

Two Thieves for Christmas

A Christmas Comedy Play
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PLAY SYNOPSIS

It's a week before Christmas. Two bumbling thieves (dressed up as Santa and an Elf) just committed a crime; they stole merchandise from a local mall. Now they are trying to get away from the scene of the crime. Unfortunately, their get-away car ran out of gas, so they have to walk-away from the scene of the crime. Fearing they will be spotted by the police, they decide to hide out in a nearby church where the members are preparing to rehearse their Christmas play. The Santa is able to conceal his true motive for stopping by the church until the Elf blows their cover. Now Santa must hold the Pastor and all church members hostage until their pick-up ride comes. To keep everyone calm, the Pastor decides to proceed with the Christmas play rehearsal under these less-than-ideal conditions. After the rehearsal is over, the Pastor extends an invitation to salvation to the thieves. It was God's plan to guide them to this church on this day just so they can come to understand the true meaning of Christmas and salvation through Jesus Christ. Touched by the Christmas story, the thieves decide to end their life of crime and receive the greatest Christmas gift of all...The Gift of Salvation.

T'was a week before Christmas, on a busy shopping day

Two thieves dressed in costume were tryin' to sneak away.

From the mall to their home with merchandise they dart

'Til an encounter with God changed their hearts.

Two Thieves for Christmas is a hilarious gospel comedy play for the entire family! Several traditional Christmas songs are sung during the course of the play.
Runtime: Approximately 60 minutes

MINISTRY MESSAGE

This play shares the story of the gospel. You may ask, "Why share the gospel in a Christmas play"? To really understand the true meaning of Christmas, we must understand the why Jesus had to be born. God did not send His son to simply be a "gift" to mankind; God sent His son to "die" for our sin so that we can be saved. Jesus' birth did not save us, but He was born to save us!

There are plenty of comedic scenes in the play to entertain the audience. However, the main purpose of the play is to minister to the audience through the rehearsal scene; the presentation of "The Three Cs - Creation, Christmas, and the Cross". During the rehearsal presentation, the Thieves (and your audience) will come to understand that sin separated us from God (at Creation). Jesus was born to lead us back to God (at Christmas). Jesus died to reunite us with God (at the Cross).

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play is written to be performed by any size church. Staging, props, and costume are kept to a minimal. Although there are a lot of supporting characters, be creative. We performed this entire production for roughly \$500 (including all costumes, props, 1,000 promo flyers, and spotlight and curtain rental).

I know what you're saying "making Santa a thief is not nice". I understand, so I purposely made sure this Santa doesn't look like the "traditional" Santa. He's tall and slender. He doesn't have a beard. His costume is a little raggedy, etc. In the beginning, and through-out the script, he states that he is not the real Santa, he's just a thief. The kids "get it", so don't worry

Have fun with the characters. The Elf, Deacon, Wanda, and Sister Beverly are the comedic elements of the play. Their characters will draw the laughs.

Although this is not a musical, there are traditional Christmas songs included in the rehearsal portion of the play. I have included an Appendix for the Rehearsal Story Script which includes suggestive music while the story is being read and when the Christmas songs are to be sung. We simply used 4-5 members of the choir to sing in the background (as they followed the Rehearsal Story script reading). This worked great!

Like all of my scripts, my purpose is the entertain and minister. The rehearsal portion of this play ministers the gospel message to the thieves (and to your audience). The Pastor then clarifies the message so the thieves (and your audience) can clearly understand why we celebrate Christmas, but more importantly, why everyone needs Jesus.

CORE CAST MEMBERS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Santa	Male	Adult	The "brains" of the criminal team. Tall slender physique; as opposed to the traditional overweight stocky Santa.
2	The Elf	Male	Adult	The "idiot" of the criminal team. Much shorter than Santa.
3	Pastor	Female	Adult	Calm and rational.
4	Deacon	Male	Senior	Walks with a very pronounced limp. Always available to help but doesn't like to do anything.
5	Wanda	Female	Young Adult	Fast talking, stylist, overly dramatic (a Drama Queen)
6	Sister Turner & The Grandmother	Female	Adult	Speaks her mind
7	Sister Beverly	Female	Senior	Somewhat forgetful. Walks using the assistance of a cane.

SUPPORTING CAST MEMBERS

The majority of these parts are non-speaking parts. Most of these characters simply pantomime the story being read by the Grandmother. Some persons can play multiple characters (as noted by two character names together) or you can use different people.

The characters denoted with an "*" will have a very small speaking part.

