

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017 11:50AM,

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Brenda Bloch-Young will be the Forum Moderator this week

Market Perspective. Markets broke a two-week losing streak, The DOW was up 0.5%; the S&P up 0.8%; and the NASDAQ up 1.8%. First quarter earnings' reports are coming in strong, but geopolitical tensions remain, along with the French elections and uncertainty about US tax and healthcare reform, and the budget.

Economic Policies and Tax Reform. Brenda Bloch-Young will lead a presentation and discussion of the following topics:

- Update and status of tax reform and the various ideas being discussed, including a new survey on views of Americans on the proposals.
- European elections (France, Germany, UK and Brexit update.)
- Status of the Fiduciary Rule on retirement accounts.

Upcoming Topics

Value Investing (continued.) Tom Crooker and James Dann will provide further thoughts on May 3 and we will look at more value stock funds.

Retail Sector. On May 10, Ray Willson will look at the retail sector. "Bricks and mortar" retail has been hit hard, with Amazon and e-commerce as the biggest culprit. Where is retail heading? More pain, or is it at the bottom and upside ahead?

How Do You Pick Stocks? From our survey last May, I estimate that about half of us buy individual stocks. The other half buy only funds or use advisors, but I know that some of them would like to venture into the brave world of stock picking. For the stock pickers who have been doing it for some time, I would like you to share with us exactly how you select stocks - what you do from the time you think a stock is interesting, to when you click on "Place Order." Including:

- What financial publications you read on an ongoing basis.
- Where and how you find stocks to put on your "shopping list," that you may be interested in buying.
- What steps do you go through to consider buying? Valuation and financial metrics, opinions, articles from sources that you trust or believe worthwhile.
- What is their typical timeline from first thinking about a stock to final purchase?

- How difficult is it to click on the “Place Order” icon?
- Do you have second thoughts after the purchase?
- Do you have anecdotes or war stories about decisions that either went right, or wrong?

Please let me know if you are willing to share your experiences. We will spread these discussions over time.

Buys and Sells (weeks ending 4/19/2017)

Buys

AT&T (T)
Financial Select SPDR ETF (XLF)
United Technologies (UTX)

Sells

Thinking About . . .

Panera (PNRA)
Southern Company (SO)
AT&T (T) and Verizon (VZ)
Global X Robotics and Artificial Intelligence ETF (BOTZ)

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