

# *Congratulations To Our Confirmands*



Our three confirmation students this year are Makenna Reese, Ella Stensrud and Zade Swanson. They have successfully completed the two-year study of the catechism and a brief course in apologetics (defending the bible).

Most importantly they have confirmed their personal faith in Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord, that which began at their baptism. They have been reminded that confirmation is NOT graduation from church or Sunday school. Rather it is just one progressive

step toward their Christian maturity and comprehension and application of a Biblical worldview.



Thank you, parents, for sending your child to confirmation and worship. Also, the congregation for your support and Deb Stensrud for giving your time to teach them on Sunday mornings. May you three confirmands continue to grow in your love and knowledge of your savior, Jesus Christ.



# CONGRATULATION SENIORS

Congratulations to Jenna Dontje from Forest City High School and Carter Benson from home school.



After graduation **Carter** plans to continue investing in and growing his lawn care business, which he began in 2021, at age 13.

He's seeking the Lord's guidance for how he will spend the off season, whether that is obtaining higher education or working.



**Jenna** plans to attend Simpson College in Indianola, IA to major in Sports Administration and will also continue to play basketball.

We pray for God's guiding hand and blessing to follow you as you work out His plan for your future.



# Attention: Parents with Young Children

## Brave Books

Build Your Children's Character One Story at a Time

FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-12



### About BRAVE

BRAVE Books is a Christian publishing company that makes books for kids that reinforce biblically-based, foundational values

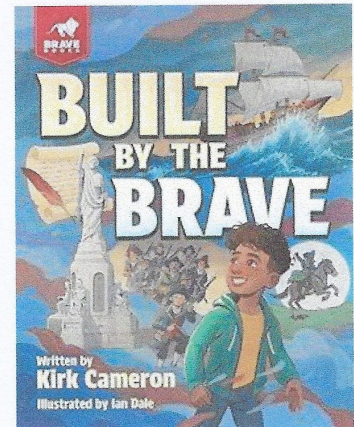
### BRAVE's Beginnings

Before founding BRAVE Books, Dr. Trent Talbot was a practicing ophthalmologist. He became a new dad when his daughter was born in 2020.

As he began to look for children's content for his daughter, he was shocked by the sheer amount of inappropriate entertainment on the market. He saw the need for a

brand that parents like him could trust with their children's imaginations. This idea led him to found BRAVE Books in 2021.

Since then, BRAVE has launched a successful children's book series, collaborated with authors like Kirk Cameron, Missy Robertson, and Kevin Sorbo, sparked the national See You at the Library movement, become a trusted resource for over 175,000 families, and is creating a wholesome new children's TV show starring Kirk Cameron.



### A Company for Families by Families

BRAVE is not just a company for families. We're a company of families. Head of Creative, a former teacher, edits BRAVE's stories with his own children in mind. That's how we create the kinds of stories that families to read together.

### A BRAVE Family Testimonial

"Our family signed up for the Freedom Island Book Club, after we started homeschooling our boys. I realized as a mother, my children weren't practicing the morals and values that we hold in our home anymore. spent so much time away from home, we lost the connection we all had together as a family, and for the Lord. When we signed up, my husband and I made it our mission to make Brave Books, our monthly family adventure. Every time a book comes in, we make our home a special area that we can relax and play in, or we go somewhere and read there. The kids enjoy dedicating an entire day to family time, learning from the Brave Books, and taking the time to grow closer to God as we pray and spend quality family time together."



Our  
five  
want

They

Hello Christian Brothers and Sisters,

I'm Jeff Edelen, the newly elected Hancock County Republican Chair. I took over for Bud Jermeland, he left huge footprints to follow. Before I was elected by our Central Committee, I explained that I cannot differentiate myself between my faith in God and my conservative Republican views.

Primary elections are often overlooked by many. Historically they are poorly attended. In 2024 just 8% of registered Iowa voters participated in the primaries. Normally when a Democrat is President, the House or Senate or both flip to Republican or vice versa. Right now, we have President Trump and control the majority in the House and Senate. The Democrats have plans to change that. They are unified, on fire, and aggressive. Every two years when we have a primary election we say, "This is an important time." Two years later, "This primary is really important" and so on. This primary is Critical! If we lose the House and Senate majority the Democrats have one plan, to impeach Trump and put an end to all we have accomplished up to now and stop future progress. They most certainly will stop political views printed in our monthly newsletter, The Brief. Of course, they will not allow someone like me to discuss political things in church.

It is critical we elect the correct people in the primaries who in November can defeat Democrat candidates especially here in Iowa for Governor. There are five Republican gubernatorial candidates. Statewide there are several open congressional seats and there are two running for State Auditor.

Primary voters will decide who will be on your November ballot and in some cases will decide who will be elected in November. I will not tell you who to vote for in the primaries. I will say that professional political people (not me) and an article in the Iowa Standard say that a vote for Republican Randy Feenstra in the primaries is a vote for Democrat Rob Sand in November. In other words, Feenstra can't beat SAND.

Matthew 7:26 reads: but everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on SAND. I borrowed this scripture reference from Brad Sherman, who is running for Governor. We held a straw poll at our County Convention in Britt. Brad Sherman was the overwhelming favorite. I have spoken to several County Chairs who also say Brad Sherman is polling high in their Counties.

