

Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation - NILC

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ELCA Missionary serving with Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church

Micro-Financing: NILC Handstretch Self-Help Support Group

January 2018



Thank you!

As 2017 ends and we look head to 2018, I thank you for your commitment to ELCA Global Mission in Kenya. I am grateful that I serve here with you and by means of your generous financial support. Know of my heartfelt thanks and my hope that you will continue this journey in mission in 2018. We are stronger when we are together. I thank you.

This is what the Kingdom of God looks like, in part, at Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation. All the participants in this highly valued group are “positive,” that is HIV/AIDS positive and they find strength and support in the self-help group that meets every Friday afternoon under the leadership of 1 of our congregational members, Christine Wamathai, dressed in the blue shirt and counting money in the middle photo.

A common practice here is financial support groups in which members contribute on a regular basis and then, when a certain figure is reached, they are able to take a loan for a child’s school fees, maybe family medical expenses, and the like. These photos were taken at the year-end gathering when Christine went through each member’s 2017 account and distributed their balances. The average amount received was around 4000 Kenyan shillings, about US \$40. One member spoke of taking her grandchild on a trip while another said she’d try not to spend it on Christmas gifts so she’d have some reserve going into the new year.

As my way of saying ‘thank you’ for their willingness to be in this newsletter, I provided cake and juice which we all enjoyed. We spoke of Jesus’ mother, Mary, who gave birth under difficult conditions, far from her family, in a humble setting; several group members then spoke of the challenges they face trying to care for their children and grandchildren under hard conditions of illness and poverty. I received a hundredfold back from what I provided. We sang and we smiled, then held hands in a circle of prayer as we gave thanks that, like Mary, we find favor with God when we bear Christ’s love to the world.

ELCA Global Mission Support & Contact Information

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