

Musical comedy makes its way through Holyoke

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Phillips County Arts Council is pleased to present Church Basement Ladies...A Second Helping, the sequel to Church Basement Ladies, Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the HHS auditorium

Church Basement Ladies is a musical comedy, based on the humorous novel Growing up Lutheran by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann Nelson. The original production of Church Basement Ladies opened at the Plymouth Playhouse Sept. 8, 2005, and performed to more than 250,000 patrons, in 1,123 performances during its two and one half year run.

The show has toured nationally in 58 cities around the country as well as having been performed last year in Nashville at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, at Circa 21 in Rock Island, Ill. and at the nationally acclaimed New Theater Restaurant in Kansas City.

Because of the original musical's phenomenal success, a sequel has been written, which picks up the story of this same group of women as they continue to deal with life, death and new adventures in the world and in their lives.

This time around, the year is 1969 and the world is 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, they perform Church Basement Ladies 2: A Second Helping!

The show takes the audience from serving the high school students at the Lutheran League Banquet to a church-sponsored Missionary Night and the rise and fall of a Vikings' Super Bowl Sunday. From the elderly matriarch of the kitchen to the young mom-to-be, these women find the strength in each other as they deal with the joys and upheavals from below the "House of God!"

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Holyoke Enterprise January 24, 2013