

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017 11:50AM,

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Market Perspective. Markets were down for the week: the Dow was down 0.03%; the S&P down 0.3%; and the NASDAQ down 0.6%. Drivers were weaker jobs' and economic growth numbers, comments by the Fed that stock prices are high (recall Alan Greenspan's "irrational exuberance" comment in the 1990s) and international drama in Syria.

Sell Strategies. Bob Baker will walk through an example of selling a stock with an unrealized capital gain, and investing in another dividend paying stock, to increase dividend income. This is an actual example of one of Ludwig Benner's selling strategies, from several weeks ago.

Tom Crooker will offer brief comments on insider buying and energy.

Foreign Stocks. With all the 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.

Retail Sector. We will look at 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?

Benny Meyer. Forum member Benny Meyer died March 28, as noted in the OLLI E-News last week. Benny was 75 and had battled lung cancer for seven years.

Buys and Sells (week ending 4/5/2017)

Buys

Technology Sector SPDR ETF (XLK)

Ford (F)

General Motors (GM)

Sells

Phillip Morris (PM) - partial

Visa (V)

That's all? I don't think so! Come on. You're holding out!

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