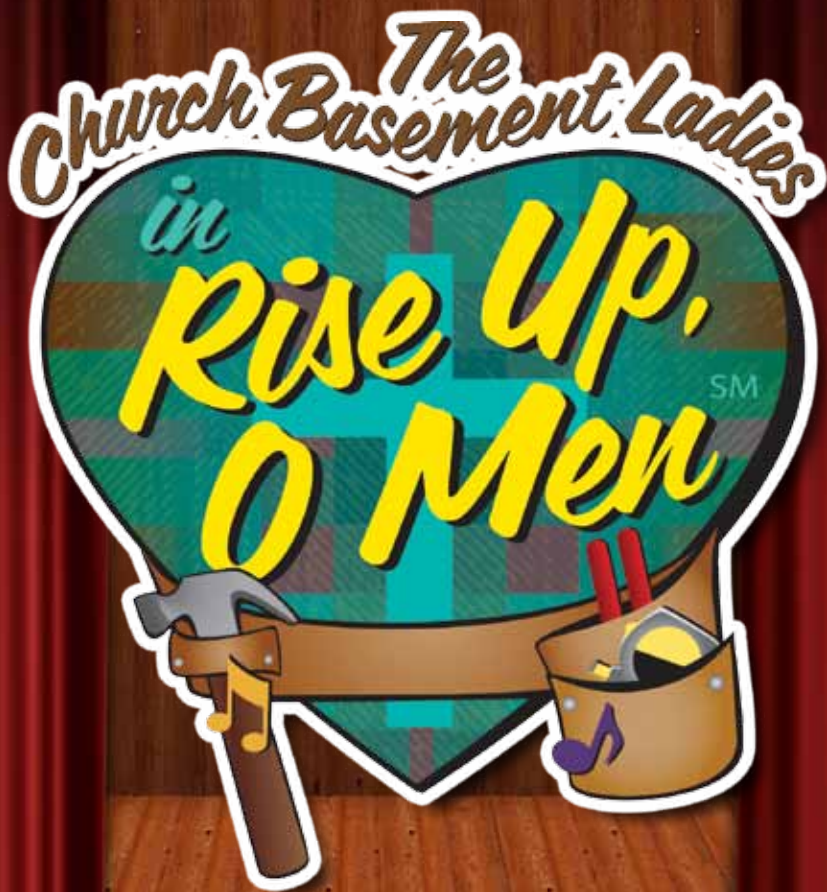


THE PALACE CULTURAL ARTS ASSOCIATION
AND MARION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROUDLY PRESENT



SATURDAY

APRIL 13, 2019

at the historic Marion Palace Theatre

The Church Basement Ladies in

RISE UP, O' MEN

A New Musical Comedy

**A celebration of the church basement kitchen
and the women and men who work there!**

Directed by CURT WOLLAN

Music Director &
Arranger
DENNIS CURLEY

Choreography &
Musical Staging
WENDY SHORT HAYS

Production
Stage Manager
JESSICA BRADISH

Costume Design
KATRINA BENEDICT

Sound Design
TYLER O'BRIEN

Lighting Design
ALAN HANSON

FEATURING

(in order of appearance)

Tim Drake.....Pastor, Arlo
Jeff March.....Elroy, Arlene
Peter Colburn.....Carl/Roger
Nikki Savitt.....Mrs. Gilmer Gilmerson (Mavis)
Carrie SaLoutos.....Mrs. Elroy Engelson (Karin)
Autumn O’Ryan.....Mrs. Lars Snustad (Vivian)
Tara Borman.....Voice of Beverly Engelson

UNDERSTUDIES

(Understudies never substitute for performers unless announced prior to the performance)
Greg Eiden (Pastor, Elroy, Carl) • Janet Paone (Vivian) • Dorian Chalmers (Karin)

STAFF OF TROUPE AMERICA’S RISE UP O’ MEN

Production Manager/ Sound Engineer.....Ryan Milligan
Company Manager.....Jessica Bradish
Master Electrician.....Jim Eischen
Technical Director.....Tyler O’Brien
Scenic Painter.....Lynn Isaacson
Graphic Designer.....Ruby McKusick
Accountant.....Brockman-Marchan Ltd
Transportation.....Mayo Tours, Inc
Trucking.....Sage Call Corporation

**For Cast & Production Bios please visit
<https://www.marionpalace.org/virtual-playbills/>
and select the link to Church Basement Ladies Playbill insert.**

The Church Basement Ladies in

RISE UP, O' MEN

A New Musical Comedy

The action takes place in a rural Minnesota farming community during the summer of 1964.

