“Energy,” William Blake says, “is eternal delight.” We see and experience in our pets’ elemental natures that energy is eternal delight. American poet Mark Doty in his memoir Dog Years writes of his two retrievers, and yes, it is largely their story, Beau and Arden, running together on the paths, near the ocean, vast energetic forces, whirlwinds of distraction. Doty writes, “Two profiles, one black and one golden, engraved upon my memory, where it is always a winter day, traces of snow marking the paths under a white sky.” Doty concludes that chapter, “It isn’t that one wants to live for the sake of a dog, exactly, but that dogs show you why you might want to”.

I am, unabashedly, like many of you, a dog lover. Animal lovers feel a need—consider all the animal books—to explain in words and to tell their experiences, their feelings of intimacy with these wordless creatures who communicate with us, these wordless creatures who are alive—or who were alive—in God’s Creation and part of God’s Covenant. Genesis 6 reads that “living things of all flesh”, “every creeping thing of the earth” Noah shall bring to the ark, and Noah shall keep them alive. Noah shall keep them alive.

At the death of the black retriever Arden, Mark Doty quotes Robinson Jeffers’s elegy for his English bulldog named Haig who speaks from his grave, outside the widow of the house where he lived. Haig says, “I’ve changed my ways a little, I cannot now Run with you in the evenings along the shore Except in a kind of dream, and you, if you dream a moment, You see me there.” Pets are both a presence and an absence—for years to come. We tell stories of our pets—for years to come. I know how much of my life’s narration is woven in with my pets: I name and honor before you, Max, Teddy, Buffy, Random, Thor, Caesar, Bandit, Mr. Jiggs, Chaucer, Irving, Fritos, Araby, Zodiac, Bear, Tuki, Hank, Abbey, Missy.

And I will not forget a special tribute to our cats. The finest cat poem in English is part of a religious poem by Christopher Smart entitled Jubilate Agno (Rejoice in the Lamb). It was written in the mid-eighteenth century in a lunatic asylum, Bedlam, but the manuscript was not discovered and published until 1939. Christopher Smart’s cat Jeoffry kept him in life during those years (probably wrongful years) in Bedlam. Smart knew the real things about cats all right. His title is “For I Will Consider My Cat Jeoffry”: I'll read excerpts.

For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant of the Living God duly and daily serving him.
Pet Blessing:  October 3, 2011
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.
For then he leaps up to catch the musk, which is the blessing of God upon his prayer.
For in his morning orisons he loves the sun and the sun loves him.
For he is of the tribe of Tiger.
For he is an instrument for the children to learn benevolence upon.
For every house is incomplete without him and a blessing is lacking in the spirit.
Today is the blessing of the animals, the tribute to God’s creatures.
This morning we consider our pets (Please name them aloud), whom we have named and undertaken care of FOR OUR GREAT BENEFIT.
Once again, let us responsively name aloud our pets.
For I will consider my pet ______
For he is the servant of the Living God duly and daily serving him, an instrument for us to learn benevolence, and a blessing to our spirit. Yes, it is rightly so.
Blessing of the Creatures

Thank you for being with us on the ark. God bless your life__________ (please name your pet aloud) and the love you give. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Sending

Postlude “All Creatures of Our God and King” John Carter

Thanks for contributing to our campus-wide effort for the Humane Society. Pet food and equipment will be received until next week.

You are welcome to stay for animal and people treats and pictures after the service!

Animal Rescue Sites:

* Sioux Falls Area Humane Society - 605-338-4441 - www.sfhumanesociety.com
* Golden Retriever Rescue: (REGOM - retrieve a Golden of Minnesota) - hotline - 952-946-8070
* Almost Home Canine Rescue - PO Box 88002, Sioux Falls, SD 57109
  Member of www.petfinder.com - almosthome@yahoo.com
* Dakota Dachshund Rescue - 605-332-5774 - PO Box 2771, Sioux Falls
  www.dakotadachshundrescue.org
* Pet Pals for Life - 605-331-4673 (331-HOPE) - www.petpalsforlife.org
* SD Boxer Rescue - Donna: 605-624-9216 - www.sdboxerrescue.com

Bread for the Apple - Homecoming. SALT and campus ministry are joining forces to serve the hungry of New York City—in memory of 9/11 and in honor of our homecoming theme. Organizations are encouraged to host fund raising efforts to provide meals at the Soup Kitchen of Trinity Lutheran Church on the Lower Eastside of Manhattan. We’ll see how many meals we can provide between now and homecoming! There will be a bake sale after chapel on Wednesday and Sundays.