No.	Character	Gender	Age Group
1	Little Child*	Female	Child
2	Mother of Little Child*	Female	Adult
3	Young Boy*	Male	Child
4	Mad Adult 1*	Either	Adult
5	Mad Adult 2*	Either	Adult
6	Granddaughter*	Female	Child
7	Adam	Male	Teen
8	Eve	Female	Teen
9	The Tempter	Male	Adult
10	Sinner 1, Crowd Member	Either	Adult
11	Sinner 2, Crowd Member	Either	Adult
12	Sinner 3, Crowd Member	Either	Adult
13	Sinner 4, Crowd Member	Either	Adult
14	Sinner 5, Crowd Member	Either	Adult
15	Sinner 6, Crowd Member	Either	Adult
16	Mary	Female	Teen
17	Joseph	Male	Teen
18	Angel Gabriel*	Male	Adult
19	Animal - Lamb	Either	Child
20	Animal - Donkey	Either	Child
21	Animal - Cow	Either	Child
22	Animal - Pig	Either	Child
23	Shepherd 1	Male	Youth
24	Shepherd 2	Male	Youth
25	Shepherd 3	Male	Youth
26	Wise Man 1, Sin	Male	Youth
27	Wise Man 2, Death	Male	Youth
28	Wise Man 3, Grave	Male	Youth
29	Angel 1	Female	Youth
30	Angel 2	Female	Youth
31	Angel 3	Female	Youth
32	Angel 4	Female	Youth
33	Jesus	Male	Adult

34	Pharisee 1	Male	Adult
35	Pharisee 2	Male	Adult
36	Roman Soldier 1	Male	Adult
37	Roman Soldier 2	Male	Adult
38	Policeman 1	Male	Adult
39	Policeman 2	Male	Adult

COSTUMES

Although the scenes in the "rehearsal play" take place in biblical times, the characters are not wearing biblical costumes. The characters wear modern-day clothing to represent the biblical characters. Wearing modern-day clothing simplifies the production and is more appealing to today's youth.

Production Note: The church members (supporting cast) initially enter the church wearing their normal clothing. Once the play rehearsal begins the cast will put on their character clothing.

<u>Character</u>	<u>Enter wearing</u>	<u>Rehearsal clothing</u>
Santa	Santa costume	n/a
Elf	Elf costume	n/a
Deacon	Overalls with suspenders	n/a
Pastor	Normal clothing	n/a
Wanda	Night Club Party Clothing	n/a
Sister Turner	Normal clothing	n/a
Sister Beverly	Normal clothing	Pregnancy Sweater (with fake stomach)
Little Child	Normal clothing	n/a
Mother of Child	Normal clothing	n/a
Young Boy	Normal clothing	n/a
Mad Adult 1	Normal clothing	n/a
Mad Adult 2	Normal clothing	n/a
Grand-daughter	Normal clothing	n/a
Adam	Normal clothing	Blue Tee-Shirt "I AM MAN"
Eve	Normal clothing	Pink Tee-Shirt "I AM WOMAN"
Tempter	All black clothing	Sunglasses
All Sinners	Normal clothing	n/a
Angel Gabriel	White shirt and pants	Add white suit coat (wings optional)
Mary	Normal clothing	Yellow Tee-Shirt "I'M A VIRGIN"
Joseph	Normal clothing	n/a
Angels (4)	Normal clothing	Angel outfit (wings optional)
Animal-Lamb	White clothing	Animal head set or mask
Animal-Donkey	Gray clothing	Animal head set or mask
Animal-Cow	Brown clothing	Animal head set or mask
Animal-Pig	Pink clothing	Animal head set or mask
Shepherds	Jeans and plaid shirt	Straw hats & farm props

Wise Men	Black pants white shirt	(Country farmers) Add black suit coat, skinny black tie, and sunglasses (The "Men In Black" look)
Death	Normal clothing	Black Tee-Shirt "Death"
Sin	Normal clothing	Red Tee-Shirt "Sin"
Grave	Normal clothing	Brown Tee-Shirt "Grave"
Jesus	Medical scrubs (white)	White Robe (after resurrection)
Policemen (2)	Police Uniforms	N/A
Pharisees (2)	Normal clothing	Minister or choir robes
Roman Soldiers (2)	Army Pants, Shirts, Boots	Tam hats

HOLIDAY SONGS

Production Notes: These songs are sung in the background while the cast is re-enacting the Christmas story. The singers can be a small praise team or choir. They can be part of the members coming into the church or they can be off-stage background singers.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Oh Come All Ye Faithful

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Were You There? (*...when they crucified my Lord*)

Joy To The World

PROPS

Used by

Prop

Stage prop	Christmas tree
Stage prop	Christmas tree box of decorations
Stage prop	Church pew/bench
Stage prop	Two Chairs
Santa	Green bag filled with toys
Elf	Large red bag filled with toys
Elf	Large bag of Doritos
Pastor	Pastor's cell phone
Pastor	Sewing box filled with material
Mary	Doll Baby (Jesus) in blanket
Wise Men	Gift boxes for 3 Wise Men
Wanda	Bible case
Wanda	Stun Gun
Wanda	Pepper spray
Wanda	Stack of Christmas programs
Crowd Member	Sunglasses for blind person
Sister Beverly	Cane 1
Crippled Crowd Member	Cane 2
The Tempter (Waiter)	Serving Tray of Fruit
The Tempter (Waiter)	White napkins for waiter
Sinner	Sacrificial Offering - basket 1
Sinner	Sacrificial Offering - basket 2
Sinner	Sacrificial Offering - basket 3
Sinner	Sacrificial Offering - basket 4
Sinner	Sacrificial Offering - basket 5
Sinner	Sacrificial Offering - basket 6
Grandmother	Story Book "The 3 Cs"
Jesus	Crown of thorns
Sinner	Sign "Hatred"
Sinner	Sign "Adultery"
Sinner	Sign "Murder"
Sinner	Sign "Lying"
Sinner	Sign "Cheating"
Sinner	Sign "Lust"
Mary	Cell phone - for Mary

