

AMANA CHURCH SOCIETY NEWS

The Combined Service - Children's Christmas Program - The Colors of Christmas in the Amana Church Sunday, December 21, 2025 starting 10:00 A.M. with Br. Michael Shoup presiding.

Please join us for this wonderful time of fellowship, all are welcome!

A short worship service will follow the program; song sheets will be provided. Christmas cookies after the service!

Opening Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 18 - 23

Isaiah 9: 1 - 7

Closing Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

The Christmas Eve Service will be in Middle Church, Wednesday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.

The Christmas Service will be in the Amana Church, Thursday December 25 at 10:00 A.M. with Sw Emilie Hoppe presiding

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/>

HERITAGE SOCIETY HOSTS BOOK SIGNING

The Amana Heritage Society is pleased to welcome local historian R.C. Eichacker for a rescheduled book signing only on Saturday, December 20, 2025, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Amana Heritage Museum (705-44th Ave. Amana). Eichacker's new book, "Marriage by Committee", explores the fascinating traditions and communal practices surrounding marriage during Amana's communal era.

AMANA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Holiday Hours

Monday, Dec 22 & Tuesday, Dec 23 - 9am-Noon

Wed., Dec 24 & Thurs., Dec 25 - CLOSED

Friday, Dec 26 & Saturday, Dec 27 - 9am-Noon

Monday, Dec 29 & Tuesday, Dec 30 - 9am-Noon

Wed., Dec 31 & Thurs., Jan 1 - CLOSED

Friday, Jan 2 & Saturday, Jan 3 - 9am-Noon

We wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

AMANA COLONIES LAND USE DISTRICT (ACLUD)

Tentative Agenda of the regular Meeting Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

**Monday, December 22, 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 Nov. 24 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. 2025-082 Kully Kinzenbaw /1401 G St. High Amana/ HP-R/ Replace rotten wooden front door and frame with new steel exterior door.

b. 2025-083 Brent & Katie Kimmich /2608 220th Trl. Middle Amana/ HP-R/ Replace 39 windows with replacement white vinyl windows. Remove covering on historic porch door and cover non-historic porch door with cedar siding. Replace gutters and downspouts with 1/2 round aluminum. Remove plaster off foundation and complete jointing/tuckpointing repairs with Amana mortar mix. Replace roof with Malarkey antique brown shingles.

VI. Other Business

-Paul Bruhn Update

-Reschedule January's regular meeting to 1/19.

VII. Administrator's Report (if applicable)

VIII. Adjourn

BULLETIN HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

For Christmas and New Year's Holidays the Dec. 25 & Jan. 01, ASI Bulletins will have **deadlines of Monday 6:00 PM**

Dec. 22 & 29 and be available on

Tuesday mornings (Dec. 23 & 30)

email: amanaprintshop@southslope.net

Bulletin online at: amanacoloniestoday.com

AMANA NEWS AND NOTES

Greg Luerkens to Retire from ASI in January 2026

From his first day at the Amana Society which as fate would have it, was August 1, 2018, the very same day the ground-breaking ceremony was held to begin the restoration of the Amana Woolen Mill site for Hotel Millwright, Greg Luerkens' time in the Amanas has been busy, challenging and yes, inspiring.

Officially his last day will be January 23, 2026. A retirement celebration honoring Greg will be held on Tuesday, January 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Carding Studio at Hotel Millwright in Amana. Everyone is invited, Stuart Geiger ASI board chair, said Monday.

As Greg told us, "The seven-plus years have gone extremely fast because with as many businesses under the Amana Society, Inc. umbrella there's never a lack of things to do and the Amana Society has allowed me to use all the skills I've learned throughout my career."

When asked what challenges he has been most proud of tackling, he told us, "I feel strongly that we're a stronger overall company than we were in 2018. There are several things I'm proud of. We've worked hard on improving company culture, and we've done a lot for employees through developing focus on 'one Amana Society' versus individual businesses." One part of this is the institution of an ASI leadership development program for front line managers.

Greg is very proud of having worked alongside the dedicated, hardworking team at ASI.

"Without a doubt, I'll miss the people. Many companies say their people are their greatest asset. At Amana Society, Inc. it's evident not only in people's commitment to their job and the company, but in the volunteerism of Amana Society employees who support the community and the festivals. . . The best part of our organization is the people, and I've been very blessed to work with a great team.

"I have all the confidence in the world that my departure won't have an impact on the successes of any ASI entity as each has a great leader/ general manager in place," he said.

A highly notable challenge and success: "We've remained profitable, while hitting record levels."

Adding, "We've reduced long term debt by 22 percent from its peak in 2020 (after the Hotel Millwright construction)," Greg told us.

"We've implemented several sustainable farming practices including cover crops and strip till planting."

"We've made dramatic improvements to many of our properties and buildings addressing deferred maintenance that's been put off for years. We've recently added an employee to focus on historic barn renovation."

Greg said, "We've made significant improvements at the Amana Colonies Golf Club that will keep it as one of the best facilities in Iowa for years to come. We built a maintenance shed, replaced the outdated irrigation system, built the new clubhouse and renovated the bunkers."

"We've brought in the right management company to get the Hotel Millwright on target. It remains a challenge, but Leisure Hotels and Resorts have a plan and proposal in front of the ASI Board."

His thoughts come back to the people of Amana. "I told the employees, and I'll tell shareholders, that it's been an honor to serve as CEO over the past 7- plus years and I look forward to the remaining weeks working with you."

Stuart Geiger, ASI Board of Directors chair, wrote, "From day one, what I noticed about Greg was that he always looked for the best in others. To that end, he strongly supported opportunities for ASI employees to grow professionally. When the pandemic hit, he deftly guided the company through uncharted territory. And in the last several years, I and the board have appreciated Greg's tenacity in continually pushing the hotel's management company to deliver better operating results. My prayer for Greg

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