In the style of David Letterman, I offer to all us (human and non-human), 10 things that I have learned about all God’s critters from reading scripture and the book of nature:

1. All of creation depends upon God.
2. In Genesis, God calls what God has made: “good.” Although, I might choose to disagree when I’m sure that it was my dog and not me that tore apart the couch, destroyed $500 worth of books, and chewed up the coffee table.
3. All God’s critters got a place in the choir. All of creation is called up to give praise to God in their own
voice: “Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps . . . “

4. All things: all of creation, all flesh, are not only created, but loved, and saved by God through Christ. Colossians 1: 15 “He is the image of the invisible God, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created . . .

5. Creation co-creates with God in the on-going creation of this world. Genesis 1:11-13. “Let the earth put forth . . . “ And the “earth brought forth vegetation . . . “ The subject of the sentence is “earth.” Biologists know this well. Evolutionary biologists now think that dogs and humans evolved together. Dogs might have created us! Big surprise. An article in National Geographic reports: “Though selection in the same gene in two different species, known as convergent evolution, is rare in nature. But the results weren't too surprising. After all, humans and dogs have shared the same living environment for years.” And God saw that it was good.

6. Humans are not so different as they like to think they are. Ecclesiastes reminds us that “time and chance happen to us all.” Only about 1.2% of our DNA is different from Chimpanzees. “Fruit flies share 75% of the genes that cause disease with humans, so scientists can learn about human genetics by studying fruit fly genetics.”

7. Sin affects everyone and everything. In the book of Jonah, even “the animals shall be covered with sackcloth and they shall cry mightily to God.”
8. Humans are called to have dominion: to care for, nurture, and not exploit. The killing of animals for food is a result of sin and the fall.

9. All God’s critters have a place or as Lutherans would say: a vocation in the choir. Our companion species have special vocations: some are educated to be therapists with and for others, some dogs sniff out cancer, cats can bring you a meal after a good hunt in a field, birds and the lilies of the field remind us to not worry and to look to God for our daily needs. Or like my doodle and poodle, some critters figure that God calls them simply to play with their companion humans. In Psalm 104 25-26: The Psalmist reminds that that God formed the Leviathan, the sea monster, simply “to sport” in the waters. God likes having fun with creation.

10. And all’s well that end’s well. Revelation 21: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . “ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See I am making all things new.” All things, every last one of God’s critters will always have a place in the choir.
Pet Blessing
Monday, October 6, 2014

Prelude “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir” Bluegrass Band
Paul Egland, Joel Johnson, Gary Pederson, Craig Spencer

Welcome/Announcements

Invocation

Prayer of St. Francis
Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury,pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Song “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir” by Bill Stains
Chorus:
All God’s critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws
Or anything they got. Now...

Listen to the top where the little birds sing
On the melodies with the high notes ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees (@#$%*) Chorus

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
While the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles.
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
And the old coyote howls (howl......) Chorus
Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do
The old cow just goes MOOOOO    Chorus.

Singin' in the night-time, singin' in the day
The little duck quacks, and he's on his way
The possum ain't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself (PAUSE)    Chorus.

It's a simple song of livin' sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The gumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove (chrppp). Chorus.

Reading From Christopher Knight, an Orthodox Christian
"To the Woman Feeding Squirrels" by Patrick Hicks

Scripture
John 1:14

Sermon “The Ontological Choreography of the Logos” or
"All doG's Critters Got a Place in the Choir"
Rev. Dr. Ann Pederson, Professor of Religion

Pet Blessing

Benediction

Postlude “Salty Dog Blues” Bluegrass Band

Dismissal

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tues, Oct 7 Catholic Mass, 10 am
Common Ground, 7:30 pm
Wed, Oct 8 Holy Communion, 10 am, Pastor Paul Rohde & the
Augustana Orchestra
Fri, Oct 10 Worship Service, 10 am, Natasha Wegner & October
Birthday Blessing
Sun, Oct 12 Worship Service, 11 am, Outreach Team
Catholic Mass, 8 pm
Mon, Oct 13 Worship Service, 10 am, Pastor Ann Rosendale & the Flute
Choir

TOUGH QUESTIONS WITH PASTOR ANN 2 is happening Thursday, October 9
at 7pm in Tuve Hall. This is an opportunity to anonymously ask some of your
most pressing questions about faith and life, and share deep conversation
with your peers. No topic is off limits. Snacks will be abundant! All are
welcome!