ACT I

SCENE 1: A WORKDAY: Early June, 1964

"The Working Hands of God".....Elroy, Carl, Mavis, Pastor
 "A Happy Wife Makes For a Happy Life".....Elroy, Carl, Pastor
 "Karin's Lament".....Karin, All
 "Disaster!".....Vivian, Mavis, Karin
 "The Pitch".....Roger, All
 "Disaster!" Reprise.....Arlene
 "Rise Up, O Man".....All

ACT II

Scene 1: THE DIAMOND JUBILEE: Saturday, July 4, 1964

"The Diamond Jubilee".....All
 "Rolling in the Aisles".....Roger, Mavis, Pastor, Vivian

Scene 2: THE TALENT SHOW: Later that same day.

"Elroy's Country Quest".....Elroy

Scene 3: SUNDAY MORNING: July 5, 1964

"And Now These Three".....Vivian/ Karin/Mavis
 "Rise Up, O Men".....All

BOWS



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



DORIAN CHALMERS (Understudy: Mrs. Elroy Engelson/ Karin)
Dorian is thrilled to be back in the basement where she has originated the role of Engelson in all seven of the *Church Basement Ladies* productions. At the Plymouth Playhouse in Minneapolis, you may have seen her in *Country Roads*, *The Music of John Denver*; *Christmas My Way: A Sinatra Holiday Bash*; *Ring of Fire: The Life and Music of Johnny Cash*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Other credits include Hey City Theater, Actors Theater, The Seasons Players, Table Salt Productions, and Holbrook Productions. Dorian has sung with a variety of bands and is a member of the crazy trio The Looney Lutherans. Oh, and she also works in our group sales office.

PETER COLBURN (Carl/Roger)

After living in Los Angeles for ten years (appearing on the Network television shows "The Mentalist," and "Criminal Minds," and in the films "A Home Out West" and "The Creep"), Pete moved back to the Minnesota in 2015, and was a part of the original production of *Church Basement Ladies: Rise Up, O Men!* (Therefore, he very is happy to have the chance to take part in this 2019 tour, and to reprise the roles of Carl and Roger.) Originally from Michigan, Peter has been fortunate to work at theatres throughout the country for the last 38 years. From Memphis, to Tulsa, and the Twin Cities, his varied stage experience includes productions of: *The Taming Of The Shrew*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Greater Tuna*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Trio*, *Speed-The-Plow*, *Anna Christie*, and *The Fantasticks* with many Companies including: Playhouse on the Square, The Jungle, Troupe America, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, New Tradition Theatre, Canterbury Summer Theatre, ARK Theatre, Vanguard Summer Theatre, and The Falcon Theatre. Pete is very grateful and proud to be working with such a talented and giving cast of actors!

TIM DRAKE (Pastor/ Arlo)

On the road again! Tim is very excited to be touring the country again in *Church Basement Ladies: Rise Up, O Men*. He has been doing theatre in Minneapolis since 1980 in many shows including *Diamond Studs*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *How to Talk Minnesotan The Musical*, *Guys On Ice*, *Ring of Fire*, *Christmas My Way*, and as the original Pastor in all *Church Basement Ladies* shows. Most recently he's had the pleasure of performing *Ring of Fire* in Indianapolis, IN, Rock Island, IL, Lancaster, PA, and Fort Myers, FL.. I hope you enjoy watching our show as much as we enjoy performing it for you!

GREG EIDEN (Understudy: Pastor/Carl/ Elroy)

Greg was previously seen in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *Queen of Bingo*, and his original musical *SuperHero! The Musical From the Cubicle*. Other credits include *Tony 'N Tina's Wedding*, *Deer Camp* and *We Gotta Bingo* (Actors' Theater), *The Foreigner*, *The Legend of the Ricochet Kid* (The Seasons' Players) and singing on the Minnesota Zephyr. His production company, Hometown Theatre has produced his original musicals: *Knotareel Getaway Cruise*, *Rockin' At The Sock Hop*, *War of the Worlds: A Tribute to Old-time Radio*, and *Ice Fish'n Op'ner* (the first in a cycle of four shows called the Bait Shop Trilogy).

