

# The Quarterly Connect

Third Quarter

July 2023

## Our Team



Our clients are our top priority, and we believe you should be actively involved in defining your specific financial goals. Our aim is to develop long-term relationships built on trust and transparency so we can better understand your unique expectations, concerns, goals and priorities in a way that reflects your values and aspirations.

Through meaningful conversations, we get to know you and your family. By listening intently, Gateway Financial can help you realize your life vision and focus on what's most important to you—be it the success of your family, personal aspirations, or the legacy you want to leave for the people, charities and causes you care about most.

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[Thrivent.com/GatewayFinancial](https://www.thrivent.com/GatewayFinancial)

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## Summer Living

“The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath”  
—Mark 2:27  
Summer. It's hot. It's muggy. Children can become cranky (spoken from experience) and adults can lose motivation when there aren't enough fans and air conditioners to keep us comfortable. Large gaps of time in our daily schedules create just enough space for boredom to creep in. One day rolls into the next, time shifts and there seems to be far too much of it with the long hours of daylight—yet somehow, not enough. But summer was created for us to enjoy the simple outdoor pleasures, not complain about them.

So, why not lean into the heat? We won't be wasting our time if we allow the climbing temperatures to gently coax us into the shade, so we have time to appreciate the leisure activities that summer offers. During what other season are you going to sip on some sweet tea or a craft beer while swaying in the breeze, lying in a hammock?

Of course, all that relaxing must be countered with spontaneous adventures. While the winter months keep us confined indoors, summer beckons us to experience the freedom and deliciousness of the open outdoors. Camping trips in the RV are one activity that my family truly enjoys. The children like to help with the packing, but they tend to forget things like pajamas



Lawson family on Spring Break

and toothbrushes to make room for games, toys and stuffed animals.

The season of summer is a magnificently dynamic time of year. Lightning bugs, sprinklers, freshly picked produce, riding waves, fireworks and sparklers, picnics, bike rides and sleeping under the stars all have one thing in common—they're all signs and signals that summer is to be enjoyed. Summer should be a season to break away from the business of life and just be still.

In whatever way you choose to fill the hours, summertime will always be an opportunity to relive childhood memories and make new ones.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24

Have a blessed summer,

**Nick Lawson**, Financial Advisor

## Meet the Team



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## How Can You Prepare for the Legacy You Want to Leave?

### Estate Planning Essentials: 5 Ways to Prepare

Estate planning is about leaving the legacy you want for who or whatever is important to you. It's never too early to start thinking about how your assets can help secure your family's future after you're gone, or how you want to continue to support an organization you're passionate about.

Estate planning is all about making your wishes clear, helping to ensure your intentions will be honored. [Read this article](#) to learn more about important considerations for estate planning, and then let's talk about the legacy you want to leave.

## Pardon Our Dust

People use this unobtrusive little phrase as a light-hearted signifier that even though there is a lot of chaos and commotion everywhere, something even better is coming. We are using the phrase this summer as well.

Office renovations began in mid-June and should only last four to six weeks—fingers crossed. We're adding three new calling/Zoom rooms and two more offices to maximize our space and hold meetings more efficiently.



We've also updated our website where the dust has already settled, so please visit our [Events tab](#) often to catch up on the latest opportunities.

## Action! Action! We Want Action!

Summer is the perfect time for a Thrivent Action Team. Thrivent benefit members can create a big impact in a few small steps. It's easy to apply for a Thrivent Action Team by logging on to [Thrivent.com/ActionTeam](https://www.thrivent.com/ActionTeam) to start your application.

Once your project is approved, you will receive your Thrivent Action Kit full of resources to support your project, including a \$250 Visa gift card to use as seed money to get a good start on the planning.

Not sure what kind of project to do? No problem. Thrivent's Action Team Hub is filled with

great ideas. The Hub is a community for you to get inspired, celebrate generosity and share your impact.

Thrivent members just like you have organized car washes, family movie nights, golf outings, quilting workshops, mom's day out, food drives and even an amateur boxing match. Together, Thrivent has achieved an incredible milestone: more than 1 million Thrivent Action Teams held and more than \$1 billion raised for the causes our clients care about most.



So, rally a group of volunteers and promote your project to bring it to life. It's astonishing what an inspired group of volunteers can accomplish when they have the right tools and resources. Don't forget to celebrate your impact with us!

## Thrivent Members in Action

On April 15, Thrivent and Gateway Financial Group participated in the [Feed the Need STL](#) project. Thrivent clients arrived at Queeny Park on a beautiful, sunny morning. After a bit of fellowship, photo opportunities and a complimentary breakfast, everyone was ushered into the warehouse packing room and gathered in the bleachers for a quick run-down of the event.

After a motivational video and prayer, a few hundred volunteers descended the bleachers, put on fabulous hairnets and gloves, and started filling meal bags. Lively music encouraged us as we worked together to provide 870,912 packaged meals. In addition to packing, 27 barrels of food were donated, weighing 3,200 pounds. That's enough to provide quality nutrition to 802 people.

It truly is "more blessed to give than to receive." The quote made by Jesus is found in Acts 20:35. Giving is considered more blessed because it rids us of our self-centeredness, takes away the love of money and fuels our God-given mission to help those in need. Giving also shows God's character to the world, and results in increased faith for the giver.



Ava and Henry Lawson at the Queeney Park packing event.



Nick Lawson with the Thumbs Up!