SCENES

<i>Scene No.</i>	<i>Scene Description</i>
1	Santa and the Elf escape from the mall
2	The Pastor prepares for rehearsal
3	The thieves hide in the church
4	Santa takes hostages
5	Sister Turner and Beverly come to rehearsal
6	The Sisters become hostages
7	All members arrive at the church
8	The Christmas Play rehearsal
9	Santa has a change of heart
10	Police catch up to the thieves
11	The church is set free

SCENE 1 - EXT. STREET

SANTA AND ELF ENTER.

Each man is carrying a bag filled with merchandise. The shorter Elf is carrying a much larger bag than Santa, Both characters are in full costume from head to toe; however Santa's fake beard is tucked in his belt.

Santa walking quickly down the street.

SANTA

(Visibly upset)

C'mon, hurry up.

*The Elf hurries to catch up to Santa.
The Elf is munching on Doritos. Santa suddenly stops. Elf not paying attention bumps into him. A few chips fall out of his hand.*

SANTA

Will you watch where you're going? (Notices chips on the ground) And look you're making a mess all on the street.

Elf struggles to speak because his mouth is filled with chips.

ELF

Sorry.

SANTA

How did you forget to put gas in the car?

ELF

I thought we would have time to stop on our way to the house.

SANTA

It's a get-away car. You get in it to "get away", not stop for gas. Geez!

ELF

(Looks around)

Well, no one is following us. (Beat) This was a great idea Eddie.

SANTA

Yeah, these costumes really worked. I just told each store owner we would walk around the mall and promote their business. (Holding up his sack) They gave us all of this merchandise to show.

ELF

(Laughing)

And we're NOT going to return it. Man, you're a genius!

SANTA

(Proud of himself)

You got that right!

ELF

I mean this was better than the time we dressed up as security guards and stole a box of office supplies.

They Laugh.

A MOTHER AND CHILD APPROACH THE TWO MEN.

SANTA

Hey someone is coming. Act normal.

Santa grabs his fake beard from his bag and puts it on.

As the mother and child gets closer the child notices Santa.

CHILD

Mommy, Mommy, there's Santa!

The child runs over to give Santa a hug.

Santa awkwardly acknowledges the child's affection as the mother proudly looks on.

The child notices the bag of gifts

CHILD

Wow, look at all the gifts. Do you have the new Barbie Doll [or the name of the latest popular toy]?

SANTA

I'm sorry, but...

ELF

You know, I think we have that.

He hands his Doritos to Santa to hold while he opens the bag and begins to search for the toy.

The child is thrilled!

*Santa is livid but tries to smile through
his anger.*

Elf hands toy to the child.

MOTHER

Oh my goodness, I've been looking all over town for one.
How much do I owe you?

ELF

Oh nothing. (To the Child) Santa always give presents to good little
girls and boys.

MOTHER AND CHILD EXIT.

SANTA

(Infuriated)

Are you out of your mind?! You can't give this stuff away. It's
stolen!

ELF

You said act normal. That's what Elves do.

SANTA

Maybe you forgot, but you are not an Elf and I'm not Santa Claus. We
are two thieves.

ELF

(The light bulb goes off)

Oh yeah, that's right. I guess I got a little carried away, with the
costume.

SANTA

Just let me do the thinking okay? (Shoves Doritos back to the Elf) We
have to find someplace to hold up for a little while. (Start
walking). C'mon let's go.

SANTA AND THE ELF EXIT.

SCENE 2 - THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

PASTOR RIVERS AND DEACON ENTER

Rev Deborah Rivers (age 40s) is the Pastor of the New Faith Church for the past three years.

Pastor and Deacon enter room. Pastor is carrying a sewing box. The Deacon is following behind the Pastor carrying a load of costumes.

Pastor is speaking on her cell phone as she enters. She is wrapping up her conversation.

PASTOR

(Speaking on phone)

Yes, we've been here for a while. Okay, see you when you get here. God bless.

Hangs up phone. Turns her attention to Deacon

Just place everything over there, Deacon Willard.

DEACON

Pastor, what are you going to do with all these costumes? Looks like you got more costumes than members of the church.

Pastor begins to examine the costumes and segregates them into different piles.

PASTOR

Some people will need to play different roles. (Pauses to look at Deacon) You know, I could still use a few more men.

DEACON

Oh no, Pastor. I'm too old and my mind ain't what it used to be.

PASTOR

Now Deacon, you know we don't have a lot of men in the church, and most of the characters in the bible are men.

DEACON

(Thinking)

What about Sister Billings? You know that women could pass.

PASTOR

Now don't you start talking about my members. Lord knows they do that enough themselves.

