

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 11:50AM,

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Market Perspective. Markets were up for the week: the Dow was up 0.3%; the S&P up 0.8% and the NASDAQ up 1.4%. Markets were up for the month of March, and the first quarter. Economic numbers and profits remain positive. With all this good news, why are many (most?) investors so nervous - other than the political uncertainty?

When to Sell (continued.) Most individual investors find the decision to sell stocks, to be more difficult than buying stocks. Ed Swoboda will continue with his discussion on when to sell, both as a strategy and as a decision. If you have specific criteria or metrics that you use that result in a sell decision, please share it with us during the discussion.

Foreign Stocks. With all the drama and focus on US markets recently, foreign markets (Europe, Asia, emerging, frontier, our neighbors to the north and south) have done well, and some have outperformed the US. Most individual investors, in all nations, are heavily concentrated in their own countries, and underweight in foreign stocks. With so many ETFs indexed to international and sectors across the globe, it is easy to invest internationally. We will look at a few, - see where we may be missing out. As Jim Cramer says, "there is always a bull market somewhere in the world."

Future 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.

Economic Policies and Tax Reform. Brenda Bloch-Young will be the Forum Moderator on April 26, and will provide further thoughts on tax reform and the economic agenda, and how they may impact markets.

Gold. A member has suggested that we talk about gold investing. We have at least one gold investor in the Forum; I am trying to persuade him to give us some insights.

Municipal Bonds. I am looking for a munis' investor, willing to talk about them - and the impact of tax reform (if it happens) on values.

Retail Sector. I am looking for a retail stock investor, to discuss the sector. Nordstrom, Wal Mart, Sears (RIP?), Foot Locker, Target, Under Armour, Kohls, Macy's, etc. "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?

Speaking of Amazon, I see that Jeff Bezos passed Warren Buffett as the World's second wealthiest man. (Bill Gates is still numero uno.)

Buys and Sells (two weeks ending 3/29/2017)

Buys

Ship Finance International (SFL) - yield 12.2%
Nike (NKE)
General Motors (GM)
Health Care Select SPDR ETF (XLV) - add to
Ford (F)
Noodles & Company (NDLS) - up 7.5% on Friday!

Sells

Fitbit (FIT)
Vulcan Materials (VMC)

Thinking About

T Rowe Price Equity Index 500 (PREIX)
Ford (F) - add to
General Electric (GE) - add to
Realty Income (O) - add to

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