In Iowa through about 1870 it was unusual for a girl to receive much of an education at all. Amana Schools bucked Iowa trends by sending girls to school through age 14. By 1932 of course, the fact that both girls and boys stopped their schooling at age 14 was a sore point for Amana people and was one of the reasons folks voted for the "Great Change." After 1932 ended communal living, both colony girls and boys went to high schools in Oxford, Marengo and Williamsburg and within months they were planning to build a new high school in Middle Amana for all Amana teens.