### Important Dates

**Tuesday, July 4**

Independence Day  
(Office Closed)

**Friday, July 7**

World Forgiveness Day

**Friday, July 14**

Bastille Day

**Saturday–Sunday,  
August 12-13**

Perseid Meteor Shower

**Monday, August 14**

V-J Day; End of WWII

**Thursday, August 17**

Save the Date:  
Client Appreciation Event:  
Jazz Nite at the Piazza

**Monday, September 4**

Labor Day (office closed)

**Sunday, September 10**

Grandparents Day

**Monday, September 11**

National Day of Service and  
Remembrance (9/11 Day)

**Saturday, September 16**

Oktoberfest begins  
in Germany

**Saturday, September 23**

Autumnal Equinox  
(Fall Back)

### School is Out and it's Time for Vacation Bible S-cool

Speaking of Thrivent Action Teams, did you know that you could sponsor one for your church's VBS? Many congregations support their younger members by providing Christian education during the summer months. Most VBS camps don't charge for attending and are staffed with loads of volunteers. So, why not add a Thrivent Action Team to start off the recruiting? Or, host a Friday afternoon ice-cream social after the exciting week is finished, then invite VBS visitors back on Sunday for a rally day. If your church supports a needy family, seminarian or missionary, a Thrivent Action Team is the perfect way to get your community involved by increasing the impact. Visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) to see how you can give back to the community you live in and support.



Ella Claus volunteering at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for VBS.

### Hey Siri, How Hot is St. Louis?

Steamy weather is no stranger to St. Louis, and soon summer temperatures will soar to 100 degrees before the lunch hour is over. The "dog days of summer" will be upon us before we know it.

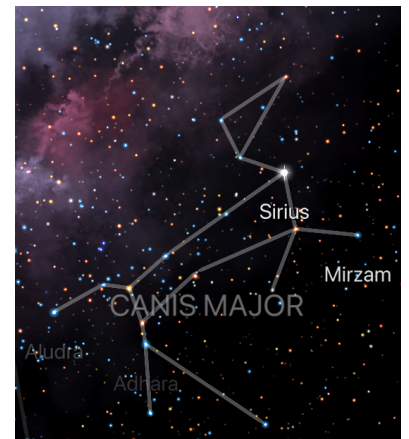
The term "dog days" might conjure up sepia toned images of lazy hound dogs escaping under an old truck to find relief from the blazing sun. But the term has nothing to do with our canine friends' sluggish behavior.

In ancient civilizations, "wise men" would track the seasons by recording the path of the stars, planets and moon. As early as 500 B.C., mathematicians, astronomers and early philosophers observed that Sirius (Latin for "the greater dog" and the brightest star in the sky), rose with the sun in mid-summer. It was believed that the brilliance from the brightest star in the sky added to that of the sun, thus causing the extreme spike in temperatures and humidity.

Today, the expression "dog days" gives us cause to find humor as we suffer through the muggy, oppressive heat and find relief among friends at a summer barbecue, running through sprinklers or attending a Cardinals game.

#### For the Record: The 10 Hottest Days in St. Louis History:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| July 20, 1934: 110°F  | July 14, 1954: 115°F |
| July 24, 1934: 111°F  | July 18, 1954: 112°F |
| August 9, 1934: 110°F | July 25, 2012: 108°F |
| July 14, 1936: 108°F  | June 28, 2012: 108°F |
| July 12, 1954: 110°F  | July 22, 2017: 108°F |



## Upcoming Events

### Jazz Nite at the Piazza Benefiting Faith Through Fire

Thursday, August 17, 2023

We would love for you to join us at the Piazza Messina for an evening of food, fun and fellowship.

Erin mixes jazz standards with well-known pop tunes and the classics. Critics and jazz radio hosts frequently compare Erin to the young jazz superstar Norah Jones for her willingness to explore a wide range of material in a fresh, often subtle manner.

During the evening, we will spotlight Faith Through Fire, a nonprofit organization whose programs and partnerships are specially designed to help ease the stress of navigating a breast cancer diagnosis and improve quality of life during and after treatment.



Erin Bode - Jazz Singer

### Untold Rules For Prosperity and Legacy with Eugene Mitchell

July 18

### The 5 Love Languages with Gary Chapman

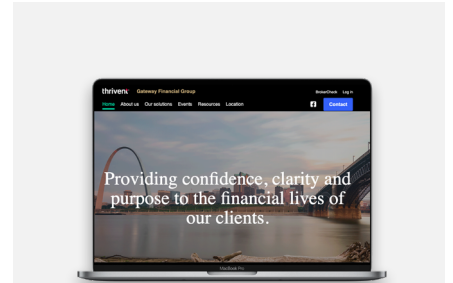
July 27

No products will be sold.



#### Lunch and Learn

One of the biggest compliments you can give us is a referral. Do you have a friend or family member that you care about but who doesn't know much about the services and products Thrivent offers? We would love to treat you both to lunch and get to know your guest. Please give us a call today.



#### Find Us on the Web

Upcoming events, educational workshops and webinars are posted on our website. Visit our [Events tab](#) for up-to-date information.

## Stay Connected

Website: [Thrivent.com/GatewayFinancial](https://Thrivent.com/GatewayFinancial)

Email: [GatewayFinancialGroup@Thrivent.com](mailto:GatewayFinancialGroup@Thrivent.com)

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