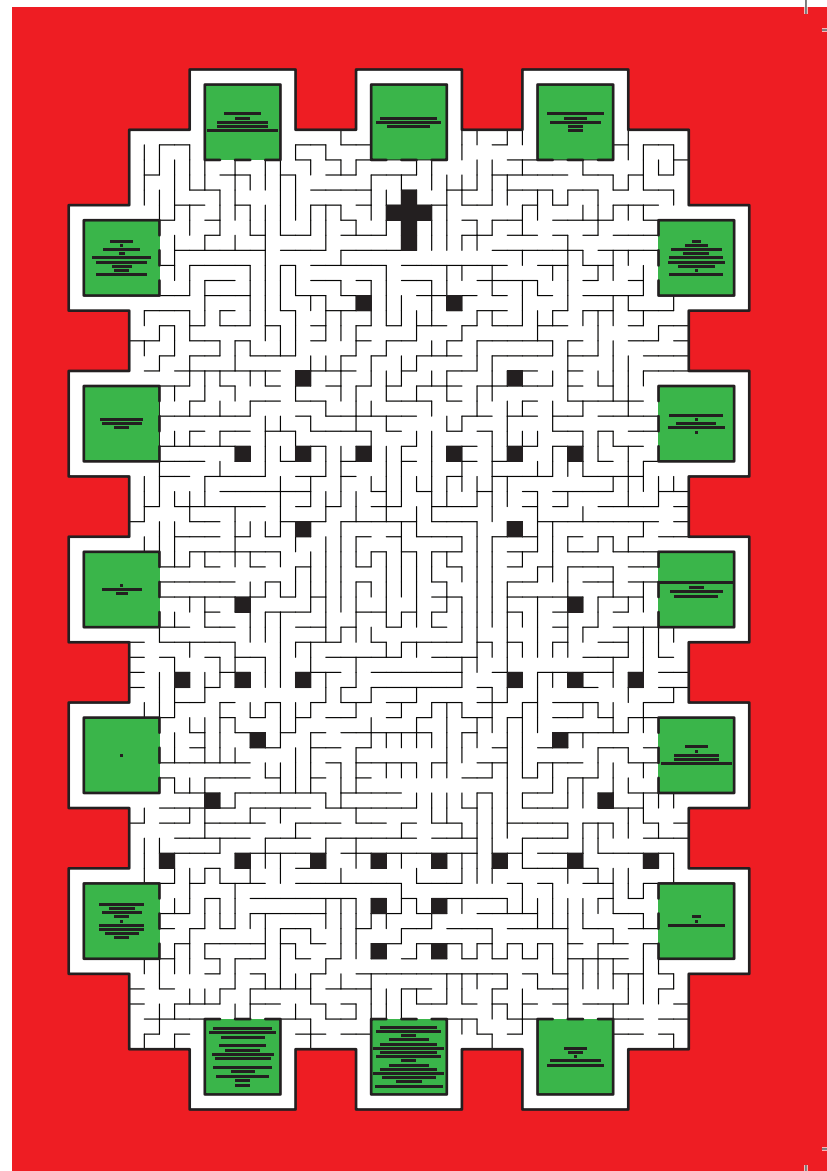
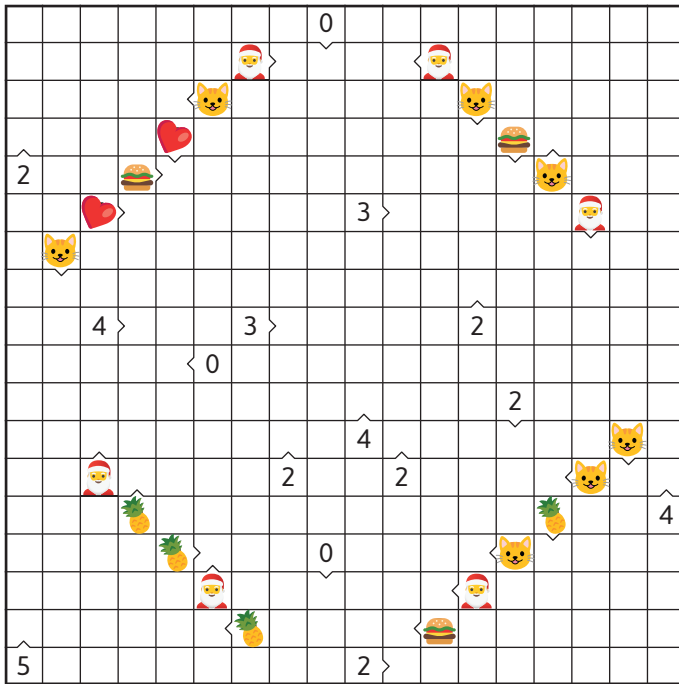


**BONUS (very hard) - goodbye 2025, the only square year of our lifetime. Place the 1x1, two 2x2, ..., nine 9x9 colored tiles in the big grid. One 7x7 is already given which means there is only one possible solution!**

(C) 2025 HallAngelo.

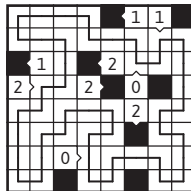
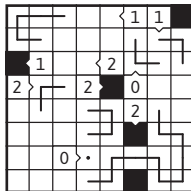
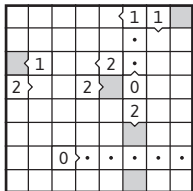
This is number seven. Solutions will appear on <https://www.stack.nl/~angelo/> in February of the new year. All text typeset in the Asap font. All puzzles designed by me, Angelo Wentzler. Layouts and graphics done in Adobe Illustrator and InDesign. The maze (easy) decodes the emoji for the Yajilin (medium). For the dropcaps you may need to zoom in on the pdf version (same link). Why are you still reading this, get to solving! No Christmas traditions were harmed during the production of this card.





This is a  
  
 puzzle

- Connect the centers of cells with line segments to form a single closed loop.
- Every non-clue, non-loop cell must be colored black.
- Black cells may not share an edge.
- Clues indicate how many black cells occur in the direction of the arrow.
- You must somehow figure out the values of the emoji clues.



Dear friend and/or colleague,



year has past... I hope it brought you, on balance, good things, even if the world at large appears to be darkening. Perhaps the (optional!) puzzles on this card can distract you - a whopping four, if we count the mysterious 'drop cap' symbols.



, I also use this space to say something (hopefully) inspiring. Against the backdrop of a world that is moving steadily to the right, towards hate and intolerance, that feels especially needed; how else will things brighten if we don't carry a light? So:



you find wisdom in your past (because you survived; even the worst), joy in your present (because you strive to do good), and hope in your future (because you see your dreams: out of reach, but not for long)!