

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, February 15, 2026 starting 8:30 A.M. with Br. Peter Hoehnle presiding.

Opening Hymn: "Christe, mein Leben, mein Hofen" No. 106 Seite 99

Testimony: Johann Friedrich Rock, Bayreuth, October 22, 1723

Scripture: J Matthew 17:1-9; 2 Peter 1:16-21
Psalm 99

Closing Hymn: "Jesus ist der Engel Freud" vs 11-13 No. 911 Seite 899

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

Opening Hymn: "Christ, Thou My Life and My Hope" No. 20,

Closing Hymn: "Jesus Is the Angels' Joy" No. 119

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>

AMANA FIRE DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE

The monthly public meeting of the Amana Fire District will be held Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Middle Amana fire station.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Amana Community Library will host an ImpactLife Blood Drive on Thursday, February 26 from 1:30 to 6:00. The Drive will be held in the Amana Elementary Cafeteria, 3023 220th Trail, Middle Amana. Please help us qualify for a special grant with 20 successful donations.

Can't make it to our drive on the 26th? No worries! You can still support us by donating at any ImpactLife donor center and requesting that your donation be credited to the Amana Community Drive. This is especially helpful if we are short of qualifying for the grant—every donation truly makes a difference!

As a special THANK YOU, all donors will receive an eGift card! Potential donors must be at least 17, weigh more than 110 pounds, and possess a photo ID to donate. Please eat and hydrate before donating. Walk-ins are accepted. Appointments are preferred. Whole Blood and Double Red Cell will be available to donate. To sign up, please call the Amana Library 319-622-3192 or email amanalibrary@ccaschools.org to schedule a time.

HERITAGE SOCIETY FUNDRAISER DINNER

The Amana Heritage Society will host its annual Spring Fundraiser Dinner on Friday, March 13th, 2026 at the Ox Yoke Inn with doors opening at 5:30. This Spring Fundraiser Dinner raises much-needed funds to help support the Amana Heritage Society and its mission to share Amana's special heritage and culture.

Spring Fundraiser Dinner & Silent Auction Ox Yoke Inn in Amana

Doors open at 5:30pm Dinner at 7pm

Winners of the drawings and silent auction announced following dinner

Raffle Ticket (includes two dinners and one raffle entry) is \$125

Your generosity will make Amana's heritage shine!!

This year, we will offer the opportunity for members and donors to offer support prior to the event and during the event for specific projects for which the Amana Heritage Society seeks funding. These include several projects to enhance our collections, technology, and maintenance.

Businesses and individuals are invited to donate unique items for the silent auction. Please email amanaheritage@southslope.net or call 319-622-3567 to arrange for us to pick up your auction items or to purchase tickets. Raffle tickets may also be purchased through our website at www.amanaheritage.org.

Our motto is simple—Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Culture.

Thanks for your ongoing support! Let us know if you have any questions.

Jon M. Childers, Executive Director
Rebecca Dickman, Curator
Elise Heitmann, Program Director

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Meet Jason Brancel, ASI CEO

When I sat down with Jason Brancel in his office at the Amana Society Main Office, he had a stack of reading on his desk, including three books, "Amana Today" by Larry Rettig, "A Change and a Parting" by Barbara Selzer Yambura and "Amana that Was and Amana That Is" by Bertha Shambaugh. Plus of course ASI financial reports.

The books were suggested by an ASI shareholder. Brancel was glad to have the titles and has begun reading. Not that he has spent much time at all at his desk. He's been out in the ASI businesses, seeing what's going on, meeting and talking with ASI managers and staff.

"I take active ownership of my executive onboarding so I am going to learn all I can about this company and community. Everyone has been very welcoming and helpful . . . I want to be as proactive and engaged as I can in meeting people, asking a lot of questions, getting to know every facet, every area, learning about Amana and building relationships. Building relationships is the most important aspect of this for me," Brancel said. "That and learning and appreciating the culture."

Since coming on board as Amana Society CEO on January 12, Brancel has been going to each ASI business location and meeting with staff. Last week he and retiring CEO Greg Luerkens held a town hall meeting for ASI employees during which they discussed a variety of topics. When he described the town hall and his plan to meet as many shareholders and stakeholders as he can, he emphasizes the word, "listening."

"I'm listening to what people are telling me about how they see the Amana Society and our future. . . That's really how I'm going to be able to contribute best, I feel, by listening and then helping all stakeholders identify what's really important to Amana. Once we do that, we can then thoughtfully work together toward strategically securing a strong future for ASI. But all of that begins with listening."

