

## *Just do it!*

Instead of just blessing the garden, plant the garden! Begin with scripture and the story of creation. Follow the Blessing to the point where you bless the plants and seeds, then actually plant! After you have planted, return to the Blessing for the watering and closing.

## *Other Ideas*

1. A few garden “props” will add to the fun, especially if you have small children involved. Consider having magnifying glasses, bug boxes, flower books, boots, hats, work gloves, watering cans, kid-sized hand tools and healthy garden snacks.
2. We are taught early on not to get dirty. Forget about that idea! This blessing invites you to be covered with dirt. Work the soil with your fingers; get dirty. When you are done, make clean-up part of the adventure.
3. Involve the participants in the planning stage. What would they like to see in the garden? Are you planting flowers, herbs, veggies or a bit of everything?
4. Visit a local garden shop. Talk with staff about local conditions and options.
5. There are lots of good books available. Reading will help participants of all ages get involved.
6. Interview an experienced gardener. Learn what they plant in their garden and why. Ask them for advice and garden tips.



## *A Blessing ...*

A blessing is a thank you,  
a wish, a dream,  
a message of hope,  
an acknowledgement of joys  
and sorrows,  
a celebration, a passing of time,  
a gathering of people and thoughts,  
a reflection, a time to be still,  
a time to jump with joy,  
a time of quiet meditation,  
a gift of love and a prayer.

**God's grace as you gather  
and share this blessing.**

**First Lutheran Church**  
1551 S. 70th St. - Lincoln, NE 68506  
[www.flclincoln.org](http://www.flclincoln.org) - 402.488.0919

# Garden Blessing

*This multi-generational blessing  
encourages good stewardship and  
will nurture a sense of wonder and  
awe along with an appreciation for  
God's amazing creation.*



*Consider processing together to, around and from the garden. Gather with a bowl, watering can, bucket of water, seeds or seedlings, plants, worms, gloves and hand tools.*

**We gather this day remembering the story of creation and our role in caring for the Earth.**

**A reading from Genesis - The Message**  
*God spoke and light appeared. God named it Day and named the dark Night.*

*God spoke and made sky. God separated water from under the sky and named the sky Heaven.*

*God spoke and land appeared and God called it Earth. God called the pooled water Ocean.*

*God spoke, "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants, every sort of fruit-bearing tree." And there it was.*

*God spoke and separated Day from Night and created Lights in Heaven and Stars.*

*God spoke and filled the Earth with fish, sea life, huge whales and flying birds. God spoke and the Earth generated life of all sorts and kinds.*

*God spoke and created male and female. And God said be responsible for the fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of the Earth.*



God looked over everything; it was so good, so very good! God had finished the work and so rested from and made the seventh day a Holy Day.

***Gather around the garden. Consider making a circle representing the Circle of Life and the life and death cycle that we witness in the garden each year.***

***Each person is encouraged to pick up a handful of dirt. Hold it, squeeze it, shake it as each person offers a silent prayer. The group leader proceeds with the group prayer when it seems everyone has had time for their personal prayer. Toss the soil back in to the garden.***

**O God, bless this garden.**

Bless the soil that provides the foundation for the seeds. The soil is alive. There are worms, bugs and snails in the garden. There are tiny roots growing in the soil and seeds just beginning to come to live in the warm dirt. All these things are part of the garden and create the right environment for the seeds and plants we will plant.

As we dig in the dirt and work the soil, may it provide an opportunity for us to actively engage in caring for the earth and being good stewards.

***Leader will give each person some seeds or a plant to hold.***

Bless each seed and plant. Help each one to take root and grow abundantly.



***Take a moment to look at the seeds and/or plants, the unique colors and shapes. What will these seeds produce?***

O Lord, the enormous variety in this garden is a visible reminder of your creativity.

***(Stop here if you are going to plant your garden today.)***

We pray for rain to nourish the earth and push the plants to maturity.

***As a bowl of water is passed around, dip your fingers in the water and then sprinkle a few drops on the garden.***

May the harvest of this garden feed your people providing food for the table and strength for the journey ahead. Give us strength and wisdom as we care for this garden.

***Take a plant, package of seeds, water bowl, garden tools or handful of dirt and lift over your head as an offering to God.***

Lord, may all this bring glory to your name as we celebrate, with love, the opportunity to be your hands in the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen. Let it be so!**

