

# Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

November 8 & 9, 2014

## Making Plans

*"Teach us to number our days" (Psalm 90:12).*

On October 12, 2014, St. Louis Cardinals rookie outfielder, Oscar Taveras, hit a game-tying home run in the National League Championship Series. For a brief time, this young man was on top of the world! But just two weeks later, on October 26, Taveras' short life came to an abrupt end, as he and his girlfriend were both killed in a car accident near his hometown in the Dominican Republic. Taveras was just 22 years old. A young man with his life ahead of him, just beginning a promising career, tragically lost his life in an instant ...

Taveras' death serves as a stark reminder of the brevity of life. Like him, none of us knows how much or how *little* time we will have in this world. Moses writes, *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12). In other words, a wise person realizes the brevity of this earthly life. Truly wise people prepare for the life in the world to come—by trusting Jesus, the only Way to the Father. An additional wise choice is to begin making plans for the future. That includes things like planning for retirement and preparing a will.

But what about making plans for our own funerals? It's important to sit down with a funeral home director and make these preparations, along with sharing our desires with our families. I would also encourage you to make plans for your own funeral service – even if it could still be decades away!

St. Paul tells us in Romans 14:7-8, *"None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."* Both our lives and our deaths are occasions to give the Lord the glory and honor He is due. How can we do this through our funerals? By choosing Scripture readings and hymns that witness to the faith God has given us in Christ and the salvation He gives us by grace through faith in Him.

In other words, we can use our death and the planning of our own funeral as a final opportunity to affirm our faith in the risen Christ, praise Him for the gift of eternal life, and leave a legacy for our

survivors. By putting our desires in writing, we also help our survivors know that they are fulfilling them.

What follows is a sample guide to use in making plans for your funeral. I encourage you to fill it out. Explore the suggested Scripture passages—*it makes a great personal Bible study!* Also select several hymns, or think of others. And then please share this sheet: leaving copies at the church office, with family members, and with your funeral director. *(We can help you make these copies in the office and will have blank planning guides available.)*

+++++

**Your Full Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture Readings:**

*(Note: Psalm 23 is read in all funerals. Choose three total readings from among the following sections. )*

**Suggested Old Testament Readings:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Job 19:21-27
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 27
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 39
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 46
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 84
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 90
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 91
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 111
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 121
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 127
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 130
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 139
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 145
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 146
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 25:6-9
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 40:6-11
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 41:10-14
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 53
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 61:1-3
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lamentations 3:22-33

**Suggested Epistle Readings:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 8 (*any portion*)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Corinthians 15 (*any portion*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:8
- \_\_\_\_\_ Philippians 1:19-23
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Peter 1:3-9
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 John 3:1-3
- \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 7:9-17
- \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 21:2-7

**Suggested Gospel Readings:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 11:25-30
- \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 28:1-10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 2:22-33
- \_\_\_\_\_ John 3:16-21
- \_\_\_\_\_ John 5:24-25
- \_\_\_\_\_ John 6:32-51
- \_\_\_\_\_ John 10:11-16, 27-29
- \_\_\_\_\_ John 11:21-27
- \_\_\_\_\_ John 14:1-6

**Sermon Text:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The Pastor may choose the text.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I would like the Pastor to preach from this passage: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hymns (Choose Up To Three):**

*(Note: while hymns or solos are not limited to these, they should reflect Scripture's clear message of salvation by grace through faith in Christ. The Pastor will have the final responsibility in determining the appropriateness of the songs.)*

**Congregational Hymns:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ "Abide With Me" (LSB 878)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Amazing Grace" (LSB 744)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Beautiful Savior" (LSB 537)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "By Grace I'm Saved" (LSB 566)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" (LSB 611)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Children Of The Heavenly Father" (LSB 725)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Christ Be My Leader" (LSB 861)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Crown Him With Many Crowns" (LSB 525)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Eternal Father Strong to Save" (LSB 717)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "For All The Saints" (LSB 677)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "How Great Thou Art" (LSB 801)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" (LSB 740)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (LSB 461)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "I'm But A Stranger Here" (LSB 748)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "In The Cross Of Christ I Glory" (LSB 427)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Jerusalem The Golden" (LSB 672)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Jesus, Lead Thou On" (LSB 718)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Jesus Lives! The Vict'ry's Won" (LSB 490)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Jesus Loves Me" (LSB 588)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Just As I Am" (LSB 570)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Lord Take My Hand And Lead Me" (LSB 722)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less" (LSB 575)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Nearer My God To Thee" (LW 514)

- \_\_\_\_\_ "O God Our Help In Ages Past" (LSB 733)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "On Eagles' Wings" (LSB 727)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Rock of Ages" (LSB 761)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Softly and Tenderly"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Take My Life And Let It Be" (LSB 784)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (LSB 709)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "The Lamb" (LSB 547)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "The Old Rugged Cross"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "This Is My Father's World"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" (LSB 770)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "When Peace Like A River" (LSB 763)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocal Selection/Solo (Optional):**

*(Note: many of the hymns listed above could also be sung as a solo.)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ "I Need Thee Every Hour"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "In The Garden"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"
- \_\_\_\_\_ "The Lord's Prayer"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Funeral Pall:**

*(Note: the funeral pall is an ornate covering placed over the casket at the beginning of the service. It signifies that, in Holy Baptism, you are God's child and clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin.)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Use the pall.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do not use the pall.

**Memorials:**

*(Note: memorial gifts are optional. You or your family can select one of the following, choose a different recipient, or leave this section blank.)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Fund
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sioux Falls Lutheran School
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls
- \_\_\_\_\_ Main Street Living
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Instructions:**

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---