He likes what he is hearing. "This is a strong community, a unique community and unique company, and I am truly honored to be joining ASI as CEO. . . The individuals in this company are wonderful. Hard working, talented, dedicated. Very impressive. I feel very fortunate to be here."

He and wife, Carmen, have two adult children living in Boston and Wisconsin. Moving to Iowa from Timnath, Colorado, the Brancels felt it was important that they live in the Amana Colonies or in the Clear Creek Amana School District. They were unable to find the right house for them in the Amanas this winter, but did find one in Tiffin.

Meeting people at the Monday night Legends dinners at Hotel Millwright has been one way to connect with Amana, but they are looking forward to making more connections and participating in community life. During Winterfest, for example, Carmen, ran the 5K. "I was the sidelines as moral support," Brancel said with a chuckle, "It was minus 6."

Having grown up in Wisconsin on the family farms, Brancel is used to the cold. His grandfather and uncle farmed, while his dad taught high school biology. Brancel's third great grandfather, Johannes Brenzel, immigrated to Wisconsin from Germany and Americanized his name to John Brancel. Jason's family lived on their farm near the Wisconsin Dells. Brancel attended Wisconsin Dells High School and as a student worked summers selling tickets to the "Tommy Bartlett Ski, Sky and Stage Show." He experienced firsthand how tourism impacts community.

"Tourism is certainly not new to me. I grew up close to a tourism hub and learned about the hospitality business at the service level," he said.

With farming in his background and a degree from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville in industrial technology, he sought a career in agri-business, achieving additional post grad work, including the Wharton Executive Education, CSO (chief strategy officer) program. He has worked as a chief financial officer, chief operating officer, chief credit officer, and consultant with Land O'Lakes.

News & Notes continues on page 2

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News & Notes from page 1

He was president and CEO of Agfinity, Inc. an ag supply and grain marketing cooperative based in Loveland, Colorado. He also served as President and CEO of Riceland Foods, Inc. a farmer-owned cooperative of rice producers, including thousands of family farms, and the largest marketer and miller of rice in the United States.

Evaluating priorities and then planning a strategy to achieve goals that support those priorities is his strong suit. "I look at everything I do in this way – how can I best contribute to identifying a strategy and making it work to achieve the goal."

Though he's been asked more than once since starting January 12 at Amana and certainly it came up during the multiple interviews he had with the ASI board prior to his hire, the question needs to be asked again, "How do you view Amana's Society's diverse portfolio? Do you find it daunting?"

Brancel's answer is perhaps the first time I've heard an ASI CEO say this. "I don't find it any different than the previous corporations for which I served as CEO. Each of them was very diverse and I think of it as a positive. An opportunity. As an example, Agfinity where I served as CEO was an agricultural cooperative located on the front range of the Colorado Rockies engaged in agriculture production, animal nutrition, grain marketing, the energy business, and operated retail businesses much like Amana."

In that region, farmers and ranchers irrigate high plains desert that only receives about 13 inches of precipitation annually. Sustainable farm practices are built into their business model. They have to be, Brancel's noted.

"This is farming today. You have to be mindful, thoughtful, sustainable. Land is a precious legacy."

As we talked, the light changed, the sun setting on what had been a blue sky, ice cold, Iowa afternoon. Outdoor pursuits, I found out, are a deep interest of the Brancel's. Jason grew up hunting and fishing in Wisconsin and mentioned time spent at the Aldo Leopold Preserve north of Madison. In Colorado family activities, time spent out of doors together, was valued. The Brancel's like to ride bikes and fish, especially fly fishing. Jason enjoys hunting. Naturally, we talked about Amana and the land.

"I understand that the land and conservation are important to Amana residents. That resonates with me. I have heard that message over and over again even in the short time I've been here . . . I can see why too. This is a unique place."

Getting up to walk me back to the front of the Main Office, we pause to admire a large, color photo framed and hung in his office, "Jamie Wolter took that of Price Creek. It's beautiful isn't it?" The trees, in full leaf, stand tall and green along the banks of the creek winding amidst the prospering farm fields. Clearly the picture speaks to Brancel who placed it directly opposite his desk so he'll face it as he works.

- Emilie Hoppe

VALENTINE'S PAINT NIGHT CANCELLED

Amana Arts Guild couples paint class has been cancelled for Valentine's Day due to low registrations. Please stay tuned in to our website as there are many more fun activities planned for the year ahead.

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 ½ 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

OBITUARY

Lillian Haldy Krauss, 95, passed away on February 6th, 2026. Funeral Services were on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at the Middle Amana Church, with Elder Elly Hoehnle officiating. Burial was in the Middle Amana Cemetery.

