



Dear Parents,

We would like to introduce you to Christian Life Week 2018. If you weren't aware, Christian Life Week is a 5 day camp running from Monday to Friday during both the June/July school holidays as well as the September/October holidays. It is a camp for anyone in years 7 to 12 and is held at the Tandara Lutheran campsite in Halls Gap, located within the Grampians.

The aim of Christian Life Week is to provide an experience of Christian community within a safe environment with people of similar age. This is an environment where teenagers can be themselves, have fun, explore faith and life issues and discover what living a Christian life as a young person really means. Each year the camps are designed around a theme that changes from year-to-year. The theme is aimed to help facilitate discussions about issues very real to the campers in a safe Christian environment. Campers are placed into 'small groups' with other campers of a similar age, where leaders then guide them through a set of studies that have been written with close pastoral input, and with extensively researched material.

For CLW this year the theme will be 'The Quest'. Campers will be looking into how God empowers us to live a godly life and overcome life's challenges.

Our journey as children of God isn't simple, in fact God guarantees that there will be challenges! Over the week the campers will be looking into what causes these challenges. We will look into the 'Big Three: The Devil, The World and Our Sinful Self', what they are and how they affect us. As well as hearing from campers about what they feel are challenges they face in their own life.

God is the ultimate answer to how we work through our sin and the temptations that the world and the devil present us with. His relationship with us will be a key topic and will be discussed alongside the tools God has given us. Including how church, the sacraments and the Armor of God work to help us.

Finally we will look into how campers can take this further in their real life journey. Exploring how being a Christian looks different in the way we act, speak and make decisions. We will look back on what they voiced as issues in their own lives, and ask how what we have looked at this week could help them.

Throughout it all we will establish how the grace of God fits into our failings and see how He works in us. So no matter how many times we fall we can know we are saved and that God will continue to be with and in us on our Quest as Children of God, and that His forgiveness is everlasting.

Aside from small group study times, there are a variety of activities that are run during the week. These activities are designed to encourage participation within a team. This provides an opportunity for the campers to meet new people, and to participate with one another in fun, comfortable surroundings. Additionally, we provide quiet times during the day where campers have a chance to be still, and individually reflect on God's word. This promotes devotional discipline, both for time at camp and for

when they return home. We also have regular worship services in which we encourage campers to get involved. This may include reading, prayer, a dramatised skit or playing a musical instrument in a band.

A key focus of the camp is participating in a 'service activity' that allows the campers to help out in the surrounding community. In past years, campers have helped by planting new flora in some of the public places, weeding garden beds and even helping out with recreating / updating paths that had been affected by bushfires and floods. We also assist the Tandara management in cleaning up the campsite and helping out with odd jobs on site.

Following on from last year there is one camp running in each school holiday break. The numbers for both the camps held this year will also be capped due to the limited spaces, so early registration is encouraged. We would love to see your child at camp!

The dates are as follows,

- CLW Purple from the 2nd of July– 6th of July
- CLW Orange from the 1nd of October – 5th of October

You may notice that there is a slight increase in cost for camp again this year. We know this may present a challenge but we are working with the District to keep costs increases to a minimum.

If this might be a stretch for you, please don't hesitate to ask your local congregation whether they are in a position to help. Many congregations delight in assisting their youth in this way when they can.

For those who need more assistance than their congregations may be able to give, there is also support available from the District. Please have your pastor email Pastor Matt Thomas matthew.thomas@lca.org.au with a request for this funding if needed.

Every year, campers come away from CLW refreshed and ready to go back out into their lives equipped to face new challenges. Campers walk away being excited about the new friends they have made, more knowledgeable about the topics discussed, strengthened in their faith and have a deep longing to come back to camp in future years. Research and experience of many years shows the importance of peak experiences to a young person's continuing journey in their faith.

Further Information and registration forms can be found on the LYV website: lyv.org.au/clw. You can also head to the official 'LYV'S Christian Life Week' facebook page ([Facebook.com/lyv.christianlifeweek](https://www.facebook.com/lyv.christianlifeweek)) for further updates and info. Or alternatively you can email clw.publicity@lyv.org.au

Yours in Christ,

The 2018 CLW Team.