

## AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Early Service will be in the Middle Church Sunday, June 01, 2025 starting 8:30 A.M. with Br. Mike Shoup presiding.

Opening Hymn: "O heil'ger Geist, kehr' bei uns ein" No. 794 vs 1, 5-7 Seite 783

Testimony: Christian Metz, Engelthal, August 12, 1835

Scripture: James 3: 13 - 18

Psalm 84

Closing Hymn: "Geh aus, mein Herz, und suche Freud" No. 311 vs 1-3, 14 Seite 304

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

Opening Hymn: "Oh Holy Spirit, Enter In" No. 79

Closing Hymn: "Go Forth My Heart And Soul, Awake" No. 72

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 posted online may be found at: <https://amanachurch.com/category/podcast/>

## AMANA SOCIETY 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Amana Society Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Amana Society has awarded the 2025 Amana Society, Inc. Scholarships to Avery Phillips of Lenexa KS, and Sara Kinzenbaw of High Amana, IA. All applicants are to be commended for their hard work and wonderful academic records. Congratulations and best wishes to all graduating seniors!

Thank you.  
Amana Society, Inc.

## Amana Community Library June Hours

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

## PAIRINGS: AN EVENING OF WINE & APPETIZERS

On June 6, 2025 is the date that three award winning wineries will hold, "Pairings: An Evening of Wine & Appetizers."

This is the third year for this popular event that takes place from 6:00 - 9:00 pm with check in from 5:45 - 6:15 pm at Ackerman Winery. Participants will be directed to begin their journey to each of the wineries that are located across from each other.

Pairings is a ticketed event and is limited to 60 individuals. Contact [deb@ackermanwinery.com](mailto:deb@ackermanwinery.com) or call 319-622-3379 for tickets. For more information including the menu for the evening go to [www.ackermanwinery.com/events/pairings-an-evening-of-wine-and-appetizers-2/](http://www.ackermanwinery.com/events/pairings-an-evening-of-wine-and-appetizers-2/)

## THE AMANA HERITAGE SOCIETY COMMUNAL DINNERS!

The Amana Heritage Society is excited to announce its schedule of authentic Communal Dining Experiences at the Communal Kitchen Museum in Middle Amana.

We are offering our regularly scheduled Communal Dining Experiences on June 6 & 20, July 11 & 25, August 15 & 29, September 19th, October 17th, and December 5th.

These themed dinners will highlight various aspects of communal Amana life. The December 5th communal dinner will be a traditional Christmas dinner with a special dessert.

All communal dining experiences take place at the Communal Kitchen Museum, 1003 26th Ave, Middle Amana, IA. Limited seating of 24. Advanced tickets required and can be purchased at [www.amanaheritage.org](http://www.amanaheritage.org). The price is only \$35 per person with no tax or gratuity required. Proceeds benefit the Amana Heritage Society's efforts to share Amana's rich 300-year heritage.

For more information about communal dinners please email [heritageprograms@southslope.net](mailto:heritageprograms@southslope.net) visit <https://amanaheritage.org/store/> or call 319-622-3567.

## AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

### What's Going On with Our Cemeteries?

Memorial Day services in the seven, village cemeteries in the Colonies ranged from well attended to attracting only a handful of participants. In total about 100 people attended services amidst the gravestones and the tall pine trees.

There are 3,426 gravesites in the village cemeteries according to the Amana Heritage Society's cemetery database (Amana Family Tree project).

Amana cemeteries are private, not municipal or county owned. They are owned and maintained by the Amana Church Society which budgets just under \$14,000 each year for cemetery maintenance, Peter Hoehnle, Amana Church administrator told us.

This includes mowing (the largest expense), snow removal for winter funeral services, tree and stump removal, new trees and renovations (replacement of stones, fencing etc) Church members and non-members pay a set fee for a burial plot upon burial, however, the fees collected do not cover the cemetery maintenance expenses. So the church and church members pay for the rest, reported Hoehnle. Some generous contributions have established a cemetery maintenance fund.

Efforts are being made to curb expenses. Less area is being mown now compared to previous years. Volunteers complete most tasks at the cemeteries, but some jobs require professional equipment and some are simply too big for volunteers to undertake.

The white pine trees, some of which are 150 to 169 years old, are looking their age. Some are dying or damaged. Since 1997 when the monumental straight-line windstorm took down so many trees, particularly in East Amana, South Amana, Middle Amana and Homestead, trees have been replanted each year. In 2020 and again in 2023 high winds took a rough toll. However, now a comprehensive, community-wide plan is being undertaken to replant, Hoehnle explained.

The Amana Church's Building and Grounds Committee has assessed the current state of the cemeteries. A plan, with input from Amana Society Forester Tim Krauss, has been developed and approved by the Board of Trustees, for removing all damaged trees and planting new trees. Here are the highlights:

- Stumps from all cemeteries will be professionally ground out and removed over the next 12 to 18 months.
- About 10 to 15 trees that are severely damaged have been noted and will be professionally removed in the next 12 to 18 months.
- New spruce trees, 6 or so feet in height, will be purchased and planted in designated spots. This will start and continue over the course of several years. They will be planted at least 10 feet apart or 10 feet from another tree.