JEFF MARCH (Elroy Engelson/ Arlene)

Jeff originated the role of Elroy Engelson in the initial nine-month run of *Church Basement Ladies: Rise Up, O Men* at The Plymouth Playhouse in Minneapolis. He's also sported Elroy's John Deere green in three regional productions at Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse, The Old Creamery Theatre Company and Theatre L'Homme Dieu. Favorite credits: *Mama Mia!* (Harry Bright)- Circa '21, *Annie* (Oliver Warbucks) - Derby Dinner Playhouse, and *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo)- The Old Schoolhouse Theatre on Sanibel Island, FL. Jeff's hometown is Wayne, NE and he is a proud alumnus of the University of Nebraska.



AUTUMN O'RYAN (Mrs. Lars Snustad/ Vivian)

Autumn is a true "Road Warrior." She has lived and worked thru-out the U.S. and has performed in some of the top theatrical venues of the nation. She has been on seven national tours with the *Church Basement Ladies*. A few of her favorite productions from her past include: *Sister Act*, *Trailer Park – The Great American Musical*, *Oklahoma!*, *Dixie Swim Club*, *White Christmas*, *The Full Monty*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Nunsense*, *Nunsense 2*, *Phantom*, *The Music Man*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Autumn has a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan. She and her cast mates were nominated for a Suzi Award in Atlanta, for the first Georgian premier of *The Church Basement Ladies*. When not performing, Autumn is an avid hiker and divides her time between FL, CO, MI and MT. Thank You, to Curt Wollan and her Troupe America Family.

JANET PAONE (Understudy: Mrs. Lars Snustad/ Vivian)

As an original cast member, Janet is delighted to be reprising her role of Vivian. Recent credits include Countess Aurelia in *Dear World* (Ten Thousand Things), Margaret Lake in *Gabriel* (Walking Shadow Theatre) which won the 2015 Ivey award for over all excellence, "The Host" in *the Ultimate Pajama Party*, and Janet in *Lemonade for the Lawnboy*. In Kansas City's New Theater Restaurant's production of *A Second Helping of The Church Basement Ladies*, she performed the role of Mrs. Snustad opposite Barry Williams (Pastor) known as Greg Brady from the TV series "The Brady Bunch." Other career highlights include Reverend Mother in *Nunsense* (Troupe America), Mother Goose in *Rake's Progress* and *The Grapes of Wrath* (Minnesota Opera), and *La Boheme* and *Carmen* (New York City Opera). Janet is best remembered for eight years as Mrs. Vitale in *Tony 'N Tina's Wedding* (Hey City Theatre).

CARRIE SALOUTOS (Mrs. Elroy Engelson/ Karin)

Carrie has appeared as Karin in the last six national tours of the *Church Basement Ladies* series shows and has most enjoyably performed in and choreographed productions all over the country in regional and dinner theatres. Other theatre credits include *Hats! The Musical* (Harrah's NOLA and TBPAC), *Shear Madness* (Eleanor Shubert/Circa '21 and the Palace Theatre), *Honkey Tonk Angels* (Sue Ellen/Flat Rock Playhouse), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Masha/Iron Bridge), *Mamma Mia!* (Tanya/Iron Bridge), *Savannah Sipping Society* (Jinx Jenkins/ Old Creamery Theatre Company and Iron Bridge) *Ba-Da-Bing* (Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas) and Universal Studios in Osaka, Japan. She has had the honor of singing with Steve Gatlin in several productions shows in Myrtle Beach, SC, and has appeared as Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense* on the Strip in Las Vegas. Previous Tour credits include: *The Wizard of OZ* (US and Korea), *Beauty & the Beast*, and *Singin' In the Rain*.

NIKKI SAVITT (Mrs. Gilmer Gilmerson, Mavis)

Nikki is happily boarding the bus for her 8th Church Basement Ladies Troupe America Tour. Since 2007, she has proudly portrayed this able bodied farm woman in 25 different productions. Other favorite credits include *Music Man* (Eulalie), *Harvey* (Veta), *Rumors* (Cookie), *White Christmas* (Martha), *Working* (The Waitress), and *Funny Girl* (Rose Brice). "As always, thank you Curt, Greta, & Dennis for the job security."