DEACON

Well, why are you making the costumes?

PASTOR

When you Pastor a small church, you don't just preach; *(with emphasis)* you clean, and cook, and pay bills and do whatever needs to be done. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.

DEACON

(Defensive)

Well Pastor you know I would do more, but my ar-te-ri-tis has been acting up *(holds up twisted hand)*.

PASTOR

Wasn't the ar-te-ri-tis in your other hand last week?

DEACON

Uh yeah...it moved.

PASTOR

I see.

DEACON

Fifty years ago when Rev. Jones started this church I use to fix the plumbing, buffed the floors, and patched the roof. Now, I can barely turn the pages of my bible.

PASTOR

Well, we gonna pray that God heals your arthritis...or at least keep it in one place. *(Examining a few costumes)* I'm sure I'll need to hem a few more costumes. I'll have everyone to try them on during our final rehearsal tonight.

Pastor retrieves her sewing box and looks for a needle and thread to hem some of the costumes.

We see WANDA approaching the church.

WANDA ENTERS

She is carrying a stack of programs for the Christmas play.

WANDA

Praise the Lord!

DEACON

Good evening Sister Burford. *(Examining what Wanda is wearing)* I guess you're heading to the club after rehearsal tonight.

Wanda ignores Deacon's remarks and approaches Pastor Rivers

WANDA

Whew, driving is a mess. Everyone is out Christmas shopping. I barely got through the mall traffic. Hi Pastor, I just picked up the Christmas programs. *(Hands programs to Pastor)*

Wanda hands the programs to Pastor.

PASTOR

(Excited)

Oh, great. Deacon Willard, would you mind folding these up for me?

DEACON

Why sure Pastor.

Deacon takes a stack of programs over to a chair to fold.

Pastor examines the copy in her hand.

PASTOR

(Examining the program) I was just telling Deacon how hard it is to get people to do a good ...Uh...Uh.

Pastor has a shocked look on her face.

WANDA

Is something wrong Pastor?

PASTOR

Well...why are the Christmas programs printed on paper from the Simpson Funeral Home?

WANDA

Oh I ran out of paper at home, so I asked Freddie, my cousin who works at the funeral home, if he could make copies for me...and he did! Ain't God good?

Deacon holds up a program.

DEACON

It wouldn't be so bad if a picture of a casket was not printed on the back cover.

PASTOR

Oh well, I guess these will have to do; thank you Wanda.

WANDA

Oh no problem Pastor. I see you have all the costumes ready.

*Wanda examines a few. She holds up an
Angel costume with wings.*

I think angel costumes are so cute. I remember when I used to be an Angel.

DEACON

(Sarcastically)

Must have been a looong time ago.

WANDA

(Ignoring Deacon's comment again)

Pastor, did you sew all of these costumes yourself?

PASTOR

Most of them. Sister Miller sewed a few. But unfortunately, no one else volunteered.

WANDA

(Defensive)

Well, I would have but I can't sew with these nails. (*Shows Pastor her finger nails.*)

PASTOR

(Pastor examines Wanda's nails)

They look nice. What type of design is that?

WANDA

Christmas trees in the shape of a cross. I wanted something seasonal and spiritual.

PASTOR

(Struggling for words)

That's...uh...definitely different.

WANDA

(Excited)

Oh Pastor, I have an idea! What if we added a little twist to the ending of the play for dramatic effect.

PASTOR

Well, I don't think...

WANDA

(Very expressively)

So after the baby Jesus is born, we can have Mary faint, and Joseph begins to pray. Then we hear the thunder roar, that's God shouting a command to one of the Angels. Then suddenly an Angel flies into the barn and touches Mary and Mary regains her consciousness so she can nurse the baby Jesus.

DEACON

(Shocked)

What bible are you reading?

WANDA

Well, any woman who gives birth in a barn with smelly animals has to faint.

PASTOR

(Laughing)

Wanda you may be right, but we have to stay true to what's written in the bible.

WANDA

Well I guess you're right. I wonder why God allowed Jesus to be born inside a stable with all those animals. What a mess.

PASTOR

But thank God that He didn't leave Jesus in that mess; and He doesn't leave us in our mess. That's why we should praise Him!

DEACON

Amen to that!

FADE OUT

SCENE 3 - EXT. STREET (OUTSIDE OF PASTOR RIVERS' CHURCH)

SANTA AND THE ELF ARE WALKING DOWN THE STREET

The Elf is singing Jingle Bells in a low voice as they are walking..."Dashing through the snow..."

After a while Santa has enough.

SANTA

Will you be quiet. I can't think.

ELF

I'm just trying to stay in the holiday spirit.

SANTA

You won't be in the holiday spirit if the police catch us with this merchandise.

ELF

I'm hungry. You think we can stop at Denny's and get.... [Note: you can replace Denny's with the name of a popular restaurant in your community]

SANTA

No, no, no, we can't stop at Denny's.

They take a few steps

ELF

How about McDonalds?

SANTA

(Infuriated)

Will you stop thinking about food. We are trying escape. (Struggles to spell it) "S.C.A.P... uh T.E... uh Escape!

