

December 2023

## LEA SERVICE AWARD

*Julian Helbig*

**For service to Lutheran education  
2000 – 2023**

The Lutheran Church of Australia thankfully acknowledges the faithful and committed service of Julian Helbig to Lutheran education for 23 years.

Julian commenced his professional journey by undertaking short-term contracts at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Angaston, in 2000, subsequent to the completion of his Bachelor of Education from the University of South Australia. Later that same year, he faced the formidable challenge of joining the teaching team at Immanuel Gawler, stepping into the void left by the tragic demise of their esteemed Year 7 teacher in a vehicle accident.

During these trying circumstances, Julian not only refined his pedagogical skills but also demonstrated a profound love for people, exhibiting exceptional empathy and support to a community in distress. Swiftly earning the favour of many students and their families, he became a cherished educator. Julian consistently placed the needs of the team above self, readily offering his services to fellow teachers.

In 2008, recognising Julian's capabilities, he was appointed to the role of Deputy Principal at Immanuel, addressing the requirements of a swiftly expanding learning community. Throughout this tenure, he garnered acclaim for fostering robust relationships with students and their families, particularly those requiring additional support.

Taking a leave of absence in 2015, Julian pursued full-time studies, culminating in the completion of a Master of Educational Leadership and Management from Flinders University and the University of Divinity, attaining accreditation as a Leader in Lutheran Schools.

Returning to Immanuel-Gawler in 2016, Julian resumed his responsibilities as Deputy Principal. Subsequently, in 2017, he was seconded to St Jakobi Lutheran School, Lyndoch, assuming the role of Acting Principal for four months. This pattern recurred in 2018 when he was once again seconded to St Jakobi, serving as Acting Principal from August to December.

Since 2019, Julian has continued to contribute significantly as the Principal of St Jakobi until his resignation at the close of 2023. Throughout his distinguished career in Lutheran Education, Julian exhibited a steadfast commitment to making challenging decisions based on the community's needs, with the well-being of children and staff consistently prioritised. His legacy at St Jakobi is one of enviable stature, characterised by state-of-the-art facilities and a tightly knit community across all levels.

Julian's faithful and conscientious service to his Lord and the Lutheran Church of Australia, through his service in Lutheran education, has been outstanding and is humbly recognised through this Award.

**Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt  
Executive Director  
Lutheran Education Australia**

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