Hello Neighbors!

We are writing from the Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts, a small neighborhood arts organization located in St. Paul's Lutheran Church's education building at 2742 15th Avenue South. We are writing to you about coming together as neighbors. We had a hard year, last year, in many, many ways. One good thing that came out of some of the uprising and unrest was getting to know new neighbors and looking out for one another during troubling times. But Covid-19 has isolated us from each other, violence and addiction have increased the neighborhood's fear and isolation, and then we had a two-week polar vortex!

Better times are coming, spring is around the corner, and we have an idea, an invitation. Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts wants to help create better times with new connections, strengthening existing connections and increasing community trust, using art and parties—Art Parties! Starting in March, Semilla Center will be hosting these art parties on the first Wednesday of the month, starting online while it’s cold outside and then moving outdoors once the weather has warmed up. Maybe the events will be more often once we get started. It is a place to create things and just to chat, share information about where we live together, and create solutions together to make a healthier and safer neighborhood, this year and beyond. We will start by making simple lanterns, as a symbol of light in the dark and hope in hard times. We will light the lanterns in our windows and on our porches to remind each other we are keeping the lights on for each other, we are here for each other. Free art materials can be picked up at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Ave. S. on specified times in the accompanying flyer. Anybody in Phillips can attend but we are also focusing on a small area around the Semilla Center, from 26th St. to Lake St. and Bloomington to 14th Ave. S. If you have any questions you can write to us at semillacenter@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Hope to see you at the parties!

Staff, Artists and Board of Directors
Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts