

## LWML Invitation – Just a Cup of Coffee

*An Invitation to Explore the LWML through the Women in Mission University Materials*

### DEVOTION

#### *Just a Cup of Coffee? Or Tea?*

God has subtle ways of catching our attention and offering His peace that passes all understanding when we need His comfort the most.

When I returned home after my nephew's funeral, I began to open sympathy cards. I opened a card from one of our "church ladies" and out fell a tea bag. Along with the tea bag, she had written a poem with the simple advice to make a cup of tea, sit with God's Word, and drink in His words of comfort. I made a cup of tea with that tea bag and followed her instructions as I read God's Word. What a beautiful gift she gave me that day. It was as if I was having a cup of tea with Jesus.

Wouldn't it be great to really sit down and have a cup of coffee or tea with Jesus? Recently, I saw a cartoon that showed a woman having coffee with Jesus. She was clearly carrying some personal burdens, and all she could do was sigh. Jesus responded with, "I hear you."

God heard my sighs that day after my nephew's funeral. The church lady who sent me the tea bag was fulfilling her vocation as a friend. I didn't even know that I needed a friend that day, but God knew and supplied comfort through her for my weary and hurting soul. In the Lutheran understanding of vocation, we know that God works through the callings of believers and the gifts He provides to both believers and unbelievers. He no longer sends manna from heaven, but He supplies our daily bread through the callings of farmers, bakers, grocers, and countless others. And He can restore our souls through the simple vocation of a friend.

How can we pass on such an important lesson? Think of a woman in your circle of influence who might need some encouragement. Visiting area coffee shops has become quite popular, so why not invite her out for a cup of coffee (or tea)? As you chat over your coffee, tell her about yourself and your faith journey. Share God's comfort in your life during some of your life challenges. Ask her to tell you about herself. Don't be surprised when she starts to share her experiences and challenges. Listen. Empathize. Care. That's what friends do.

This cup of coffee may turn into a two-hour chat, but it will be precious time well spent. Offer to pray for her, and if you are feeling especially courageous, pray with her right there in the coffee shop. You will be fulfilling your vocation and God's calling for you to be a friend. And you won't be there alone. Jesus promises, "*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them*" (Matthew 18:20 ESV).

Just a cup of coffee or tea? Perhaps not!

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!

*Lutheran Worship #516, Lutheran Service Book #770*

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A devotion to accompany the PowerPoint presentation *LWML Invitation – Just a Cup of Coffee*

PING – Inspiration 2012

LWML HOPE Committee 2013

LWML Growth and Development Committee - 2018



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