Individual Blessing
You are invited to proceed to the narthex where each pet will receive a blessing by one of our six commissioned animal ministers.

Blessing Certificate
After the blessing, each pet will receive a blessing certificate. These certificates are in the fellowship hall.

Memorial Tree
In the fellowship hall, you are invited to write a deceased pet's name on a ribbon and tie it to our Memorial Tree. At our worship service next Sunday, we will be offering a prayer for those animal companions named on the ribbons. This tree then will be planted on the church property as a memorial.

Blessing Bags
We invite you to take a blessing bag filled with goodies donated by local businesses and individuals in the community.

Refreshments
Please join us for hot cider, apple juice, cookies, and breads in the fellowship hall.

Reflection
Throughout the coming days, months, and years, reflect on the trust that has been placed in your hands for the care and stewardship of God’s Creation. How do you respond?

BLESSING OF ANIMALS SERVICE
Fill-in-the-Blank Lutheran Church
October 4, 2003 - 7:00 p.m.

Words of Welcome and Significance
Welcome to our guests this evening whether they be on two feet or four. Our community is gathered to celebrate the gift of Creation and the relationships within this gift. October 4th is recognized as the day of the church calendar to acknowledge the life and contributions of Francis of Assisi who lived over 800 years ago. Francis was born into a wealthy family and enjoyed a comfortable life, but decided to dedicate his life to God, to service to the poor, and to the celebration and care of Creation. Tonight we are gathered to honor and celebrate all creatures of God’s creation and the special relationships we share with them.
Readings
Readings on the vital relationship between humankind, animals, and God will be presented from Genesis, Job, Psalms, St. Francis, Chief Seattle, and others.

Hymn: “All Things Bright and Beautiful”
WOV 767

Refrain - All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower the opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings.
(Refrain)

The purple-headed mountains, the river running by, the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.
(Refrain)

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.
(Refrain)

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.
(Refrain)

Prayer
You are invited to join in this prayer with the responses marked with an asterisk (*):

Let us give thanks to God for all God’s gifts so freely bestowed upon us, for the beauty and wonder of Creation in the earth, sky, and sea, and for the animals, birds, fish and plants that fill this world;
* We thank you God.

For your mercy and comfort to all animals who are suffering including those that are abused, hunted, lost, deserted, frightened, hungry, and dying;
* We thank you God.

For entrusting us with the care of our pets, and for gifting us with compassionate hearts, gentle hands, and kind words so that we may make You known to our pets;
* We thank you God.

For blessing us with the unconditional love of our pets, so that our pets may make You better known to us;
* We thank you God.

To your honor and glory, now and forever, we pray to you God. Amen.