



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Blessing of the Animals with Toby the Ferret
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
Oct. 9, 2020

“Last Sunday was St. Francis of Assisi Day, and I'm guessing many of you in your congregations, either virtually or in person, had a blessing of the animals.

St. Francis is often connected with animals in the natural world, and for good reason. He's helping us to understand that all of creation is precious to God, not just the human component, and that sometimes in our pets we can have a chance to see how closely and intimately God cares for all of us.

Luther said God's entire divine nature is holy and entirely in all creatures, more deeply, more inwardly and more present than the creature is to itself.

This is my husband's ferret, Toby, who's quite an ancient ferret, but we're taking care of him now in his senior years, and I know many of us form deep attachments to our pets because they help us realize how interdependent we all are, and there's often been a question “Will there be pets in heaven?” And Martin Luther said, “Be thou comforted, little dog, thou too in Resurrection will have a golden tail.” Be well, dear church.