Outreach teams Check with Carol in the chapel office if you have questions about joining, or email Sydney Ipina saipinia09@ole.augie.edu or Anna Bahnson abbahnson10@ole.augie.edu There will be an all-member training event at Our Savior’s Lutheran on Sunday, Oct. 2nd from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Come and bring a friend who might like to join!

Chapel Schedule

Tuesday (4th) - Roman Catholic Mass, 10 am - Fr. David Krogman
Wednesday (5th) - Holy Communion, 10 am - Tamara Jerke, Banquet Dir.
Friday (7th) - Worship, 10 am - Lindsey Jacobsen, Sr. Spkr.
Sunday (9th) - Worship, 11 am - Adam Strenge, preacher; Ann Pederson - Presider
Monday (10th) - Worship, 10 am - Stephen Minister, Reli
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
Monday, October 3, 2011

Prelude
“All Creatures of Our God and King”
John Helvey

Invocation

Prayer of St. Francis
ALL: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union, where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we 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.

Scripture
Genesis 6:19-21
Heather Bart

Reflections
Sandra Looney

Hymn
“All Creatures of Our God and King”
ELW #835, vv. 1, 2

Prayer
Cong. responds “We thank you, Lord” to each petition

Special Slide Show and Song
“God and Dog”
I look up and I see God, I look down and see my dog
Simple spelling G-O-D, same work backward D-O-G
They would stay with me all day, I’m the one who walks away
But both of them just wait for me, and dance at my return with glee
Both love me no matter what, Divine God and canine mutt
I take it hard each time I fail, but God forgives, dog wags his tail
God thought up and made the dog, dog reflects a part of God
I’ve seen love from both sides now, its everywhere, Amen, bow wow
I look up and I see God, I look down and see my dog
And in my human fraility, I can’t match their love for me.

© 1990 Wendy Francisco
Crack O’Noon Music - used by permission

Blessing of the Creatures
Thank you for being with us on the ark. God bless your life__________ (please name your pet aloud) and the love you give. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Sending
Postlude
“All Creatures of Our God and King”
John Carter
Thanks for contributing to our campus-wide effort for the Humane Society. Pet food and equipment will be received until next week.

You are welcome to stay for animal and people treats and pictures after the service!

Animal Rescue Sites:
* Sioux Falls Area Humane Society - 605-338-4441 - www.sfhumanesociety.com
* Golden Retriever Rescue: (REGOM - retrieve a Golden of Minnesota) - hotline - 952-946-8070
* Almost Home Canine Rescue - PO Box 8802, Sioux Falls, SD 57109
  Member of www.petfinder.com - almosthome@yahoo.com
* Dakota Dachshund Rescue - 605-332-5774 - PO Box 2771, Sioux Falls
  www.dakotadachshundrescue.org
* Pet Pals for Life - 605-331-4673 (331-HOPE) - www.petpalsforlife.org
* SD Boxer Rescue - Donna: 605-624-9216 - www.sdboxerrescue.com

Bread for the Apple
- Homecoming. SALT and campus ministry are joining forces in to serve the hungry of New York City—in memory of 9/11 and in honor of our homecoming theme. Organizations are encouraged to host fund raising efforts to provide meals at the Soup Kitchen of Trinity Lutheran Church on the Lower Eastside of Manhattan. We’ll see how many meals we can provide between now and homecoming! There will be a bake sale after chapel on Wednesday and Sundays.

Outreach teams
Check with Carol in the chapel office if you have questions about joining, or email Sydney Ipina saipinia09@ole.augie.edu or Anna Bahnson abbahnson10@ole.augie.edu There will be an all-member training event at Our Savior’s Lutheran on Sunday, Oct. 2nd from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Come and bring a friend who might like to join!

CHAPEL SCHEDULE
Tues.(4th) - Roman Catholic Mass, 10 am - Fr. David Krogman
Wed. (5th) - Holy Communion, 10 am - Tamara Jerke, Banquet Dir.
Fri. (7th) - Worship, 10 am - Lindsey Jacobsen, Sr. Spkr.
Sun. (9th) - Worship, 11 am - Adam Strenge, preacher; Ann Pederson - Presider
Mon. (10th) - Worship, 10 am - Stephen Minister, Reli