🌀 WHO'S WHO IN THE PRODUCTION 🌀



GRETA GROSCH (Playwright)

Since 1989 Greta has worked as a freelance writer and performer across the country. The original “Mavis” in each of the seven *Church Basement Ladies* musicals, Greta has scripted the last 6 installments of the series. Additional writing credits include: *Lemonade For The Lawnboy*, *The Medora Gospel Brunch*, *Christmas On The Ranch* and the annual *Medora Musical*. In her free time Greta is a voice over and commercial artist, travels the country as a motivational speaker and corporate trainer, and is a founding member of The Looney Lutherans. Thanks to her coworkers for their talent; to Curt for the opportunities; and to Janet and Suzann for trusting her with their story. Gretagrosch.com

DENNIS CURLEY (Composer/ Lyricist/Music Director)

Dennis Curley is a native of Syracuse, NY, and a graduate of Northwestern University (Evanston, IL). He has composed music for *Vampires! Horror!*, *Love After Hours*, three shows in the *Church Basement Ladies* series (*A Second Helping*, *Rise Up, O Men* and *You Smell Barn*), *U Betcha*, *Psych 101*, and *Pride and Plot of Pointlessness*. Dennis is the arranger of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live Too!* (both published by MTI). He has served as musical director for local and national productions of all of the *Church Basement Ladies* shows (Troupe America), *Beautiful Thing* (Theater Latté Da), *A Sea-doo Named Desire* (Brave New Workshop) and *Legendary Ladies of Country* (Table Salt Productions). He recently performed in Theater Latté Da’s *Steerage Song*, Troupe America’s *Ring of Fire* and *Christmas My Way*, and he serves as improv pianist and music director for The Theater of Public Policy and The Unscripted Minnesota Holiday. Dennis tours the Upper Midwest with *Country Roads: Dennis Curley Sings the Music of John Denver*, is a co-founder and executive producer of *Table Salt Productions* (TableSaltProductions.com), and he and his party band *The Explainers* can be found on the web at DennisCurley.com.

GRAYDON ROYCE (Contributing Writer) has been a theater critic and arts writer for the *Star Tribune* since 1999. Previously, he was an editor in several different departments at the *Star Tribune*. He is also a playwright. He co-wrote “*Ali*,” about the boxing champion and two one-acts that were produced in Minneapolis. Royce also created the *New Frontier Lutheran Radio Hour*, a monthly performance based in a fictitious church. It is performed at *Diamond Lake Lutheran Church* in Minneapolis.

CURT WOLLAN (Producer/Director)

Curt Wollan (Director) was in residence at the *Plymouth Playhouse* in Minneapolis since 1979 and with his company *Troupe America Inc.* since 1988. He has helped create and has directed such memorable hits as *The Lovely Liebowitz Sisters*; *How To Talk Minnesotan The Musical*; *Cowboy Christmas* and all seven *Church Basement Ladies* musicals as well as *Nonsense*, *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*; *I Love you, You’re Perfect, Now Change* and *Ring of Fire, The Life and Music of Johnny Cash*. With *Troupe America*, he has produced and directed over two hundred national tours including *The Odd Couple* with M.A.S.H. stars Jamie Farr and William Christopher, *Same Time, Next Year* with Adrian Zmed and Mackenzie Phillips, *Moon Over Buffalo* starring Gavin MacLeod, and *The Sunshine Boys* starring Dick Van Patten and Frank Gorshin. Curt has had the pleasure of also directing *Dolly Parton* in her family memoir musical, *My People* and *A Christmas Carol* where *Dolly* appears as the “*Ghost of Christmas Past*” in a hologram. His next project with *Dolly* is a re-telling of the Dicken’s classic tale called *Dolly Parton’s Smoky Mt Christmas Carol* featuring new music by *Dolly*. He wishes to dedicate his work on *Church Basement Ladies* to his mother, *Lorraine*, whose life as a “*Church Basement Lady*” served as his inspiration.



WENDY SHORT HAYS (Choreographer and Musical Staging)

Wendy has been working with Troupe America for over thirty years. She created the original choreography for the very first *Church Basement Ladies* and has continued to develop all six versions. Wendy choreographed such favorites as *Nunsense*, *Pump Boys And Dinettes* and *Diamond Studs* for which she earned the Twin Cities Drama Critic Award for Best Choreography. She was on the writing team for *The Lovely Liebowitz Sisters* and her original choreography for *Pump Boys And Dinettes* has been produced locally, on National tour and for an extended run at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

Wendy is the Artistic Director of VISTA Productions which was chosen to represent Minnesota at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her work has also been seen on the stage of The Medora Musical, Hey City Stage, History Theatre and numerous national tours.

