

Thrivent Member Network

Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER 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](#):



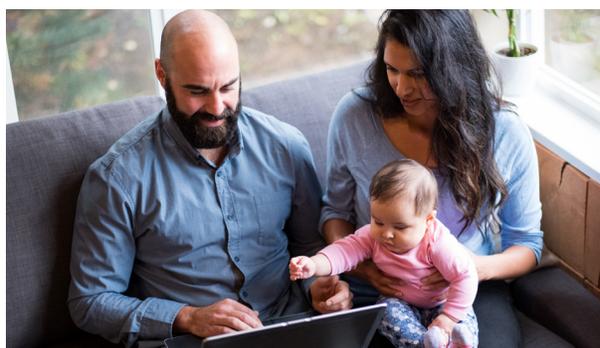
Are You an Overthinker?



What's one thing you would do differently from last year? Does it seem like you spent a lot of time in 2021 thinking or worrying about things you could have done differently or would not do again? Oftentimes, we believe if we spend a lot of time thinking about things we have said or done, or not said or done, we can fix them. Is spending a lot of time and energy in that space really a benefit? Will worrying about things you have said or done in the past, change the present or future? Quite possibly, if used in a productive way.

That's what *New York Times* Bestselling Author Jon Acuff found in his research and personal experience. In his newest book, *Soundtracks: The Surprising Solution to Overthinking*, he shares how you can transform overthinking from a super problem into a superpower. Jon is our speaker in January for the keynote virtual event and will teach us how to turn thoughts into actions and results. Join us and find your answer to *one thing you will do differently* this year. See page four for details and how to register.

Reducing Tax Consequences as a Key Component of Your Financial Strategy



Do you need a tax-efficiency checkup? Explore the tax diversification of your assets and ways you may be able to reduce eventual tax consequences. Your Thrivent financial advisor can help you take advantage of three diversification strategies – time, investment, and income – to make informed financial decisions. They can help you identify the best strategies based upon these income tax buckets:

Tax Now

Assets that are liquid and best positioned for current, short-term needs. They include savings and checking accounts, certificates of deposit and U.S. Treasuries.

Tax Later

Assets that are generally earmarked for longer-term needs, like college and retirement funding. They include qualified plans, traditional IRAs and annuities.

Tax Never

Assets that generally offer preferential income-tax treatment on the accumulated value and its distribution. They include Roth IRAs, municipal bonds, and life insurance, and are funded with after-tax dollars.

Check out this tax-efficiency checklist for a great place to start or continue your journey <https://bit.ly/taxchecklistpdf>. While Thrivent financial advisors do not provide specific legal or tax advice, they can partner with you and your tax professional or attorney.

Your Relationship with Budgeting

Whether you are single or in a relationship, budgeting and finances are key factors to a happy and fulfilling life. Budgeting basics is the critical starting point, yet 60% of people do not have a budget.

Here are four easy steps to get started:

1. Set goals:

A budget is just a summary of your income and estimated expenses, usually for a set period of time, such as a month.

Before you get out the spreadsheets, it can help to think about why you want a budget in the first place. Are you hoping to go on a nice vacation, buy a car or even a home?



2. Get all your paperwork together:

Gather your bills and paperwork, figure out your spendable income, and determine your cash flow. Start here with your Personal Cash Flow Worksheet: <https://bit.ly/cshflwsheet>.

3. Review the numbers:

Create an equation unique to your financial situation. Start with income, designate money for savings, and subtract your planned expenses, such as bills, loan payments, and subscriptions. Anything left over is what you have to spend on incidentals, such as dining out, entertainment, clothing and more.

Income – Savings – Expenses = Spendable Funds.

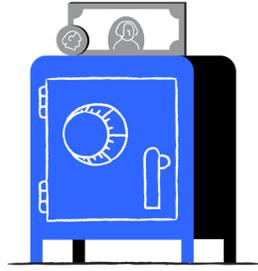
4. Review, refresh, repeat:

A budget isn't something you do once and never revisit. You may encounter new income, such as a pay raise, or a loss in income, as in an unplanned layoff. Life is ever-changing and your budget is too. Review and update your budget regularly, watch for missed expenses, and check your progress each month.

Looking for more ideas for budgeting with loved ones? Join us in February when we will explore the concept of love and money. *See page four for details.*

Are You on Track for Retirement?