They take a few more steps

ELF

I gotta go to the bathroom.

SANTA

Again?! You just went to the rest room in the mall.

Elf is moving from side to side...he can barely hold it.

ELF

I gotta go again. That Egg Nog is going right through me.

SANTA

Geezy! Weezy! Can't you hold it? Squeeze!!!

ELF

No. I gotta go.

Santa looks around and notices the Church

Okay...look, there's a light on in this church. Maybe they'll let you use their bathroom.

Elf eats another Dorito.

And will you put those dumb Doritos away. You're dropping crumbs all over the place. (Murmurs) Egg Nog and Doritos, no wonder you have to go.

Elf throws the chips into his bag. Santa and Elf proceed to the church entrance door.

SCENE 4 - CHURCH

SANTA AND ELF ENTER THE CHURCH

SANTA

(Shouting)

Hello, anyone here?

PASTOR

Yes, may I help you?

SANTA

Oh, sorry to bother you, but I was wondering if my co-worker can use your bathroom. (Laughing) He had a bit too much to drink.

PASTOR

Oh by all means, yes come in.

Everyone greets one another

Deacon, can you show...uh...uh Mr. Elf to the bathroom?

DEACON

Sure Pastor...(to Elf) Go down the hall, up the steps, down the steps, around the corner, to the left.

The Elf quickly walks away...trying to hold on.

ELF EXIT

WANDA

(Admiring Santa)

Well, what brings you out?

SANTA

Christmas.

WANDA

(Expresses more interest)

No, I mean what brings you out to this neighborhood?

SANTA

(Trying to think of a good lie)

Oh...uh... We picked up some gifts at the mall to give out to needy families.

PASTOR

Oh that's so wonderful.

DEACON

Well that's real good. We need more men helping out in the community.

Wanda walks around Santa giving him a good looking over. She likes what she sees.

WANDA

You're kinda cute. You're not big and fat like most Santas. Is there a Mrs. Santa?

Pastor decides to interrupt Wanda's advances. She pulls Wanda back and gives her a look.

PASTOR

Come on in, Mister uh?

SANTA

Jackson, Charles Jackson.

PASTOR

So how long have you been doing this?

SANTA

Oh this is the first year we've tried to do it this way.

PASTOR

How do you like it?

SANTA

Well, so far so good. I'll feel much better when I get this merchandise...I mean these gifts to the needy families. Unfortunately, our car ran out of gas leaving the mall.

WANDA

Did you have a little blue Honda?

SANTA

Yeah.

WANDA

That was the car blocking all the traffic. They were towing that away when I drove by.

PASTOR

Oh my goodness. Did you have any toys in there?

SANTA

No I got everything out but I don't want to carry this around the street too long. You know there are a lot of criminals out this time of year.

WANDA

You got that right. That's why I carry a bible case with me at all times.

Wanda holds up her bible case.

DEACON

That's right Sister Burford, just put your faith in God and He will protect you.

WANDA

That's right, but just in case God needs a little help, *(Open bible case and pulls out items)* I also carry some pepper spray and I pack a Taser.

Although the script references a Taser, I used a stun gun as a prop. I prefer the look of a stun gun, however the word "taser" sounds funnier and I actually use it as a verb "tased" later in the script. Most people may not know the difference.

ELF RETURNS**ELF**

Thank you, thank you, thank you. I feel much better. *(To Santa)* Okay, let's go, we have to find a place to stash all this stuff.

Pastor, Wanda, and the Deacon act surprised at the Elf's statement.

Santa immediately tries to play it down

SANTA

(Laughing)

Stop joking. *(To others)* He loves to joke, don't you *(elbows the Elf)*

ELF

(Senses something is up)

Yes, ah yes. I'm just joking. That's what Christmas is all about...jokes and joy!

SANTA

Excuse us for a minute.

Santa takes Elf over to the corner to discuss his plan.

(Whispering) Listen, we need to hide out here until the heat dies down.

ELF

It's not hot. It's about 30 degrees outside.

SANTA

I'm not talking about the weather! I'm talking about the police. They are probably out looking for us. Look, we need to contact Sean so he can come and pick us up from here.

Santa and Elf return.

PASTOR

(Speaking to Elf) I think it's a blessing what you guys are doing?

ELF

You do?

PASTOR

Oh yes. We need more people in the world like you two.

ELF

Really?

DEACON

You know, I wish I'd done the same thing when I was a younger man.

ELF

(Excited)

Hey Eddie, they agree with what we are going.

WANDA

Eddie? I thought your name was Charles?

SANTA

(Trying to cover up)

It is.. Charles "Eddie" Jackson. My close friends call me Eddie, right...JAMIE?

ELF

Jamie?

Santa kicks Elf on his ankle, then Elf gets it.

Oh yeah, that's right, ED-DEE.

PASTOR

Oh forgive me, we did not introduce ourselves. I'm, Reverend Deborah Rivers, Pastor of the New Faith Church, and this is Deacon Willard and one of my faithful members; Sister Wanda Burford.