Now and in future, only spruce trees, not white pine, will be planted in all cemeteries as advised by Krauss.

White pines, the more recent plantings, a more brittle tree that seems to become more so as it ages, do not seem to hold up well under current climate conditions. Hotter weather, less rain, bigger windstorms require a tree that can take it, Krauss told church volunteers.

Also to avoid the impact of a tree blight, more than one kind of spruce will be planted – though the spruce will be selected so that they look alike to maintain the uniform look of the cemeteries. Blue spruce will not be used as they have a blue cast of color and distinctive shape.

"We are all aware of the visual impact of our cemeteries and really want to maintain that," said Hoehnle. Therefore a coordinated, organized, effort to replant trees must be done rather than more haphazard, individual tree, or one village at a time, efforts.

Betsy Momany, Amana Church Buildings and Ground, explained, "We are no longer using white pines as our primary tree species. We will be using a variety of spruce as these are native and much

**News & Notes continues on page 2**



*Local Legends*  
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## AMANA AREA FELLOWSHIP Church Services

SUNDAYS 9:00 AM  
All Are Welcome  
Amana Performing Arts Center  
[www.amanaareafellowship.org](http://www.amanaareafellowship.org)

### HELP WANTED

Ronneburg Restaurant seeks Full & Part time servers. Stop in at 4408 220th Trail, Amana for an application or give us a call 319-622-3641!

Millstream Brau Haus, Help Wanted: Bussers and Dishwashers, flexible summer hours. Stop by and pick up an application.



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more resistant to breakage. In thinking about the future of our cemeteries we would like to minimize the clean up and maintenance that is required. We will be purchasing potted trees at 6-8 feet in height. They will be planted at least 10 feet apart. With this plan not every tree that is removed will be replaced.”

The need to protect these trees from deer and to water them will be a huge task. Fencing to protect young trees will be used. Volunteers who have the time and patience to water will be needed, Momany noted.

“We really need help with this and we appreciate how much everyone loves the cemeteries and wants to help,” she told Elders last week.

Noting that some people have bought their own trees, or even planted trees recently, and while this is nice, it is not a help at this time as the committee is seeking to buy larger spruce trees, plant them according to the adopted plan so that they look uniform. Plus the church will be using a high quality, nursery grown tree and wants to buy them in uniform sizes.

“We are very grateful to everyone who has bought trees, but the best way to help would be to donate to the church tree fund,” Momany said.

You can help by donating money to buy nursery trees. A cemetery tree fund has been established at the Amana Church, PO Box 103, Middle Amana, IA 52307.

Watering these trees will be a huge and ongoing task. If you have time, a love for trees and and want to learn how to water or know how to water and can help, please contact the church office.

Another ongoing task is the clean-up of grave-stones. “The stones have really gotten a moss or lichen layer on them in some of the shady areas,” said one local.

Everyone can help with this. On the Amana Church website there is an easy-to-follow video tutorial that takes only 5 minutes to watch that shows exactly how to clean them using a spray bottle, a bucket or garden watering can with clean water and a stiff scrub brush. Mixing up a spray bottle of equal parts water and vinegar with a big squirt of dishwashing detergent. Spray this on the moss and/ or lichen covered gravestone. Spray the entire surface of the stone well. Leave it on for a bit, then scrub with a scrub brush. You don’t have to brush too hard. Rinse with clear water and repeat.

Go to amanachurch.com to the tab and click “How to Clean and / or Straighten Headstones!”

Please do not paint the stones as the paint will peel off in a year or two. Please do not use acid washes on the stone as this might damage the stones.

“If everyone did a few stones each year it would really make a big difference,” said one Middle Amana resident.

Tipping stones, due to age and shifting soils,

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Amana Church

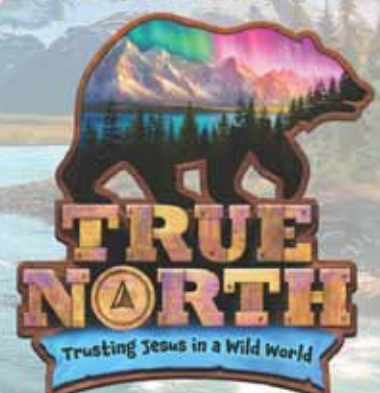
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SCAN ME!



June 23rd- 27th, 9:00am - 11:30am

Open for 3 year olds - 5th Grade

are another concern. There is a tutorial on how to straighten stones on the Amanachurch.com web-site. That’s a job for stronger backs and takes a little time, and a shovel, along with a willing heart. Watch the video for tips and technique.