We all hope to live a retirement that is fun, fulfilling and financially stable, but have you put key factors in place to increase the odds you will live the retirement you hope for?



The key to keeping your retirement strategy on track is to identify the things that can keep you on target and those that can derail your plan. While there are many obstacles to look out for, there are also strategies and tips to ensure you stay on track:

1. Set and maintain a realistic household budget
2. Make compound interest work hard for you
3. Max out your 401(k) and IRA contributions
4. Size up your debt and make a plan to wipe it out
5. Automate deposits into your savings account
6. Create a college savings strategy with your children

Even with careful and diligent planning, challenges will likely present themselves and attempt to derail your plan. Focus on changing one of these challenges this month:

1. Not following a budget
2. Not having emergency savings
3. Poor debt management
4. Sudden changes in household expenses
5. Funding college
6. Working toward other short-term goals

Check out this simple, yet effective, [retirement calculator tool](https://bit.ly/retirementcalculatortool) to track progress toward your goals: <https://bit.ly/retirementcalculatortool>.

Honoring Grandparents and Caring for our Seniors

Your Thrivent Member Networks partnered with four Meals on Wheels locations to promote Grandparents Day in the fall. We asked our members to post pictures of their grandparents, tell us their favorite story about a grandparent, and/or color pictures to post on social media. We had so many members participate in this community impact campaign we were able to donate \$4,465 to four Meals on Wheels programs across the west coast.



The funds were designated to provide critical, healthy, daily meals and snacks to homebound seniors. We are proud of our Thrivent members and their families for making a difference in the lives of seniors in need. Interested in supporting or volunteering for your local Meals on Wheels? Go to [MealsonWheelsAmerica.org](https://www.MealsonWheelsAmerica.org) to find a program near you, or direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars® to a Meals on Wheels program by visiting <https://bit.ly/TChoiceArticle>.

Financial Advisors Making an Impact



Financial Advisors Tyler Jones and Michael Miller partnered with New Vintage Church and A Step Beyond to bless at-risk families in Escondido, CA.

Tyler and Michael donated approximately 70 turkeys that were distributed to local families in need and New Vintage Church members supplemented the meal by providing side dish items. Church volunteers were onsite to organize the food and distribute to the families. Around 300 people enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal because of the collaboration and generosity of all three organizations.

Thrivent Choice Dollars®



Thrivent Choice® - Ready to give back? The choice is yours! As a member, you may have benefits where Thrivent gives you the opportunity to direct a donation from Thrivent to your favorite Thrivent Choice® charity and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable giving. You must make your designations no later than **March 31, 2022**. Visit <https://bit.ly/TChoiceArticle>.

2022 Calendar of Events

Enjoy these live online virtual 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/LearnMoreWinter22>.

January

25 Stop Overthinking. Start Doing.



Are you struggling with overthinking? Join *New York Times* Bestselling Author Jon Acuff as he shares how to transform overthinking from a super problem into a superpower. Jon will teach us how to turn thoughts into action and results with simple steps from his new book, *Soundtracks: The Surprising Solution to Overthinking*. Event starts 6:30 pm PT.

February

01 Investing for Retirement



GenX and Millennial consumers face slow growing wages, ever-increasing expenses, and disappearing employer pension options. Attend this educational workshop to learn how to build a strong and adaptable financial plan and gain four smart retirement strategies. Event starts 6:30 pm PT.

03 Love & Money



Do you have the same relationship money style as your partner or loved ones? Hear stories, tips, and tools for building shared wise money habits at this special program that will feature an interactive panel facilitated by John Busacker, Founder and President of *Life-Worth, LLC*. Event starts 6:30 pm PT.

08 The Washington Update



How will current legislation impact taxes, and your investment and retirement strategy? Join Jeff Bush, national financial expert from *The Washington Update*, for a nonpartisan, comprehensive review of Washington D.C. developments and the potential effects on taxes and investing. Event starts 6:30 pm PT.

Resources

Reducing Tax Consequences as a Key Component of Your Financial Strategy:

<https://bit.ly/TaxEfficiencyStrategy>

<https://bit.ly/txresourcectr>

Your Relationship with Budgeting

<https://bit.ly/budgetbasicstips>

Are You on Track for Retirement?

<https://bit.ly/saveenufforetire>

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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](https://www.thrivent.com) or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT.



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.