SANTA

Oh, you're a Pastor? That's great.

ELF

Yeah, you probably don't get a lot of policemen coming around here.

Santa shakes his head in disbelief

PASTOR

(Puzzled over the statement)

Of course not; why should they?

SANTA

(Covering)

He was just thinking about last year; we participated in the police department toy drive.

PASTOR

Well, I'm sorry to hear about your car. I wish we could drive you, but we are about to rehearse our Christmas program tonight.

SANTA

Oh that's alright. If we could use your cell phone, we can call someone to come pick us up.

PASTOR

Sure.

SANTA

...And would you mind if we wait here until our ride comes.

DEACON

Sure. Let me move your bags out of the way.

Deacon moves to lift up one of the bags

Santa rushes over to assist Deacon before he has a chance.

SANTA

Oh let me get that. It's a bit heavy. (To Elf) Why don't you call Sean while I take care of the bags.

Pastor retrieves her phone and gives it to the Elf. Then Pastor returns to work on the costumes.

ELF

(Thinking)

Now what is Sean's number?

Elf walks over to the far side of the Christmas tree. He keeps dialing different phone numbers, but can't seem to remember Sean's.

In the meantime...

Wanda notices the half-decorated Christmas tree.

WANDA

Pastor, the Christmas tree is not ready.

PASTOR

I've been trying to get someone to finish decorating it. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.

Deacon points to his arthritic hand.

DEACON

I would but...

WANDA

Well, I guess I'll try, but decorating is not my thing.

Wanda reaches into the nearby box of decorations and begins to throw garland on the tree.

At the same time... Elf is on the other side of the tree dialing. He finally connects with Sean.

Initially Wanda is not paying attention to Elf's conversation.

ELF

(Whispering)

Sean, Sean. It's me Boo-bee. Me and Eddie got the stuff! (Listens)
Yeah, it was the easiest robbery we ever did.

The word "robbery" gets Wanda's attention. She begins to ease-drop on the conversation.

Our get-away car ran out of gas so we need you to pick us up. (Listens)
No, we're safe, but we're hiding out in this church on Hartfield Road.
(Listens) Cool, see you later.

Elf hangs up and goes over to where the Pastor is sewing.

Wanda circles around the tree so the Elf does not see her. She frantically motions Deacon Willard to come over.

WANDA

(Whispering)

Deacon, Deacon come here. Hurry! I don't think these guys are who they say they are?

DEACON

Of course not; they are not really Santa and an Elf.

WANDA

No, no, I don't mean that. They're robbers. I overheard that Elf, Boo-Bee, telling someone they just robbed some stores. That must be stolen merchandise in those bags. You're gonna have to do something.

Deacon holds up his arthritic hand again.

DEACON

I would but I got this ar-te-ri-tis in my hand.

WANDA

Well, we have to do something. We can't just let them stay in the church.

Deacon tries to hold Wanda's hands

DEACON

Let's pray.

WANDA

Deacon this ain't no time to pray! Go get the Taser out of my bible case and zap them!

DEACON

Do what?

WANDA

(With expression)

Get my Taser and zap them!

Deacon creeps towards Wanda's bible case on the chair.

In the meantime...

ELF

(To Pastor) You did an excellent job making these costumes.

PASTOR

Oh thank you. Your costume looks great. Who made it?

ELF

Eddie stole...I mean, Eddie bought it from a costume store.

PASTOR

Well it fits you real nice.

Deacon has now reached the bible case and pulls out the Taser. He looks back at Wanda, hiding behind the tree. She motions him to proceed with the plan.

He continues to approach the Elf from behind.

PASTOR

You know you are about the size of one of my church members. Do you mind if I hold this costume up against you to check the length.

ELF

Sure.

Pastor holds up the costume against the front of the Elf with his arms stretched out. The Elf's back is to the Deacon.

The Deacon turns on the Taser. He takes one last look back at Wanda. She frantically waves at him to do it!

With the Taser in one hand, the Deacon uses his other hand to grab the Elf's shoulder to turn him around. But when the Elf turns around, his arm mistakenly hits the Taser and pushes it into the Deacon.

The Deacon has tased himself! He twirls and stumbles around a couple of times and falls to the floor, shaking.

Chaos erupts! Wanda runs over, the Pastor is shocked, and Santa returns.

PASTOR

What in the world is going on?!

ELF

(Picks up Taser) I think he just tased himself.

PASTOR

(To Wanda) What is he doing with your taser?

WANDA

(Pointing to the Santa and Elf) Pastor, these men are thieves! They stole those gifts and they are hiding out in the church.

SANTA

(Walks over to the Elf) Big mouth. Give me that Taser. (He grabs the Taser).

PASTOR

(Approaches Santa)

Now Charles or Eddie, or whatever your name is, we have a Christmas play rehearsal tonight, so you need to get out of here.

SANTA

Look we're not going anywhere until our ride comes. So just go back to what you were doing and no one will get hurt.

Wanda is anxious to leave. She starts to collect her stuff.

WANDA

Oh my goodness. I just remembered that I have to return these shoes before the mall closes.

