

Corpus Christi

The newly formed Corpus Christi will hold its first youth conference June 23-26 in Varberg. The program is already set, the locale, the church and lodging are booked, and brochures have been printed. The website is <http://www.corpuschristi.se/>

Corpus Christi was formed September 18. Its chairman Jakob Appell explains the name:

“Latin is an international language, and we want to show through this name that this is an international youth movement. By the name itself, Corpus Christi, which means Christ’s Body, we show three things that are important for us. The first is that it was nothing less than *Christ’s Body* that was nailed to the Cross for our salvation. The second is that it is

through the means of grace that the atonement becomes ours, and *Christ’s Body* and His Blood are offered to us in the Lord’s Supper. The third is that those who receive Christ by faith constitute *Christ’s Body*.

Inspiration from Higher Things

Corpus Christi has been inspired by Higher Things, which arranges similar youth conferences in the USA. Jakob Appell himself has attended these for the past three years, together with Swedish youths.

“What was powerfully clear there, and which connects to our desire to emphasize good, Bible-faithful instruction on an evangelical Lutheran basis, was that Higher Things stood on the foundation of the Word. But the high point was that we celebrated the divine service together. It became a powerful experience of God’s holiness and grace in Jesus Christ, mediated through the Church’s worship and liturgy. We believe that the outer form for such gatherings is significant. Therefore we also want to lift up the “culture” surrounding instruction and discipling, which leads young people into the life of the Church – prayer, meditation and worship.”

Corpus Christ is intended to be a youth movement built on the evangelical Lutheran foundation.

Jakob Appell hopes that youth will gain a new appreciation of worship life.

Foto: Gunnar Andersson



A youth movement built on an evangelical Lutheran foundation

This *per se* is not unique, but the format of the conference itself is special – and significant, according to Jakob Appell.

“We have discovered that when many youth go to camps they experience a culture there that is quite different. When they return to their home congregations, they find them boring, and they tire of worship life. We want the spirituality at the Corpus Christi conference to be in harmony with the worship services at home. We hope this will contribute to a new and increased appreciation of the divine service when they return home.”

Church and biblical renewal

Corpus Christi wants to work for a renewal that Jakob Appell maintains should be both ecclesial and biblical.

“We want to preserve what is found in the Church in all ages, and receive it as a gift, as an inheritance, in which atonement and salvation is mediated in the liturgy and through the Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We want to stand in fellowship with the Church in all the world and in all the ages, rather than say that everything old is trash. The focus is primarily on God’s work for us.

“When it comes to biblical renewal, we want to tie together preaching and teaching in which the classic principles Scripture alone, faith alone, grace alone and Christ alone are again brought to light.”

The theme for the conference is “For You,” with the focus on what God has done for people. The main speaker, Peter Bender, comes from the USA.

“It might seem strange to invite someone from America, but beyond the fact that he is a good friend and a clear-sighted theologian, he has

worked very successfully in an exciting manner to renew catechetical instruction in congregations.

“The classic pearl, Luther’s Small Catechism, is used in his congregation’s school in a new and pedagogical way so that the youth are led into the biblical Word and have the Scriptures opened to them.” There will also be speakers from Nordic lands, to emphasize the international character of the conference. For linguistic reasons, these speakers are only from Nordic countries, but the conference is accessible to English-speaking people, because much of the instruction will be given in English.

There will also be various seminars at the conference to provide opportunity for questions of interest to the youth, discussion in small group gatherings about what has been heard and experienced, and opportunities for free time activities.

“We also want participants to experience the joy of life in nature and fellowship with each other. Fellowship and fun need not be made a low priority! Varberg is a most delightful town.”

After the Higher Things gatherings, Jakob Appell notes that the youth had a greater joy in worship life back home. The classic canonical hours have also been rediscovered. He hopes that Corpus Christi can become an annual conference that can strengthen engagement in worship life and help it to grow more richly.

“What is important is that one acquires increased appreciation for what happens Sunday after Sunday, and understands that God serves me through these worship services.”

*Markus Olsson
(Translation: Christopher Barnekov)*