

Semi WELCA Annual Report - 2025

The 33rd annual Katy York Honoring Women event was held on 3/29/25 at Holy Cross Lutheran church in Livonia where we honored 9 women from various churches in our synod. We collected “Purses with a Purpose” filled with toiletries for the Michigan State Police project to be able to distribute the purses to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. We also collected an additional \$181.00 to be able to purchase even more toiletries for the program. Thank you to all those who contributed to the project! In addition to the funds for the toiletries we also received donations \$114.00 toward our scholarship fund and \$40.00 for Katie’s Fund.

On June 21, 2025, our SEMI WELCA Biennial Convention was held at Zion Lutheran Church in Ferndale, MI. We elected the following officers and Board members:

President - Molly Eklund-Easley, Zion Lutheran, Ferndale, MI

Vice President - Pastor Janice Locke, St. John Lutheran, Dundee, MI

Secretary - Donna Karczewski, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Monroe, MI

Treasurer - Jean Medlen, Holy Cross Lutheran, Livonia, MI

Board Members:

Barbara Jetmore, Amazing Grace Lutheran, Warren, MI

Martha Smith, St. John Lutheran, Dundee, MI

Katie Chavanak, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Livonia, MI

Joan Onkka, Holy Cross, Livonia, MI

On Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, we were treated to a slide show of the Holy Land and the Sky Above by Pastor Janice Locke and Glenn Kaatz, MD. We also collected donations and non-perishable food items to supply to the Zion Lutheran Church food pantry in Ferndale in advance of Thanksgiving.

The 34th Annual Katy York Honoring Women event is being planned for Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren MI. Further details and registration forms can be found on our website at www.semiwelca.org. Looking forward to honoring all the women who are doing the wonderful work of living their theology and spreading the good news of salvation.

Following the WELCA tri-ennial churchwide convention in July of 2026 which is being held online this year the Gathering will be held in Des Moines, IA from July 16 - July 19, 2026. The theme for the Gathering is “I Am Worthy”. More details can be found at the churchwide WELCA site at www.womenoftheelca.org. The event is open to all women and provides a time for inspiration and to renew our commitment to Christ’s work in the world. Please be sure to visit womenoftheelca.org for daily devotions, various bible studies and workshops and podcasts and all other information regarding the WELCA churchwide staff and churchwide events.

Molly Eklund-Easley

President, Southeast Michigan Synod WELCA