

Financial Synergy Group

Winter Highlights

Quarterly newsletter

December 2025



Financial Synergy Group

1736 Ferguson Rd.
Allison Park, PA 15101

412-748-0625

Office hours
M-F: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

**[Financial Synergy Group,
Financial Advisor in
Allison Park, PA | Thrivent](#)**

Upcoming events

Check our website for 2026 events and workshops, **[connect.thrivent.com/financial-synergy-group/events](#)**

April 2026

Annual Financial Synergy Group Family Picnic and Tree Planting

Feel free to reach out to our team with any questions at **financialsynergygroup@thrivent.com**.



Make an impact with Thrivent Choice Dollars®



Did you know, as a Thrivent member, you can help direct Thrivent's charitable outreach funds to causes you care about? Through the Thrivent Choice® program, eligible Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding each year. Choice Dollars® can be directed to thousands of enrolled churches, nonprofits and community organizations nationwide.

How it works

Simply log in at **[thrivent.com/thriventchoice](#)** or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" to check if you have available Choice Dollars. If so, you have until **March 31, 2026**, to direct them to an organization you care about.

Since its launch, Thrivent Choice has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to support meaningful work in communities across the country. Don't miss your chance to make a difference—check your eligibility and direct Choice Dollars today!

There are more than 50,000 organizations enrolled in the Thrivent Choice program for you to choose from. Here are 10 that the Financial Synergy Group team members love this season:

- The Lighthouse Foundation
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Urban Impact Foundation
- Allegheny County Parks Foundation (see them at our picnic in 2026!)
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh
- Lutherlyn
- North Hills Community Outreach
- Cancer Bridges
- Network of Hope Inc.
- Brother's Brother Foundation

Financial Synergy Group's Christmas traditions

Financial Advisor Joslyne Counselman

We love collecting an ornament for our Christmas tree during our travels throughout the year. We now have a second tree to fit them all!

Financial Associate Cindy Plazek

Two members of my family are church organists and will be in church playing. We celebrate with our family on Christmas Eve, eating dinner and exchanging gifts. Santa still comes on Christmas Eve, though.

Financial Associate Kurt Herbst

The last few years, Maggie and I go to our church, First Lutheran, downtown on Grant Street on Christmas morning. The service ends across the street in front of the creche at the Steel Plaza. We then walk a few blocks down to Capital Grille for our Christmas dinner. The day is a gift.

Senior Office Manager Kristin Bissett

Christmas has always been a big deal in my family, and we are really into decorating. If you come to my house around the holidays, you will likely find 4–6 Christmas trees. My favorite tree is my Charlie Brown tree from grandparents. My Pap handmade ornaments for the tree based on my favorite characters or interests of the year. I have carried on this tradition with my own kids and building their own Charlie Brown tree.

Office Professional Katelyn Endres

On Christmas Eve we open a new building for our Mickey Mouse Christmas village, watch "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" and read the 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. We always have homemade cinnamon rolls Christmas morning while we open our stockings. We love to take ALL day to open our presents and enjoy the family time.

Insurance Office Professional Amanda Holskey

My family's Christmas tradition is to get new pajamas on Christmas Eve and then wear them all day on Christmas.



RECIPE CORNER

"Granny's No-Fail Sugar Cookies"

By Cindy Plazek

Cookie dough ingredients

- ½ cup butter or Crisco
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 to 2¼ cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt

Directions

Cream butter and sugar. Blend in egg and vanilla. Sift together the dry ingredients and add to mixture.

Divide dough in half. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill 1–2 hours so it will be easy to handle. Roll out dough on board (I roll in sugar/flour mixture, not straight flour) to ⅛-inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters (keep remaining dough chilled until ready to roll out). Transfer to cookie sheet.

Bake at 375° for 8–10 minutes. Frost and decorate. Merry Christmas.

Suggested frosting

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 5–6 teaspoons water
- Food coloring to desired color

Mix frosting ingredients together.



Upcoming event



Annual Financial Synergy Group Family Picnic

April 2026 | Location TBD

Join our team in the spring at our annual family picnic! This year we will be partnering with the Allegheny Parks Foundation, working alongside them to plant a tree in one of the parks in Allegheny County. We hope to see you there. More information to follow.

Feel free to reach out to our team with any questions at financialsynergygroup@thrivent.com.



Our team serves clients nationally and is insurance and securities licensed in:

AZ, CO, DE, FL, IL, IN, MD, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX, UT, VA, WI and WV

As of Nov. 2025.

New opportunities

We are looking to add new employees to our Thrivent team, and we want your help. Hiring the right people is critical to our mission to serve you, our clients. Please reach out with any questions or introductions you may have.

Stay connected

Check our team website for the latest news and upcoming events.

connect.thrivent.com/financial-synergy-group



ADVICE + INVESTMENTS + INSURANCE + BANKING + GENEROSITY

No products will be sold at these events.

Not all team members can provide all products, programs and services in all states.

Not all team members may office at the above address

The Lighthouse Foundation, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Urban Impact Foundation, Allegheny County Parks Foundation, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, Lutherlyn, North Hills Community Outreach, Cancer Bridges, Network of Hope Inc. and Brother's Brother Foundation are not affiliated with or endorsed by Thrivent.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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