

# Thrivent Member Network

## Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2022

### Thrivent Quarterly

Your Thrivent Member Networks of the Northwest, Pacific Cascade, Pacific Sierra and Southwest are your connection to special Thrivent client programs and resources that can help you create impact in your communities and improve the lives of others.

We are proud to serve over 230,000 clients across Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

We are part of Thrivent, a membership-owned, holistic financial services organization that is committed to providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking, and generosity programs. Thrivent exists to help people achieve financial clarity and make the most of all they've been given.

To find the latest resources and events happening in our region, scan this QR code with your phone camera or click [here](#):



## Live a 'Dream Big' Life



How are you invested in your biggest dreams? Do you have big dreams, but don't know where to begin achieving those dreams? Are you dreaming of going to college, getting married, starting a family, or retiring early? Allow yourself to dream big while breaking down the steps to achieve those dreams into smaller, simpler steps:

- Clearly define or redefine your dreams.
- Identify the obstacles holding you back.
- Come up with a specific plan for reaching your goals.
- Develop tools that will help you get started.

Join us for our keynote webinar with *New York Times* Bestselling Author [Bob Goff](#) on 4/26 at 6:30 pm PT. Bob will help you dream big as he takes you on a life-proven journey to rediscover how to thrive with purpose and turn your dreams into reality. *See page four for details.*

## Demystifying Annuities



Annuities are one way you can invest in your future. An annuity is a contract between you and an insurer that guarantees lifetime income in retirement. You can pay a lump sum or a series of premium payments to the insurer, and in turn they provide income payments to you in retirement. When you begin to receive those payments depends on when you plan to retire and the type of annuity you purchase.

When should you think about buying an annuity? It is never too soon to consider an annuity, as they can be a great addition to your retirement income plan and one of the few investment solutions that can ensure you won't outlive your money.

There are two stages to any annuity contract. The first stage is the **accumulation stage**, or the period where you save and potentially grow your retirement funds and build the cash value of your annuity. This phase ends at the onset of the **distribution stage** when you're ready to begin spending the money to create an income in retirement. How you build your retirement funds and cash value (accumulation), and then convert those funds into guaranteed income (distribution), will depend on the type of annuity you purchase.

### Immediate Annuities

Provide a retirement income stream that starts right away.

### Deferred Annuities

Provide a retirement income stream that starts at a later date.

### Fixed Annuities

Include fixed rate annuities and fixed-indexed annuities.

### Variable Annuities

Can gain or lose value based upon the underlying investments.

Annuities can help you plan confidently for the retirement you deserve. Your Thrivent financial advisor can work with you to go over the pros and cons of annuities to determine if an annuity is right for you and which annuities may fit your needs. To learn more, join us on May 3rd at 6:30pm PT for "Understanding Annuities and Social Security" with Robin Mueller. *See page four for details.*

# Your Home is Your Castle



Whether you are looking to buy your first home, your next home, or your retirement home, our webinar “Balanced Homebuying” with Thrivent Credit Union on May 10th at 6:30pm PT will help you prepare for any scenario. Learn tips and strategies to take the stress out of the process. *See page four for details.*

In the meantime, let’s talk about one of your most precious assets, your home or home-to-be. Did you know the pandemic changed the homebuying process? During the past year or so, we’ve all been hunkering down at home—leaving us ample time to think about whether our living spaces still make sense amid rapidly changing life and work styles. Many have decided to move on, fueling what could be considered the largest homebuying boom since 2003–2004.

Both new and current homeowners are contributing to the continued increase in home sales this year, with experienced buyers leading the charge. How long will this spike in sales last? Experts see some of these market changes as temporary, while others may be here to stay. Here are three pandemic-fueled trends to keep an eye on as you consider the market, as a buyer or seller:

## 1. Home prices are rising

The median price of existing homes for sale rose to an all-time high of \$334,500 in March 2021—a 17.2% increase from March 2020’s median price tag. What’s behind this spike? Lower mortgage interest rates, decreased inventory on the market, people who would typically downsize at retirement are staying in their homes, new construction costs have skyrocketed, multi-generations are living together, and with more people living and work from home they need more space.