ALAN HANSON (Lighting Designer)

Alan is a lighting designer, technical director, and 3D pre-visualization specialist for theatrical productions and live events. He holds a Masters Degree in Theatrical Lighting Design from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a BFA in Theatre Design/Technology from the University of Montana. His design work has been seen nationally on tours for the Montana Repertory Theatre with *Lost in Yonkers* and *Leading Ladies* as well *Miracle on 34th Street* for Troupe America. Alan's work can also be seen every summer in *The Medora Musical* in Medora, ND- North Dakota's #1 Tourist Destination. amhtheatricaldesign.com

KATRINA BENEDICT (Costume Designer) is delighted to return as the designer for *Rise Up O Men*. Her most recent designs include *The Medora Musical* (2014, 2015, & 2016), *Lemonade for the Lawnboy*, *Christmas My Way: A Sinatra Holiday Bash* (Plymouth Playhouse), *Ring of Fire: The Life and Music of Johnny Cash* (Troupe America National Tour and Plymouth Playhouse), *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (Troupe America National Tour), *Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping*, *Away in The Basement*, *A Church Basement Ladies Christmas; A Mighty Fortress Is Our Basement*, and *The Last (Potluck) Supper* at the Plymouth Playhouse and the national tours of all six versions of the musical comedy series.

JANET LETNES MARTIN (Co-author of Growing Up Lutheran)

Janet Letnes Martin grew up in Hillsboro, ND, where the words "Norwegian and Lutheran" were synonymous. She graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN and married Neil Martin, a 100 percent Scandinavian-Lutheran man from Newfolds, MN. Janet started writing books about her Norwegian/rural Lutheran heritage in 1983. She has authored three books and co-authored three books with Allen Todnem, one with her sister, Ilene, one with David W. Cook and nine with her college friend, Suzann Nelson. Janet and Suzann's best-selling book, [Growing Up Lutheran, What does this Mean?](#) won the Minnesota Book Award for Humor, and is the inspiration for all six previous *Church Basement Ladies* musical comedies. Her co-authored book, [Lemonade for the Lawnboy](#), is the inspiration for the new musical of the same title. Janet has been a public speaker for over 27 years, entertaining audiences at churches, libraries, civic organizations, etc. She lives in Hastings, MN and is the mother of three daughters, two son-in-laws, five granddaughters and two grandsons. She dedicates this musical to her late husband, Neil. Contact her at lutheranladies@aol.com.

SUZANN NELSON (Co-author of Growing Up Lutheran)

Suzann could put “ditto” under Janet’s bio. Their books and performances as the humorous duo, “Those Lutheran Ladies”, draw upon life experiences growing up as hardworking, church-attending, 100 percent Norwegian-Lutheran farm girls. This, the nucleus of the heartwarming *Church Basement Ladies* musicals. She attended Universities in Minnesota and Oslo, directed a Norwegian language camp and wrote curricula. Changing from jeans into three-piece suits, she dabbled in government, wrote public policy reports, and struggled to put on pantyhose. In time, humidity and hot flashes prompted her to team up with Janet for her next act. By then, Suzann, husband Ron, and daughters Senja and Siri, lived in Grand Rapids, MN. Now a widow and online bookstore owner, www.ruralroutebookstore.com, she spends nights pondering her mortgage, and days looking for misplaced things, and laughing with four grandkids.



The Church Basement Ladies in **RISE UP, O' MEN**

A New Musical Comedy

**A celebration of the church basement kitchen
and the women and men who work there!**

Special Thanks: Pastor Gary Olson and Lakeview Lutheran Church; ARCA Minnesota; Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Minnesota; Lutheran Digest; Norwegian Glee Club of Minneapolis; Al Todnem and Joanne Deter who said "Curt, you should call those Lutheran Ladies," Janet Martin and Suzann Nelson.

Please Note: The operating of cameras or recording devices is strictly prohibited by copyright law. Please turn off anything that will make noise including cellular phones.

The series of CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES productions are inspired by the bestselling book Growing Up Lutheran by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson. All of the shows have opened at the Plymouth Playhouse in Plymouth, MN, and have been produced by Troupe America Inc., Curt Wollan, Executive Producer. In addition to touring nationally, the shows have been licensed in all contiguous 48 states and Canada, with more than three million audience members finding a connection to the characters and their stories.

*The popular series began with the first installment, **CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES**, in 2005. Since that time, six sequels have followed including **A SECOND HELPING** (2008), **AWAY IN THE BASEMENT: A Church Basement Ladies Christmas** (2009), **A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR BASEMENT** (2011), **THE LAST (POTLUCK) SUPPER** (2013), **RISE UP, O MEN** (2016), and **YOU SMELL BARN** (2018).*



What's
your
charitable
passion?

Give
through
us.



**MARION
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

FOR YOU. FOR MARION. FOREVER.

504 South State Street
Marion, Ohio 43302
740-387-9704
www.MarionCommunityFoundation.org