Luke 12:48 reads: but the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; much more will be asked. Our glorious King Jesus Christ has given us an amazing Country. He has entrusted us with the ability to vote to keep it great. To whom much is given, much will be asked. I truly believe it isn't too much to ask that you vote on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Not only vote, but bring a vehicle that holds the most people, pick them up and take them to your nearest polling place.

I believe if we sit at home June 2<sup>nd</sup> we are NOT doing God's will. At the end of Service Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> Pastor Bob put up on the big screen the following statement. "Are you willing to be silenced? If not, what will YOU do?" Christians are quick to say, "Things are in God's hands." or, "We will pray on it." While those things are true, God also calls us to action, especially when it comes to our God given right to vote. What will you do June 2<sup>nd</sup>? Bring friends with you to vote in the June 2<sup>nd</sup> primary. We do have term limits; it is called elections.

Blessings, Jeff Edelen

Hancock County Republican Chair

### May Birthdays

1- Don Reese  
3- Karen Jorgensen  
4- Becky Pederson, Everly Tweeten  
12- Danny Lenz  
16- Sherry Flugum  
23- Joel Showalter  
26- Joslyn Dontje  
28- Denny Hagen  
31- Alicia Reese

# ELDERBRIDGE AGENCY ON AGING

## *Volunteer Opportunities*



Elderbridge Agency on Aging relies on volunteers to help us achieve our mission to advocate for and empower older adults, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities to pursue independent, healthy lives.

Some of our volunteer opportunities include but are not limited to: Home Delivered Meals (HDM) Delivery, Medical Transportation Driver, Facility Services/Groundskeeper, Errand Buddy, Food Bank Runner, Volunteer Chore Service, Volunteer Companion/Telephone Reassurance, Board Member, Advisory Council, Relocation Volunteer Services (Mover), Translator/Interpreter, Organizer/Declutter and Cleanup Volunteer, and Educational Technology Volunteer.

We would love to help you utilize your talents, while helping your community!

### **CONTACT LAURA ALLEN FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

1190 Briarstone Drive, Ste 3,  
Mason City, IA 50401

800-243-0678/641-847-4276

[lallen@elderbridge.org](mailto:lallen@elderbridge.org)  
<https://elderbridge.org/careers/#volunteer>



# May Sermons & Scriptures

---

## May 3, 2026 Confirmation Sunday

Morning Worship Service & Holy Communion

**Sermon: Jesus, the Way to the Father**

First Lesson: Acts 6: 1-9

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel Lesson: John 14: 1-14

Pianist: Marcia

## May 24, 2026 Pentecost

Morning Worship Service

**Sermon: Dry & Parched**

First Lesson: Numbers 11: 24-30

Epistle Lesson: Acts 2: 1-21

Gospel Lesson: John 7: 37-44

Pianist: Marcia

## May 10, 2026 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship Service

**Sermon: Not Orphans**

First Lesson: Acts 17: 16-31

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 3: 13-22

Gospel Lesson: John 14: 15-30

Pianist: Sheryl

## May 31, 2026 Holy Trinity Sunday

Morning Worship Service

**Sermon: Three in One: Does It Matter?**

First Lesson: Genesis 1: 1- 2: 4a

Epistle Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-36

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28: 16-20

Pianist: Sheryl

## May 17, 2026 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship Service

**Sermon: A Prayer of Transition**

First Lesson: Acts 1: 12-26

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5: 6-11

Gospel Lesson: John 17: 1-19

Pianist: Val



# May Volunteers \*

**3**

**10**

**17**

**24**

**31**

---

<i>Communion:</i>	<i>Don</i>				
<i>Reader:</i>	<i>Sarah</i>	<i>Joel</i>	<i>Bina</i>	<i>Connie</i>	<i>Tony</i>
<i>Greeters:</i>	<i>Bob/Lou</i>	<i>Pat/Denny</i>	<i>Craig/Marcia</i>	<i>Chad/Quincey</i>	<i>Nick/Bina</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Chad/Sherry</i> -----				
<i>Computer:</i>	<i>Dave</i>	<i>Donna</i>	<i>Rachel</i>	<i>Dave</i>	<i>Bobby</i>
<i>Sound:</i>	<i>Brandon</i>	<i>Matt</i>	<i>Greg</i>	<i>Devon</i>	<i>Steve</i>
<i>Acolyte:</i>	<i>Kinsley</i>	<i>Kazra</i>	<i>Graycie</i>	<i>Emmanuel</i>	<i>Amanda</i>
<i>Custodians:</i>	<i>Denny/Pat</i> ----- <i>Cary/Connie</i> -----				
<i>Pianist:</i>	<i>Marcia</i>	<i>Sheryl</i>	<i>Val</i>	<i>Marcia</i>	<i>Sheryl</i>

*\*If you find that you have been scheduled for a ministry time that you are unable to serve, please find a replacement and let Pastor know. Thank you!*

# May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> Greeters: Bob/Lou Reader: Sarah Acolyte: <u>Kinsley</u>	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Greeters: Pat/Denny Reader: Joel Acolyte: <u>Kazra</u>	11	12	13 Deacons- 5:45pm Council- 6:30pm	14	15	16
17 Greeters: Betty/Vickie Reader: <u>Bina</u> Acolyte: <u>Graycie</u>	18	19 Women's Bible Study- 2pm	20	21	22	23
24 Greeters: Chad/ <u>Quincey</u> Reader: Connie Acolyte: Emmanuel	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Greeters: Nick/ <u>Bina</u> Reader: Tony Acolyte: Amanda	1	2	3	4	5	6