



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**THEY'RE SERVIN' IT UP AGAIN ...  
*CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES 2: A SECOND HELPING!*  
OPENING AT THE PLYMOUTH PLAYHOUSE, MARCH 14, 2008!**

(Minneapolis, MN, March 3, 2008) They're servin' it up again in the Church Basement kitchen of the Plymouth Playhouse. Troupe America, Inc., the Producer of the highly successful musical comedy *Church Basement Ladies* is about to open the sequel ***Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping!*** previewing March 6,7,8, 9 & 13 and opening Friday, March 14, 2008.

Because of the original show's phenomenal success, Executive Producer, Curt Wollan decided to continue the story of this same group of women, the "Steel Magnolias of the Prairie," as they deal with life, death and the discovery of new adventures in the world and their lives. Eight years ago, Wollan crafted the idea of developing a new musical comedy *Church Basement Ladies* inspired by the books of Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson, the creators of the best-selling book *Growing Up Lutheran* that brought their unique brand of humor to the stage. It was a well-conceived project dedicated to those stalwart women of the church who volunteer to work in the church kitchen ... those under appreciated ladies of the church who cook and arrange the food and coffee for weddings, youth gatherings, and pot luck suppers ... our mothers, grandmothers, aunts and moms. Opening at the Plymouth Playhouse in September 2005, audiences instantly fell in love with *Church Basement Ladies* and it grew to be the most successful show produced both locally and nationally by Troupe America in its twenty year history.

This time around, the year is 1969 and the world is a changing. As folks protest the Vietnam War and women are demanding equal pay for equal work, in their small rural Minnesota community, the ladies of the Lutheran church basement kitchen are dealing with changes of their own. With their heartwarming humor and hilarious antics, ***Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping!*** takes us from serving the High School students at the Luther League Banquet to a church sponsored Missionary Night and the rise and fall of a Viking's Super Bowl Sunday. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young mom-to-be, these women find strength in each other as they deal with the joys and upheavals from below the "House of God!"

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In developing an all-new score and script for the sequel, Wollan has gathered an impressive new creative team. He's merged the talents of composer/songwriter Drew Jansen, who wrote the original score and the lyrics for *Church Basement Ladies* with another well-known Twin Cities composer, Dennis Curley, arranger of the stage version of *Schoolhouse rock Live!* based on the popular TV series. Known for her comedy sketches and head writer for the Medora Musical, Greta Grosch collaborated with this music duo to develop the script. She is an original *Church Basement Ladies* cast member and the daughter of Lutheran Missionaries. Again, directed by Curt Wollan, ***Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping!*** is choreographed by Wendy Short Hays, with set design by Jared Grohs, lighting design by Scott Herbst, costume design by Katrina Benedict and musical direction by Dennis Curley.

The original production of *Church Basement Ladies* opened at the Plymouth Playhouse September 8, 2005, and has performed to more than 250,000 patrons, in 1123 performances during its two and one half year run. The show has toured nationally in 11 states and 58 cities across the country as well as having been performed last year in Nashville at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, at Circa 21 in Rock Island, Illinois, and at the nationally acclaimed New Theater Restaurant in Kansas City, Kansas starring Bill Christopher as Pastor (Father Mulcahy from the TV show M\*A\*S\*H\*). *Church Basement Ladies* will return to the National tour scene in August 2008, performing in Madison, Wisconsin, Chicago, Illinois and Des Moines, Iowa with Christopher performing as Pastor.

#### **ABOUT THE CAST**

The original cast returns to give us their same style of down-to-earth humor and charm from the Church Basement featuring Greta Grosch as farm wife and jack-of-all-trades, "Mrs Gilmer Gilmerson" (Mavis), Dorian Chalmers as the best cook in the kitchen, "Mrs. Elroy Engelson" (Karin), Tara Borman as her daughter "Beverly Signe Engelson" and Janet Paone as the elderly kitchen matriarch, "Mrs. Lars Snustad" (Vivian) with the role shared by Judi Gronseth. Tim Drake plays the Pastor with Kyle Nelson as the church organist.

#### **TICKET SALES INFORMATION**

All performance of ***Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping!*** are at the Plymouth Playhouse, previewing Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday March 6,7, 8, 9 & 13 and premiering Friday, March 14, 2008 for an open ended run. Performances, times and prices are:

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.	\$24
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.	\$30
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.	\$30
Friday, 7:30 p.m.	\$38
Saturday, 3:00 p.m.	\$35
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.	\$38
Sunday, 2 & 6 p.m.	\$30

Overnight "Stay & Play" packages are available (includes hotel, dinner and theater, all located under one roof). The Plymouth Playhouse is located at

1-494 and Hwy. 55, twenty minutes west from downtown Minneapolis, in suburban Plymouth, MN. For ticket information call the Playhouse Box Office at 763-553-1600 or Ticketmaster Artsline, 612-673-0404. For group information call our Group sales Office, 763-383-1073.

**PRESS INFORMATION**

For press photos and images go to [plymouthplayhouse.com](http://plymouthplayhouse.com) or e-mail:

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