**Pastors, this sample letter would be tailored to fit your individual church situation.**

[date]

Dear Friends,

The Lord has been so good to us! [There is the option here to list blessings here. It would also be appropriate to list challenges, including budgetary.]

Beginning in [month], our entire [church name] family will be asked to sharpen their pencils and make a personal plan to share their God-given blessings. [If you shared financial challenges in the previous paragraph, it is good to stress that we are not planning to “meet budget.” We are planning to respond to God’s grace.] Each of us will be encouraged to examine our hearts. Where is the Lord and his work in the pecking order of my personal priorities? Is my heart thoughtful and thankful for all God’s blessings? Or is it centered on itself? Where am I right now in my life of giving? Can I, under God’s blessing, do better? Much better? Do I want to do better? If not, why not? If so, why so? May God bless you with answers to these questions—and more like them—in the weeks ahead!

This stewardship emphasis is titled *10 for 10: Teaching a Lutheran Perspective on Tithing. 10 for 10* is meant to be an enhancement to our regular, weekly giving. Its purpose is simple: *To introduce members to the biblical practice of tithing with a goal toward continued growth in giving.* *10 for 10* will ask each of us to consider offering a tithe of our income for the period of ten weeks.Hence, the name—*10 for* 10. The people of God have found great joy in the practice of tithing over the years. Have you ever met a brother or sister in Christ who regularly exercised their faith through tithing and regretted it? I haven’t. Not ever. Not once.

It is possible that some members of our [church name] family may not be able to reach the tithe because of circumstances that are known by our heavenly Father. Because the Bible teaches that our giving is to be *in proportion to our income,* these families may be able to increase the proportion of their giving. (What about raising offerings by 1-2% of one’s income as a deliberate step on the way to tithing?) In other words, everyone’s giving is a blessing that will enable the ministry of the Gospel to move forward in [city].

In short: *10 for 10* is going to encourage each of us to be prayerful, thoughtful, and intentional in our giving. The generosity of God the Father will enable it! The grace of God the Son will empower it! The gifts of God the Holy Spirit will inspire it!

Whatever your prayerful decision is regarding *10 for 10*, your [church name] pastors, teachers, and leaders pray that you will continue to give faithfully and generously. This is your ministry. God has given his gifts to you. You and you alone can make a prayerful plan on how you intend to put them to work to God’s glory and your neighbor’s good. *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).*

May the joy of giving increase and overflow in our [church name] family this [month]! May the blessings of Jesus be yours in abundance today, tomorrow, and forever!

In Christ,

Pastor [name]

Pastoral Advisor to [board/or other title]