

## ***Planning for a Secure Financial Future***

**By Jennifer Ball**

*Last year I read an interesting book, Little Heathens: High Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression by Mildred Kalish. As I learned of the clever ways her family reused materials and made do with what they had, I couldn't help but wonder how my family could better value our belongings. While I hopefully won't be cutting up old socks to make a mop or canning my own food, recognizing our ancestor's struggles made me determined to secure my family's financial future. Since our daughter will go to college close to the time my husband and I would like to retire, we have a lot of planning to do and trying to do so without professional advice is rather daunting. I interviewed Colin Bell, a financial professional with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, about his career developing personal financial plans for individuals or families.*

### **Tell us about yourself**

I am married to my wife Melissa and we will be celebrating our 7<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this August, and we have an extremely active 19 month old daughter. We moved to Hudson last June and soon after joined the Hudson Newcomers Group. We have embraced life in Hudson enjoying the Saturday morning farmer's market, the Taste of Hudson, and the famous Newcomers group pub crawl. I also joined the Hudson Men's Soccer league this winter, playing again for the first time since high school. I am a lifelong Northeast Ohio resident having grown up in Aurora and graduating from both John Carroll for my undergraduate degree where I played baseball and Ashland University for my MBA.

### **Tell us a little bit about Thrivent Financial**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 financial services organization that currently manages over \$60 billion in assets for our clients and members. Although Thrivent Financial is a Lutheran based organization we work with any individual or family regardless of faith.

### **What do you do as a Financial Associate for Thrivent Financial?**

When meeting with clients and members, I focus on 7 key objectives:

1. **Ensuring financial independence/retirement** – This includes ensuring lifelong income, helping clients understand retirement benefits, and creating financial independence.
2. **Protecting our client's future** by preparing for unexpected disability/health care needs as well as surviving the loss of a family member.
3. **Investing with a purpose** when saving for a specific need such as children's education or purchasing a home.
4. **Developing tax strategies**
5. **Strengthening our clients overall financial position** by improving financial balance and managing debt.
6. **Estate planning**
7. **Helping others**, this includes donating time or assets to a favorite charity.

### **Why should someone work with a financial professional?**

With so many different investment options available, whether that be in a 401(k) plan through an employer, college savings plans, or general savings, a financial professional can assess your investment risk tolerance and help you make choices that are most appropriate for your specific situation. Additionally a financial professional can help you map out a plan to reach your financial goals.

### **What is a typical client meeting like and how can you be contacted?**

When meeting with someone for the first time, my main objective is to understand their financial goals and concerns, and discuss their current situation. Once additional information is gathered, I analyze their situation and develop strategies and recommendations. Once the strategies are implemented it is important to meet on a regular basis to monitor and make any adjustments if information has changed. I can be reached at (440) 610-1732 or by email at [colin.bell@thrivent.com](mailto:colin.bell@thrivent.com).