



Church Basement Ladies

Directed by Warner Crocker
Costume Design by Maria Smith

Page #	Act	Scene	Character	Text	Comments
Act 1 Scene 1... The Lutefisk Dinner					
1	1	1	Setting	<i>the church basement kitchen of East Cornucopia Lutheran Church of the Prairie, a small rural church in the small town of Cornucopia in Northern Minnesota.</i>	They are wearing 60s dresses in slightly muted colors and heavy overcoats.
1	1	1	Signe	<i>home from college</i>	She is in slightly more modern (and bright) clothing.
1	1	1	Vivian	<i>clearly the matriarch of the kitchen</i>	
1	1	1	Time	<i>The year is 1964 and the ladies are preparing for the annual Holiday Lutefisk Dinner.</i>	
1	1	1	Pastor about all	Where faithful, aproned women heed a stern and solemn call.	All of these aprons are unique and a reflection of their wearer's personality.
3	1	1	All	We're proud to be Lutheran lasses.	
4	1	1	Signe	It's great to be home, Pastor. Mom, Mrs. Gilmerson, and Mrs. Snustad already have me back to work on the Lutefisk Dinner.	
4	1	1	Signe about Setting	The U. is bigger than the whole town of Cornucopia!	It is a very small town. This, their religion, and their age would lend to more modest clothing.
4	1	1	Setting	M: So, how's it looking out there then? P: <i>[Standing at the window looking at the snowfall.]</i> It's really coming down. M: Is it deep yet? P: Ja! Up to your hubcaps!	It is heavily showing. Their coats would be on hooks onstage somewhere. Or a coat rack.
6	1	1	All but Signe	All: <i>[They all raise their arms and wiggle their flabby underarm skin.]</i> Rommegrot arms!	
10	1	1	Mavis	<i>(Mavis stabs 2 rolls with kitchen forks and, using the apron as a screen, presents the "dancing buns".)</i>	The aprons have to be functional and diverse.
12	1	1	Pastor about Setting	Mel, the snowplow operator, just called and said, "Pastor Gunderson, if Karin is cooking I am getting out the plow and leading those wagons to the Promised Land."	