Santa stops her before she is able to leave.

SANTA

Hold it right there. Get back over here or you'll get tased next.

Wanda begins speaking in tongues as she nervously returns to decorating the Christmas tree.

Pastor returns to mending the costumes, and the Deacon is laid out on the floor.

Santa and Elf pick up Deacon Willard (by his legs and arms) and carry him over to a pew and swing him on top.

At the same time...

We see SISTER TURNER and SISTER BEVERLY coming down the street toward the church. Sister Beverly walks with the assistance of a cane.

SCENE 5 - EXT. STREET

Sister Turner and Sister Beverly ad-lib a conversation as they approach the church.

SISTER TURNER AND SISTER BEVERLY ENTER

SISTER BEVERLY

Hold on Sister Turner, I can't walk as fast as you.

SISTER TURNER

Alright, come on we're here.

SISTER BEVERLY

How long do we have to keep rehearsing this play?

SISTER TURNER

This is the last rehearsal.

SISTER BEVERLY

Well thank goodness.

SISTER TURNER

C'mon, let's go on in. The Pastor is waiting for us.

SCENE 6 - INT. CHURCH

*Santa hides the Taser behind his back
when he see the two women enter the
church.*

PASTOR

(Nervous, not wanting them to get
involved)

Oh, hello Sister Turner and Sister Beverly, can I help you?

SISTER TURNER

Uh, there's rehearsal tonight, remember?

*Pastor glances back at Santa who motions
her to get rid of them.*

PASTOR

Oh yes, yes, well, maybe we don't need to rehearse tonight.

SISTER TURNER

(Laughing)

Don't need to rehearse? Pastor you are funny.

*They walk around the Pastor and see Santa
and the Elf*

SISTER BEVERLY

Are these new characters in the play?

*Sister Turner introduces herself to Santa
and the Elf*

SISTER TURNER

Hi, my name is Mildred Turner and this is Sister Beverly. Are you new members?

Wanda is about to tell all.

WANDA

They're not members, they're

Pastor interrupts...

PASTOR

...They just stopped by for a minute to use...uh....uh the phone.

ELF

Yes, your Pastor let us use her phone. Our get-away car broke down.

SISTER TURNER

(Puzzled)

Get-away car?

SANTA

He means we are trying to "get a way" to our car. Unfortunately it was towed. (He pushes the Elf)

SISTER TURNER

Oh, I'm so sorry. You would think these tow truck drivers would have a little mercy during the Christmas season.

SANTA

It's unfortunate there are so many mean people in the world.

Sister Turner approaches the Pastor

SISTER TURNER

Are these the costumes Pastor? Which ones are ours?

*Pastor reluctantly gives in and walks
Sister Turner over to show her the
costumes.*

SISTER BEVERLY

(To Wanda) I still need to learn my part.

WANDA

Sister Beverly, you only have one line.

*Sister Beverly reaches in her purchase to
get the script.*

SISTER BEVERLY

I know, but I been looking for it for a month.

WANDA

You play Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.

SISTER BEVERLY

Oh that's right. What's my line?

WANDA

You tell your husband, Zechariah, that you're pregnant.

SISTER BEVERLY

(Shocked)

Who's pregnant?

WANDA

You are.

*Sister Beverly begins to pulls her
clothes protectively around her.*

SISTER BEVERLY

(Defensive)

I'm not pregnant. I'm a good Christian woman.

WANDA

Not you! Your character, Elizabeth.

SISTER BEVERLY

Oh. *(Looks at Deacon Willard)* Why is Deacon Willard stretched out on the pew?

WANDA

He was trying to stop, these...

PASTOR

(Interrupts Wanda)

He's just not feeling well.

Sister Beverly doesn't buy it.

SISTER BEVERLY

Oh, there ain't nothing wrong with him.

She proceeds to shake him to wake him up.

Deacon Willard! Deacon Willard! Wake up! Wake up! You sleep enough during morning service.

Deacon Willard slowly begins to regain consciousness, but he's still somewhat dizzy.

PASTOR'S CELL PHONE RINGS

Pastor looks around for her phone which is sitting on the church pew.

PASTOR

Where's my phone. It's probably someone from the cast calling.
(Answers phone) Hello Pastor Rivers!

As she listens, her demeanor changes from calm to irritated.

Yeah, Eddie is here. *(To Santa)* It's for you.

Santa takes phone from Pastor and walks over to the corner.

SANTA

Hello. *(Listens)* Sean, where are you? *(Listens)* What do you mean you have a flat? *(Listens)* Just change it and get over here.

Santa hangs up phone

(To Pastor) Looks like we will be here a little while longer. *(Gives phone back to Pastor)*

SISTER TURNER

Pastor, now I don't like to get into your business, but why is someone calling this man on your phone?

PASTOR

(She gives up!)

Look, I can't take this any more. These guys are thieves, dressed up as Santa and an Elf!

WANDA

That's right! Now they're holding us hostage.

SISTER BEVERLY

Hostage, in the church?!

SANTA

That's right, hostage in the church. And we're not going anywhere until the coast is clear.

