THE TRUMPET
Missions Newsletter of the URCNA

June 2026

NORTHWEST IOWA

Rev. Elijah Anderson

Setbacks and Steps forward

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.
(2 Cor. 2:14-17, ESV)

I was ordained and installed as the Latino Missions Coordinator for Cornerstone URC, in Sanborn, Iowa, on April 12, 2024- a little over two years ago now. And a lot has happened since then; we have had both wonderful opportunities, and plans that didn't pan out:

1. We started live translation at the church, for both our Sunday morning services and for special events. For that, some weeks we have had several visitors, and some weeks we have had none.
2. We started Sunday Bible studies in Osceola County Jail, Sioux County Jail, Sibley, Hull, and my house, and continued the Sunday school that Arturo began. Some of these have had many people attend, and some of them have not been sustained.
3. I have done chaplaincy in eleven different locations, some of which have been more regular than others.
4. We have distributed thousands of Spanish-Language tracts (probably somewhere on the order of 10,000) across dozens of towns and businesses, as well as at major events.
5. We have hosted a Spanish VBS, as well as other Spanish events like preaching in the park.
6. And finally, since October 2024, we have had a weekly Spanish service held here at Cornerstone, at 2 PM.



Each of these ministry opportunities has received mixed results. There have been times where they have been very successful in bringing people to hear the gospel; and there have been times where they have not turned out quite as impactful as we have wanted them to. Most recent among these has been the Spanish service. A little over a year ago, we had good regular attendance; but things have changed. Whether because of the political situation, or because of a lack of interest, or for any number of other reasons, the past few months, we have had more and more sparse attendance at the Spanish service. For the present, therefore, we have started to change tack- though in the future we may return to a Spanish service, for the present we have put a pause on that, instead putting a greater focus on evangelism and building relationships with the Hispanic population. Please pray for us as we do this; in this direction there are many open doors! In particular, the chaplaincy work that I do, and the counseling, has given me many opportunities to share the gospel.

Your servant in Christ,
Elijah Anderson







Prayer Requests

- ***For a core group to re-form, that Cornerstone URC might have Spanish services again.***
- ***For the evangelistic efforts of Cornerstone URC to bear fruit.***
- ***For the relationships Rev. Anderson has with the Hispanic people to grow and deepen.***

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BELLEVUE, KENTUCKY

Rev. Brandon Burks



Christ Reformed Church of Northern Kentucky is a church plant

overseen by Ascension Reformed Church. Launched in 2024, Christ Reformed began her pilgrim journey in Florence, Kentucky, renting space from a WELS Lutheran church for Sunday evening worship. For the first year and a half, we lived out of tote bins, transporting our Trinity Psalter Hymnals and Lord's Supper supplies each week. The only piece of furniture we owned was a large rolling chalkboard.

By July 2025, however, all of that changed. A local PCA congregation in Bellevue, Kentucky —about twenty minutes northeast of Florence—had dwindled to fewer than half a dozen members. After many conversations, interviews, and meetings, our congregations voted to merge. The remainder of 2025 became a whirlwind season of growth, organization, and learning the contours of our new community.

By God's grace, we began 2025 with eighteen members and entered 2026 with fifty-one. This season of church planting has largely been one of laying foundations. Several committees have been formed to help establish the life and work of the congregation. With one elder, two deacons, and several other men in training, we are grateful to see the Lord bringing increasing stability to the church.





Owning our own building has been both a tremendous blessing and a significant responsibility. The congregation has worked diligently to care for the property—painting rooms, cleaning gutters, trimming hedges, and attending to the many tasks involved in faithful stewardship. Our next major project is installing new flooring to cover the asbestos tiling throughout the building. We also hope to construct four additional classrooms in an unfinished section of the property.

Over the course of the summer and into the fall, we have many opportunities and initiatives before us. Our outreach committee has identified several strategic ways for us to serve and engage our community. This fall, we also plan to launch a homeschool co-op, Pilgrim Academy, which has already connected us with several new families. In addition, we will be hosting biblical counseling training through the Institute of Reformed Biblical Counseling, equipping both our congregation and others in the area to minister God's Word more faithfully and effectively.

In July 2026, we will enter our second year of church planting. As a young church, our culture is still taking shape, leaders are still being identified and trained, and the rhythms of congregational life are continuing to develop. One particular encouragement has been the catechetical preaching through the Heidelberg Catechism, as many from non-Reformed backgrounds are being shaped not only in theology, but also in distinctly Reformed piety

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for our outreach endeavors, that God would be pleased to use them to save the lost.
2. Pray for our congregation to grow numerically and spiritually.
3. Pray for our organization efforts, for the committees, as well as the elders and deacons.
4. Pray the upcoming homeschool co-op that we are launching in August.
5. Pray that Christ would be honored and glorified in all that we do.