CONEXIONES, a partnership program between our Augustana Chapel and
the Hispanic congregation of Pueblo de Dios, is looking for volunteers to help
make autumn-themed baked goods with kids on October 12 at 1:30-3:30pm
(NO SPANISH NECESSARY). The cookies will be sold as part of a fundraiser to
help these kids attend college. For more information, please contact Jordan
Dobrowski at jdobrowskii11@ole.augie.edu or (952) 994-2308.

Join us to serve at the SIOUX FALLS BANQUET on Tuesday, October 14 at
5:15 pm! The Sioux Falls Banquet is a local soup kitchen dedicated to
providing food and fellowship for its guests. Sign up in the Narthex on the
yellow paper through October 7th!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BLESSING Celebrating your birthday in October? Join us
in chapel next Friday, October 10th, 10 am for a special blessing.

Come listen to one campus’s unique CAMPAIGN FOR AWARENESS OF
SEXUAL VIOLENCE, and then participate in a discussion with Beth Torkelson,
Assistant Dean of Students, and Beth McDuffie, Adjunct Professor of
Religion, about sexuality at Augustana: what’s important, what’s
problematic, and what simply needs to be talked about. Bring your
questions! Thursday, October 16, at 7pm in the 3-in-1 room.
Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do
The old cow just goes MOOOOO    Chorus.

Singin' in the night-time, singin' in the day
The little duck quacks, and he's on his way
The possum ain't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself (PAUSE)    Chorus.

It's a simple song of livin' sung everywhere
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
The gumpy alligator and the hawk above
The sly raccoon and the turtle dove (chrppp).   Chorus.

Reading  From Christopher Knight, an Orthodox Christian
“Too the Woman Feeding Squirrels” by Patrick Hicks

Scripture  John 1:14

Sermon  “The Ontological Choreography of the Logos” or
“All doG’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir”
    Rev. Dr. Ann Pederson, Professor of Religion

Pet Blessing
Benediction

Postlude  “Salty Dog Blues”   Bluegrass Band

Dismissal

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tues, Oct 7   Catholic Mass, 10 am
Common Ground, 7:30 pm

Wed, Oct 8   Holy Communion, 10 am, Pastor Paul Rohde & the
Augustana Orchestra

Fri, Oct 10  Worship Service, 10 am, Natasha Wegner & October
Birthday Blessing

Sun, Oct 12  Worship Service, 11 am, Outreach Team
Catholic Mass, 8 pm

Mon, Oct 13  Worship Service, 10 am, Pastor Ann Rosendale & the Flute
Choir

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOUGH QUESTIONS WITH PASTOR ANN 2 is happening Thursday, October 9
at 7pm in Tuve Hall. This is an opportunity to anonymously ask some of your
most pressing questions about faith and life, and share deep conversation
with your peers. No topic is off limits. Snacks will be abundant! All are
welcome!

CONEXIONES, a partnership program between our Augustana Chapel and
the Hispanic congregation of Pueblo de Dios, is looking for volunteers to help
make autumn-themed baked goods with kids on October 12 at 1:30-3:30pm
(NO SPANISH NECESSARY). The cookies will be sold as part of a fundraiser
to help these kids attend college. For more information, please contact Jordan
Dobrowski at jdobrowski11@ole.augie.edu or (952) 994-2308.

Join us to serve at the SIOUX FALLS BANQUET on Tuesday, October 14 at
5:15 pm! The Sioux Falls Banquet is a local soup kitchen dedicated to
providing food and fellowship for its guests. Sign up in the Narthex on the
yellow paper through October 7th!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY BLESSING Celebrating your birthday in October? Join us
in chapel next Friday, October 10th, 10 am for a special blessing.

Come listen to one campus’s unique CAMPAIGN FOR AWARENESS OF
SEXUAL VIOLENCE, and then participate in a discussion with Beth Torkelson,
Assistant Dean of Students, and Beth McDuffie, Adjunct Professor of
Religion, about sexuality at Augustana: what’s important, what’s
problematic, and what simply needs to be talked about. Bring your
questions! Thursday, October 16, at 7pm in the 3-in-1 room.

Augustana (SD) Campus Ministry