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13	1	1	Signe	<i>She is covered in snow.] It's still coming down.</i>	
15	1	1	All	<i>The ladies have now removed their work aprons and put on fancy serving aprons.</i>	These will still be individual, just frillier.
Act 1 Scene 2... The Funeral					
16	1	2	Setting	<i>It is February. Subzero temperature but not much snow.</i>	
16	1	2	All	<i>The women appear in choir robes and sing with the Pastor.</i>	They will not be in their outerwear yet.
17	1	2	Karin and Signe	<i>enter wearing hats and boots and carrying a variety of hotdishes wrapped in dishtowels. They hang up their coats, put on aprons, and busy themselves with the coffee, the Watkins nectar, and other meal preparations.)</i>	A coat rack of some sort will be needed for their things. Maybe a separate rack for aprons? They will have hats and scarves in addition to their coats to denote the colder conditions.
18	1	2	Mavis	<i>[Enters in coat, scarf, men's overshoes</i>	
19	1	2	Signe	<i>gets her an apron.</i>	
19	1	2	Signe and Mavis	S: It always seems cold in here to me. <i>(Signe puts her coat back on.)</i> M: Not to me. I'm having an episode. <i>(Mavis opens the door of the refrigerator and stands there for a moment in an attempt to cool off.)</i>	
20	1	2	Vivian	<i>Vivian enters in hat and coat with Wonder Bread bags on her feet. She is carrying another hotdish. Signe helps her with her coat and gets her an apron.</i>	
20	1	2	Mavis about setting	It is "freeze your spit in mid air" cold outside and right now.	
21	1	2	Mavis	And this Girdle!	
26	1	2	Pastor	<i>He has put on his coat and hat. Karin and Vivian start putting on their coats as well. Mavis appears to be fine.</i>	
27	1	2	Mavis	<i>As Mavis enters her dress is hiked up and a few buttons are undone.</i>	She is taking off clothes in the furnace room. (we will talk with Kyle about where these are being stored during show)
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27	1	2	Mavis	<i>All groan as Mavis re-enters. She has taken the top part of her dress down revealing her slip.</i>	
28	1	2	All	<i>The ladies begin taking off their coats.</i>	It is warm in the kitchen again.
Act 2 Scene 1... Hawaiian Easter Holiday Getaway Furnace Fundraiser					
1	2	1	Setting	<i>Lights up on Karin, Mavis, and Vivian wearing overcoats. During the course of the song they will remove these coats to reveal their Hawaiian Easter Get-ups.</i>	Same coats. Different festive wear underneath. Still period but brighter with flower leis.
1	2	1	All	<i>They remove their coats.</i>	
2	2	1	All	<i>The ladies hang up their coats and put on aprons.</i>	
3	2	1	Pastor	<i>I'm sure glad I don't have to wear that get-up.</i>	In normal clothes, black with clerical collar.
6	2	1	Pastor and Karin	<i>P: Why Mrs Snustad, you look charming no matter what you wear. I can tell you everyone is excited about this. You should see the Hawaiian Easter outfits! Even Inez. K: You mean Inez Thorvig is wearing a color other than black or gray? P: Actually she has on a nice red dress.</i>	
10	2	1	Vivian	<i>And the next thing I know I'm in a muumuu at an Easter Egg Roll!</i>	She is very unhappy in her bright, shapeless dress.
12	2	1	Pastor	<i>Mavis and Karin help the Pastor dress in the Bunny Suit . The Pastor is revealed in his Easter Bunny get-up.</i>	
Act 2 Scene 2... The Wedding					
13	2	2	Setting	THREE YEARS LATER, 1968 <i>It is a steamy hot July day.</i>	Change of clothing. No coats. Aprons are still onstage. Everyone in Nice wedding clothing.
14	2	2	Vivian	<i>She is dressed for the wedding. She puts on her apron and begins making coffee.</i>	
14	2	2	Mavis and Karin	<i>enter dressed for the wedding.</i>	
15	2	2	Vivian about setting	<i>Uffda, it's hot.</i>	
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17	2	2	Mavis	Six attendants clad in sea foam green.	Talking about the bridesmaids. We never actually see them.
19	2	2	Signe	<i>comes stumbling into the kitchen from outside. She is in her wedding dress but she is a mess and she is crying.</i>	Her dress is large and takes up a decent amount of space. It is askew on her. She will have a long veil.
20	2	2	Mavis and Karin	<i>grab their purses and run to the door.</i>	
20	2	2	Vivian about Signe	Oh, Signe!! Look at you. You look awful.	Signe comes out from the furnace. There has to be room to fit her dress in there without snagging it.
23	2	2	Signe	<i>Signe climbs into the freezer while Vivian tries to hide her veil. As the Pastor enters Karin notices Signe's train hanging out of the freezer and quickly wraps it around her waist as an apron.)</i>	There has to be room in the freezer too. And her veil needs to be long enough to get caught and wrapped around Karin.
25	2	2	Pastor	<i>He stops and pulls down the apron so it looks like a lacy bib. He is very upset. He reaches out and M gives him his glasses. He puts them on.</i>	Pastor needs glasses. I thought we would use one of the fancy bibs used in Act 1.
25	2	2	Signe	M: The Cook and Curl!... Crisco! (As each item appears they use it to freshen up Signe.) S: Crisco?! M: We can use it to freshen you up. Works great. Moisturizes at the same time. Don't worry. I've been using it since I was 15 years old. K: Beet juice. We can use it for lipstick and for rouge...to highlight those lovely cheekbones. M: Works great. I've been using it since I was 15 years old. K: ...and flour! S: Flour?!	The ladies are putting her together with clown white makeup, liquid rouge, and powder foundation. Used moderately to give a comical look without going over the top. Maybe just add blush in reality.
26	2	2	Pastor	<i>Enters in a hurry dressed in his wedding vestments.</i>	