## 2. People are home shopping and buying in new ways

For example, people are touring virtually, allowing them to see more properties than ever before, and documents are executed virtually versus in-person, allowing for health protections and potentially a faster close.

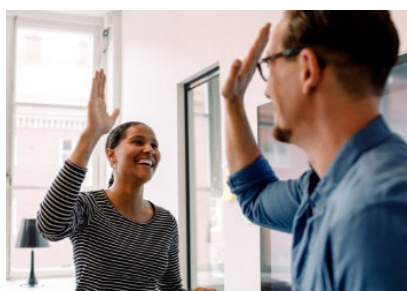
## 3. Qualifying for a mortgage may be more complicated than ever before

Mortgage companies are vetting buyers in a more vigilant way since the crash of 2008 and they are looking for higher credit scores, preferably in the 700 range. Lenders are also looking for lower debt-to-income ratio ranges.

Whether you are buying, selling, or considering the market, try out Thrivent Credit Union’s Balance Homebuying™ Calculator <https://bit.ly/TCUhomecalc>. Want to know more about working a home purchase into your financial strategy? Connect with a Thrivent Credit Union Mortgage Lender <https://bit.ly/TCUlend> about your financing options, member benefits and homebuying resources.

---

## Begin with the Basics



Money Canvas is a free program that helps you build healthier budgeting, saving, and spending habits.

Over the course of three virtual sessions with your personal Money Guide, you will learn to manage your money mindfully in a judgement free zone where you will learn new concepts and can try out new behaviors.

Visit <https://bit.ly/Tmoncanv> for more information and get started today!

# Caring For Our Loved Ones

Does your family have parents or grandparents who are approaching the age to need extra care? Some conversations can't wait and may require an honest discussion about their goals, wishes and potential needs as they age. Having an open conversation about their future financial and healthcare preferences can be a positive experience for everyone—provided you give it some careful forethought.



Three *musts* for a positive parent/adult conversation about aging:

## One

Make a list of starter questions ahead of time – financial questions and health care questions.

## Two

Check in on your parent(s) physical and mental condition before having the conversation – are they feeling well and happy?

## Three

Observe the *dos* and *don'ts* for your first one or two talks – *do* approach the conversation as part of an overall retirement plan, invite siblings and friends, and manage your expectations; *don't* view the conversation as a crisis intervention, *don't* hold the conversation at a holiday or family get-together, *don't* assume you know what is best for your parent(s), and *don't* be disappointed when you feel nothing was accomplished right away. It is a work in progress.

Finally, help your aging loved one(s) identify, gather, and safely store their essential financial and health care documents. Your document-gathering may also reveal gaps in financial and legal issues. These *must-haves* ensure the carrying out of your aging loved ones' financial and healthcare wishes, should they become physically and/or mentally incapacitated: a) Durable power of attorney (DPOA), b) Advance medical directive that includes a living will and identified health care proxy, and c) Their last will and testament.

Consult an attorney to discuss how these documents would work best for your family. Identify your key financial and legal partners (financial professional, CPA, estate planning or eldercare law attorney). Most importantly, who will provide hands-on care and daily support? That could be in-home care with family or certified caregivers, a long-term care facility, a Medicare case manager and/or a gerontology specialist. We are here to help you navigate an oftentimes delicate road. Join us for "Aging Loved Ones: How to Have the Heart-to-Heart" on May 5th 6:30pm PT. See *page four* for details.

# Spring into Service

Easter brings a time-honored tradition of worship, giving back, and celebrating with friends and loved ones. Celebrate the Easter season by helping others. Designate your Choice Dollars® <https://bit.ly/TChoiceDol> and use your action teams <https://bit.ly/TActionTeam> before year-end.



# Inspiring Generosity and Financial Clarity

## Philanthropy Starts at a Young Age



Children from Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church and Preschool in Scottsdale, Arizona participated in a Thrivent Action Team where they learned about generosity. Engagement Leader Marlena Del Rosario and financial advisor Marcus Knudten discussed with the children what generosity means and reminded them that God calls us to live generously. The children gave examples of how they live generously in their lives each day and how they plan to live generously in 2022. The children then created 30 Valentine's Day care packages for children at the Family Promise homeless shelter. They also learned what it means to not have a home of your own, and how happy the children at the shelter will be to receive a special surprise from caring friends.