ELF

What coast? The east coast or the west coast?

SANTA

(In disbelief)

Sometimes I wonder if you have enough sense to be a thief.

SISTER BEVERLY

(Preparing to leave)

Well, I came here to rehearse the Christmas play, not to be held hostage. You all can stay here until the "coast is clear", but I'm getting out of here.

Sister Beverly hobbles toward the door with her cane. However Santa steps in front of her.

SANTA

Look old lady, where do you think you're going? Go back over there and sit dow.

Sister Beverly shouts, drops her cane, and scurry back to sit next to Deacon Willard.

SCENE 7 - INT. CHURCH

SUPPORTING CAST MEMBERS ENTER

*We see the remaining cast members arrive
at the church for rehearsal.*

*(They are coming down the aisles
through the audience to the stage)*

Santa notices more people coming.

SANTA

(To Pastor) Hey, hey, who are all these people?

PASTOR

This is the cast. I told you that we are having a rehearsal tonight.

*The people pile in. They greet one
another. Some of the children see Santa
and the Elf.*

YOUNG BOY

Hey, there's Santa!

All the kids run over to Santa.

Santa is overwhelmed.

SANTA

Hey! Hey! Hey! Listen... I'm not Santa and he's not an Elf.

YOUNG BOY

We know that. You're just Santa's helper.

SANTA

No, I'm not really Santa's helper either. *(Speaking to everyone)* We're thieves and we need to hide out here until our ride comes.

*Kids walk back to their parents
disappointed.*

Now I know you nice church folks don't want no trouble.

Parents/Adults looks at one another

ADULT 1

Let's beat them up.

*The crowd becomes rowdy. The Pastor
steps in.*

PASTOR

Now wait a minute. This is the Lord's house, and I won't have any violence up in here.

ADULT 2

Okay, well let's drag them outside and beat them up!

Everyone agrees; anger builds.

PASTOR

No, no. That's not the example we want to teach our young children. You know what the bible says.

SISTER BEVERLY

(Raises her cane) If your right eye offends you, then "pluck it out"!

*Everyone gets rowdy again. Some shout
"let's pluck their eyes out"*

PASTOR

No, the bible says, "Love your enemies". Now I'm not condoning what they are doing, but I'm not going to allow anyone to harm them. They will be gone soon but right now; we have a play to rehearse.

The cast members reluctantly calm down.

WANDA

Okay everyone, Pastor is right, let's start putting your costumes on.

CHURCH MEMBERS GO BACK STAGE. ONLY PASTOR, ELF, SANTA,
AND DEACON REMAIN ON-STAGE.

Once backstage; The cast members put their costumes on. (See Costume Page notes)

Also, two chairs are positioned next to the Christmas Tree.

The Elf approaches Pastor.

ELF

Are all of those people in the Christmas play?

PASTOR

Yes, we've been rehearsing for nearly 2 months.

ELF

I was once in a Christmas play.

PASTOR

Really, what part did you play?

ELF

An Elf!

PASTOR

I see it left a lasting impression on you. *(To Santa and Elf)* As long as you're in the Lord's house, you are our guests. So please have a seat.

Santa and the Elf take a seat.

DEACON

Hey Pastor, look. *(Holds out both hands)* My ar-te-ri-tis is gone. That Taser must have cured me.

PASTOR

I don't know if a Taser can do that, but it's done and that's all that matters. Can you work the spotlight for me?

DEACON

Sure, I'll setup it up.

DEACON WILLARD EXIT.

WANDA RETURNS

WANDA

Pastor, I think we're ready.

PASTOR

Great. Let's get everyone in position.

SISTER TURNER AND YOUNG GIRL COME OUT.

They sit in the chairs next to the
Christmas Tree

WANDA

(Mimicking a Film Director)

Okay everyone, quiet on the set! Lights, Camera, and Action!

PASTOR

Wanda, we're not shooting a movie.

WANDA

I know, but I always wanted to say that.

(Clears her throat)

Ladies and Gentlemen *(speaking sarcastically to Santa)* and Thieves, welcome to our program. Sit back and enjoy the play, "Creation, Christmas, and the Cross".

SCENE 8 - INT. CHURCH (CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL BEGINS)

BEGIN STORY READING - PRODUCTION NOTES.

THE FOLLOWING STORY READING DIALOG IS ALSO DOCUMENTED IN
THE **"STORY READING, STAGE, AND MUSIC" PRODUCTION SHEET**
INCLUDED WITH THIS SCRIPT. THE PRODUCTION SHEET WILL HELP
YOU COORDINATE THE READING TO THE STAGE ACTION TO THE
MUSIC.

- End of Preview -

The rehearsal of "Creation, Christmas, and the Cross" begins here.
Watch as the cast re-enacts the fall of man in the Garden of Eden,
man's attempt to obtain forgiveness through sacrificial offering, God's
plan to redeem mankind by sending his Son, and Jesus' death on the
cross and his resurrection from the dead. After the rehearsal the
Pastor offers Santa and the Elf an opportunity to change their life and
begin a new life through Christ.