Lillian Marjorie Haldy Krauss was born August 6, 1930, in Middle Amana, Iowa, the daughter of Philip and Elizabeth (Schaedlich) Dickel. She graduated from Amana High School in 1948.

Lillian was united in marriage to Leonard Haldy on August 6, 1949, in Middle Amana. Together they had 3 children. Lillian was married to Marvin Krauss on May 18, 1991, in Amana.

Lillian worked at various part-time jobs over the years, but was primarily a homemaker, mother, and grandmother. Lillian was a charter member of the Amana Heritage Society, and was a member of the Amana Church. Lillian enjoyed traveling, dancing, bridge club, quilting, sewing, and reading. Lillian died Friday, February 6, 2026, at Colonial Manor in Amana at the age of 95 years.

She is survived by her children Lanny (Andrea) Haldy of Middle Amana, Lyle (Vickie) Haldy of Solon and Leah (Alan) Watkins of North English; step children Steve (Jane) Krauss of Amana and Ingrid (Digger) Schulte of East Amana; 15 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren; sister Doris Kozishek of Williamsburg; sister-in-law Julana Dickel of Middle Amana; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Leonard and Marvin, grandson Joshua Wiebold, brother Norman Dickel and brother-in-law Dave Kozishek.

A memorial fund has been established for the Amana Church, Amana Heritage Society and Colonial Manor of Amana. Powell Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Marengo is caring for Lillian and her family. Tributes may be left at www.powellfuneralhomes.com

The family would like to thank the staff and volunteers at Lakeview Village and Colonial Manor of Amana for the care they provided and the love they showed for Lillian.

FOR SALE

192 shares of new Amana Society Inc. Class A stock. Best offer over \$65/share for entire lot. Phone 608-574-5066.

FOR RENT

For Rent: large, one bedroom/one bath apartment in condo next to Amana Golf Course. Deck overlooking course. \$925/mo. Call 319-338-0025 for more information.

For Rent in Amana Large 2 bedroom, laundry (W&D) No Pets on 220 Trail across from Museum Call 319-331-9173

OBITUARY

Shirley Elaine Burns, 90, passed away on February 2nd, 2026, peacefully at Colonial Manor Nursing Home. A memorial service was held February 9th. A private interment is scheduled on a future date.

Shirley Burns was born on May 28, 1935, the daughter of Arnold and Cora (Weibold) Wardenburg. She was raised on a farm outside of Williamsburg, where she learned the value of hard work and family. In 1955, she married Ron Schumacher and later divorced. Shirley later was united in marriage to Clark Burns.

Throughout her life, Shirley dedicated herself to serving others. She worked for many years at the U. of I. Athletic Club, managed the Homestead Inn, and eventually retired from Mercy Hospital in Iowa City as a dietician. She cherished her time wintering in Texas. Above all, Shirley's greatest joy came from supporting her grandchildren in their activities and spending time surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Shirley is survived by her daughter Connie Pegump (John) of Walford; son Kevin Schumacher (Teresa) of Des Moines; daughter-in-law Shelly Schumacher of Amana; daughter Sue Gosnell (Dale) of Conroy; son Bob Burns (Sue) of Florida; 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren; sister Marge Campbell of Oxford; sister Janet Carrier of Bellevue; and sister-in-law Beverly Ashbrenner of Virginia. She was preceded in death by her husband Clark Burns; son Mark Schumacher; son Jeff Schumacher; sister Ruth Gosnell; brothers-in-law Howard Gosnell, Leland Campbell, and Don Carrier.

The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Essence of Life Hospice and Colonial Manor for the compassionate care and support they provided.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Connie Pegump, 325 B Ave W, Walford, Iowa 52351.

AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP Church Services

SUNDAYS 9:00 AM

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING --- PROPOSED BUDGET

Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 AMANA SANITARY SEWER

The Board of Trustees of the AMANA SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed fiscal year Meeting Date: 2/25/2026 Meeting Time: 06:00PM Meeting Location: Amana Sanitary District Lift Station At the public hearing, any resident or tax payer may present their objections to, or arguments in favor of any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the Clerk.

Contact Name: Jeremy Clayton Contact Telephone Number: (319) 430-2843

Fund	FYE 6-30-2025 Actual Expenditures	FYE 6-30-2026 Re-estimated Expenditures	FYE 6-30- 2027 Proposed Expenditures	Estimated Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2027	Estimated July 1, 2026 Beg. Balance & All Other Receipts	Estimated Amount to Be Raised By Taxation
1. General	60,158	187,951	297,950	36,878	316,566	18,262
2. Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. TOTAL	60,158	187,951	297,950	36,878	316,566	18,262

Proposed taxation rate per \$1,000 valuation \$ 0.54000