## Love, Money, Chocolate and Wine? Yes, Please!



Engagement Leader Skyler Oberst and financial advisor KatieJane Gerling hosted a watch party in Lake Oswego, Oregon for the Thrivent Member Network webinar "Love & Money". In addition to viewing the webinar together, guests enjoyed a delicious pairing of chocolate and local wine, while learning about the work Thrivent is doing in local communities and ways Thrivent can help couples strengthen their financial clarity.



# 2022 Calendar of Events

Enjoy these live online events from the safety and comfort of your home on your computer or mobile device.



For additional events, details or to register, scan the QR code or visit: <https://bit.ly/LearnMoreSpring2022>.

## April

### 26 Live a 'Dream Big' Life



Are you invested in your biggest dreams? Join *New York Times* Bestselling Author Bob Goff as he shares practical steps to find and reach your biggest goals, based on his enormously popular Dream Big workshop and book *Dream Big: Know What You Want, Why You Want It, and What You're Going to Do About It*. Bob draws on a lifetime of living and dreaming large to help you reach your larger-than-life dreams.

After the keynote program, Thrivent members and friends are invited to stay on for our Annual Celebration of Membership.

## May

### 03 Understanding Annuities & Social Security



Wondering how to navigate retirement and live your best life? Join nationally recognized financial speaker Robin Mueller to gain valuable insights on the impact of annuities and Social Security to help you live a more content, confident, and generous life.

### 05 Aging Loved Ones: How to Have the 'Heart-to-Heart'



Loved ones getting older? Some conversations can't wait. Now's the time for an honest discussion with your aging loved ones about their goals, wishes and potential needs, learn about the impact of caregiving on relationships and finances, and how to begin building a plan together.

### 10 Balanced Homebuying™



Thinking of buying a home? Learn the five steps for creating a purchase plan that reflects your priorities and goals. Whether you're wanting to buy your first home or move to another, these valuable tips will help you prepare for one of the biggest financial decisions of your life.

## Resources

### Live a 'Dream Big' Life

[www.bobgoff.com](http://www.bobgoff.com)

### Demystifying Annuities

<https://bit.ly/Tannuities>

### Your Home is Your Castle

<https://bit.ly/panhomes>

<https://bit.ly/TCUhomecalc>

<https://bit.ly/TCUend>

### Begin with the Basics

<https://bit.ly/Tmoncarv>

### Caring for Our Loved Ones

<https://bit.ly/CaringAging>

### Spring Into Service

<https://bit.ly/TActionTeam>

<https://bit.ly/TChoiceDol>

Thrivent is the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Insurance products issued by Thrivent. Not available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., a registered investment adviser, member FINRA and SIPC, and a subsidiary of Thrivent. Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent. Registered representative of Thrivent Investment Management, Inc. Advisory services available through investment adviser representatives only. [Thrivent.com/disclosures](http://Thrivent.com/disclosures).

*No products will be sold. Bob Goff and Robin Mueller are not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent. The views expressed in these presentations are their own and not necessarily those of Thrivent or its affiliates. The material presented has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable and is current. For additional disclosures, see [thrivent.com/social](http://thrivent.com/social).*

*Thrivent and its financial advisors do not provide legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your attorney or tax professional.*

### Stay Connected

To receive the most up to date information on events, activities, and communication, please update or add your email address by logging on to your Thrivent account at [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) or by calling 1-800-847-4836.



Advice | Investments | Insurance | Banking | Generosity

## About Thrivent

Thrivent is membership-owned fraternal organization, as well as a holistic financial services organization, providing financial advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs to help people make the most of all they've been given.

Member benefits and programs are not guaranteed contractual benefits. The interpretation of the provisions of these benefits and programs is at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Thrivent reserves the right to change, modify, discontinue, or refuse to provide any of the membership benefits or any part of them, at any time.

You should only purchase and keep insurance and annuity products that best meet the financial security needs of you and your family and never purchase or keep any insurance or annuity products to be eligible for non-guaranteed membership benefits.