

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016, 11:50AM, Lord of Life Lutheran Church

The Forum will meet every Wednesday, 11:50AM, at Lord of Life, until the end of the Spring term on May 11.

Market Perspective. Markets were up, again, for the week. The DOW and NASDAQ rose 1.8%, and the S&P rose 1.6%. Financials led the rise, after being laggards YTD, after better than expected earnings from several big banks. Positive economic news from China also helped. Earnings reports will continue to come out over the next few weeks.

Panel Discussion on Stock Picking. The Forum is about evenly split on members who buy individual stocks, and members who invest only via funds. Bob Baker, Bob Shaffer, Alan Glenn, and Tom Crooker will speak on how they pick stocks. Each will come at it from a different angle, so we will not hear the same discussion four times. Questions for the panel are invited. In the event that we do not have time for all four to speak, we will continue the discussion the following week, April 27.

Future Topics.

Brexit. Great Britain will take a crucial vote on June 23, whether or not to remain in the European Union. The vote is expected to be close. On May 4, Brenda Bloch-Young will lead a discussion on what a Brexit may mean for Great Britain and the rest of the EU, and whether investors should be bailing out of European investments. Lots of moving pieces - interest rates, currency values, exports and imports, winners and losers, possibly with far-reaching impact.

Picking Investment Advisors. We last talked about this a year ago. Please let me know if you use an advisor (somebody you pay a fee to, to manage your portfolio or a part of it,) and are willing to share your experiences. Also if you use the services of “robo advisors.”

Panel Discussion on Mutual Funds. A number of you have asked for more discussions on mutual funds. We will have a panel (date to be decided) on how you select mutual funds: how you judge the performance, what metrics you use; what publications, services, websites, and ratings you use. Please let me know if you would like to be a panelist.

Investment Forum Member Survey. In May, I will distribute a three page survey, similar to the one we took three years ago. It will be anonymous, and ask about allocations, sources of information, how often you trade, how much time you spend on investing, and suggestions for future topics. The survey should not take more than ten minutes to complete, and will be valuable for agenda topics.

Buys and Sells (week of April 13)

Buys

Verizon (VZ)

Target (TGT)

Wells Fargo (WFC) - 2 buys

Ship Finance International (SFL) MC: \$1.3B. Dividend yield: 12.5%

Lockheed Martin (LMT)

Reynolds American (RAI)

Realty Income (O)

Vanguard Short-Term Corporate Bond ETF (BSV)

Vanguard Short-Term Government Bond ETF (VGSH)

Sells

Nike (NKE)

Devon Energy (DVN)

Pfizer (PFE)

Thinking About . . .

Ford (F)

General Motors (GM)

Abbvie (ABBV)

TransEnterix (TRXC) - robotic medical devices. MC: \$577M

Vanguard FTSE Europe ETF (VGK) - 2 thinking about sells

Forum Moderator(s) needed April 27. You pick the topics, or I can help. Or a two-person tag-team. I can distribute the agenda.

Al Smuzynski
Investment Forum Moderator
asmuzynski@verizon.net