“It takes a lot of work, we know. Yes, it really takes a village to keep these cemeteries up,” one resident of West Amana said while placing flags on veteran graves last week.

ITAC is Back with a Musical You Won’t to Miss

“Wild Rosie’s Rip-Roarin’ Radio Round Up,” will be galloping into the Amana Performing Arts Center, Friday – Saturday, June 6 and 7.

Set in the fictitious radio station, WWOW, with Wild Rosie broadcasting from a town “not far away and in a time not quite like our own,” the show with-in a show will feature real people sharing their own stories through word and music.

Email: itac@southslope.net for tickets or buy your tickets at the door. Showtimes: Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m.

Directed by Tom P Johnson featuring Meg Merckens as Rosie, the show will feature good old Paul the banjo playing farm boy who comes to town and shares his story through his songs. Paul is none other than Paul Roberts, an Iowa legend on the banjo from Sharon Center. Roberts began playing banjo over forty years ago and performs regularly with numerous bluegrass groups in the area. Joining Roberts on stage will be Marc Janssen of Solon on the fiddle and mandolin, and Mark Wilson (Hills) on lead guitar.

Everyone is looking forward to this good time at the APAC with old friends from ITAC.

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RAVENWOLF PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

Sina Theil Tuesday, June 10th, 7-10pm.

Sina Theil is a German born, Irish based multi-instrumentalist, award winning artist, singer-songwriter, winner of several Irish music awards and “Rising Star of the Year 2022” awarded by the late Maryann McTeague Keifer at the American Celtic Listener Supported Music Awards. She started playing piano and composing her first songs at age 7.

Chastity Brown Saturday, June 14th, 7-10pm.

Gospel and blues, melodic sensibility, and honest emotion... Chastity Brown grew up surrounded by country and soul music. In the full gospel church of her childhood, she played saxophone and drums and found her singing voice and a passion for music. She’s been featured on NPR’s “Favorite Sessions,” CMT, American Songwriter, the London Times, Paste Magazine and others. Chastity has toured the U.S. and abroad, appearing on the U.K.’s Later...with Jools Holland.

Ravenwolf is located at 2283 240th St Williamsburg. Please bring your own seat. Info and upcoming events at: [www.ravenwolf productions](http://www.ravenwolf productions)

AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)

Notice of Public Hearing, June 2, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail Amana & via ZOOM link

1. Call Public Hearing to Order

2. Set Agenda

3. Open Discussion Regarding Agenda Items – Purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input from the General Public regarding the following:

A) Approve trailer ordinance.

B) 2025-019 Jeff Davis /3142 Hwy 6 Trail Homestead/HP-C/ Rezoning permit: Rezone property from commercial to residential contingent on sale of property. Currently zoned commercial as AJ’s Copper.

4. Adjourn Public Hearing

AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)

Tentative Agenda of the Meeting Historic Preservation Commission Monday, June 2nd, 2025 6:30 p.m. at ACLUD office 4304 220th Trail Amana & via Zoom

I. Call HPC Meeting to Order

II. Set Agenda

III. Review/Approve the April 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. 2025-022 Daniel Goldberry /1125 26th Ave. Middle Amana/ HP-C/ Replace 14 9ft 105” X 42” windows with new vinyl windows. Replace 2 55” X 42” windows on the north side with new vinyl windows. Replace a double set of doors 84 X 30 on South side with new wood doors. Replace the metal door 84 X 32 on the NE & NW side with a white wooden door. Touchup trim, fascia etc. with white paint. Install new outside light and electrical box to bring to code. Repair cement step on SE of building.

b. 2025-027 Karle Snyder /4702 220th Trail Amana/ 104006090/ HP-C/ Cap & restore chimney to original condition. Remove plywood porch skirting and install Cedar 1X6 & 1X2 in a pattern. Remove a section of fence to allow foot traffic in and out of grass area. Paint the current garage door white. Install 47-1/2” x 47-1/2” white vinyl sliding window on west side for outdoor service. Install an outdoor patio on the west side lawn with treated wood. Replace the cedar siding with cedar siding as needed.

c. 2025-028 Amana Colonies Visitors Bureau /800 448th Ave. Amana/ HP-C/ Install 50x50 playground in green space north of the Woolen Mill parking lot (parcel 104007013).

d. 2025-029 John Simpkins /1603 4th Ave. South Amana/ HP-R/ Repair damaged brick arch on front entry way. Replace the front door 36 x 79 and wood enclosure of front entrance as it was before the accident. Delivery truck drove through front entrance of home May 1st.

e. 2025-030 Michael & Kayleigh Myers /23 220th Trail South Amana/ HP-R/ Install white LP SmartSide on front far south side of home. Move door and new steps to N side of dock door and replace current door with 52 ½ X 34” vinyl window. Steps will be treated lumber with a 4X4 landing facing north.

VI. Other Business

- Lighting Ordinance

- Portable utility sheds

VII. Administrator’s Report (if applicable)

VIII. Adjourn



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