



#59978

## THE INVITATION

*CHARACTERS: Marie, Lori and Kathy*

*PROPS: Large purse/bag, Mite Box, Bible, foam coffee cups, paper napkins (optional)*

*SCENE: Church hall/gathering room where coffee is being served between church services*

*(Kathy is standing by herself with cup of coffee; Lori approaches with cup in her hand)*

LORI: Good morning, Kathy. I'm glad to see that you and your family were able to come this morning.

KATHY: Good morning, Lori. Yes, this summer was a little hectic with the new house, the children starting a new school and all, but we finally got here.

LORI: How do your children like their new school?

KATHY: They're adjusting better than I thought. I can't believe that my oldest is in sixth grade already.

LORI: I know what you mean. I just have my youngest left at home, but this will be her last year before she goes off to college like her older brother. I'll really miss her when she leaves home, too. I don't know what I would do if I didn't have LWML. It's a great way to serve the Lord and it helps keep me busy. Say, why don't you join us? We'd love to have you come, and it would be a great way of getting to know us.

KATHY: Oh, no, not you, too?

LORI: Why, has someone else invited you to come?

KATHY: *(looks around the room and seeing Marie, points her out to Lori)* Yes, that woman over there.

LORI: Great! That's Marie. She's one of our most active members. Hey, Marie! Would you join us for a few minutes?

MARIE: *(comes over to Lori and Kathy)* Good morning, Lori and Kathy. What's up?

LORI: I just invited Kathy to join us at our LWML meetings and she said you had already talked with her.

MARIE: *(turning to Kathy)* Just last Sunday, wasn't it? Have you had a chance to think about it? I've been praying that you would.

KATHY: I don't even know what LWML is!

MARIE: LWML stands for Lutheran Women's Missionary League and it is the organization for the women in our church body. It was started in the 1940s by a group of women who wanted to do more for Christ than just serve church dinners. Now there are over 250,000 women involved.

LORI: You know, our human nature makes us think only of ourselves and our own needs. But God has forgiven us through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus, freeing us to serve others and support the missions of our church. And being active in Lutheran Women in Mission is a great way for us to do that.

KATHY: Did I hear you use the word missionary? Does that mean you want me to leave my family to go to Africa or something?

LORI: You could if you wanted to. LWML helps support missions and missionaries here at home and around the world, plus we do a whole lot more. Why just last year we were able to help a student and his family while he finished his studies at the seminary.

KATHY: How did you help support them? Did you send money?

MARIE: Sometimes we send money or grocery coupons. If we were closer to the seminary, we might send some of our garden produce to their seminary store. We also collect our mighty mites!

KATHY: Mighty mites? What's that?

MARIE: Here, I think I have my mite box with me *(looks in her bag)*. Ah, there it is *(pulls out small mite box)*. I brought it today to leave in that large mite box over there on the table.

LORI: We all do either that or bring our filled mite boxes to our LWML meetings. We put in our loose change, dollar bills, even a check now and then in thankfulness for the many blessings the Lord gives us. And we always say a prayer when we make a deposit in our mite box.

MARIE: We also pray for all of the missions that we know will be blessed by our mites. And when I bring the filled mite box, I exchange it for an empty one and repeat the process.

KATHY: Well, that doesn't sound too complicated. What do you do with all that money?

- LORI: Women from all over the country give their mites to support the grants that the women of the LWML choose at the national and district conventions. As you know, the world is a very dark place. With these mites, we help bring a little of the Lord's SONshine into it!
- KATHY: So gathering mites -- is that all you do?
- MARIE: Oh, no, we gather household items for refugees, food for the local soup kitchen, school supplies for disadvantaged children, and quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and host a great Christmas celebration for our women.
- LORI: So, you see, there is a lot that you can do to help. Why, a couple of the ladies who can't attend our meetings knit little baby caps for the local hospital. They bring them to church, and Sandy, who works in the hospital nursery, collects them and takes them to work with her.
- KATHY: With three kids and a husband, I don't have too much time for meetings.
- MARIE: We are all really busy, aren't we? We usually gather \*\*\* *(add your society's info here)* \*\*\*. We may have a Bible study, have a speaker, or work on a project. Of course, we also have food and good fellowship! Lori makes the best chocolate chip cookies this side of the Mississippi!
- LORI: It's time well spent – being part of the LWML AND baking cookies! I'd be more than happy to pick you up if you would like to come.
- KATHY: Thank you, with an offer like that how can I refuse? When's your next meeting?

*(Marie and Lori bring out a pocket calendar and one gives the information about the next meeting as they begin to walk away.)*