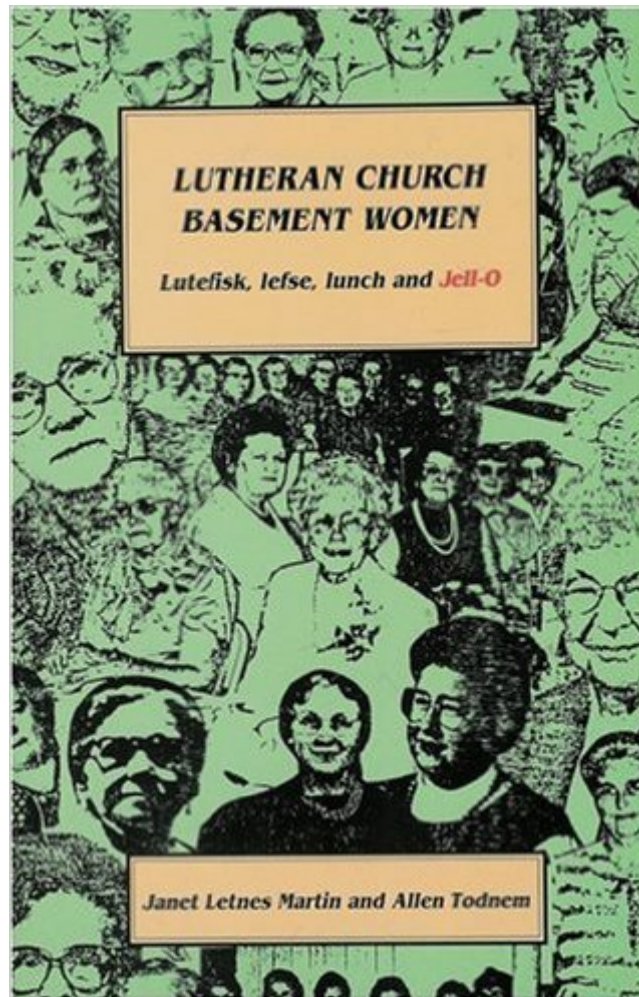


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# Lutheran Church Basement Women: Martin And Todnem's Newest And Funniest Book!



## Synopsis

Janet Martin and Al Todnem wrote this book in 1992 and it's still going strong. Not only is it filled with the oldie but goodie recipes (including egg coffee and Watkin's nectar) from years ago, but it is loaded with humorous insights into proper Lutheran church basement etiquette.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #341,742 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Lutheran](#) #927 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Christianity](#) #1975 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Christianity](#)

## Customer Reviews

My grandmother was a Norwegian immigrant who lived in a apartment down the street from our Lutheran church in Wisconsin. This book covers every recipe and nuance I remember from life in the Lutheran church, right down to the aprons. The explanations and footnotes about life as a Lutheran church basement woman are accurate and delightful. The descriptions of rituals and preparations for events are accurate to a fault, right down to the dead spreads. The hints about gossip and the social structure of these women are perfect. This book is a joy!!

A light hearted look at the traditional role of women and their work in Church kitchens. While I am a lifelong Lutheran, I appreciated it more after moving to the Midwest. The only book I have seen that pays homage to red Jell-O. On a more serious note, I am glad that the mores honored here are changing. At my church the men join in the cooking and cleaning, and the women have many other roles too.

At one time a Lutheran and now a Catholic--I know these women and they are alive in every church

kitchen in the world, and we have a sense of humor!!!! The recipes send my mind scurrying back to my home town of Ada, Minnesota and I can once again enjoy the companionship of my family.

As I read this book, and browsed through the recipes, I remembered when I happily consumed many of these delicious edibles (as well as tactfully avoided the equally noxious ones) in blissful ignorance. I still consume many of these traditional Lutheran dishes at church functions, now usually held in the Lutheran School building. Today, though, I am required to feel guilty about consuming them, can very nearly HEAR them clogging arteries. That basement holds many fond memories of more innocent times!

I have heard this book on tape and then ordered the book so that I could give it to my mother. We both have enjoyed it immensely. We, Lutherans, do have fun!

This book made the rounds among my sisters for years until a couple years ago when I treated each of them...5 in all with their own copies!! Growing up as a Lutheran in the midwest in the 50's-60's I could so relate to the comments written with the recipes! What a hoot, but even a non-Lutheran friend of mine who had no such memories laughed as hard as I did when sharing this book with her. Since that time I have bought nearly every book from these authors! What great fun entertainment!!

I like to buy my wife unusual cookbooks, especially those peppered with anecdotes. After reading the reviews I decided to get it for her to celebrate our 45th Anniversary. She was obviously underwhelmed. I looked through it myself and, having bought the "autographed" copy, was surprised to see it was autographed on the very first page AND the very second page, and neither of them looked even close to being the same. To misquote the Bard, "Something smells rotten in MN." Anyhow, I guess she'll add it to her collection and I will wish myself better luck next time, or, maybe I will look into returning it.

I was raised as a midwestern methodist female with lutheran aunts, therefore I could identify with all the recipes and social strata this book cleverly describes. The generations of women represented are no longer with us it seems, and so we read of their generosity along with their viewpoints of how things are done right. Don't hesitate to use as a gift to your own church lady!

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