

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017 11:50AM,

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

The Spring Term runs to May 17. The Forum will then meet as a “club” on May 24, May 31, and June 7, at 10:30AM, in Tallwood. The Summer Term begins on June 14.

Tom Crooker will be the Forum Moderator this week

Perspective. Some of the inner workings of the market-capitalization-weighted S&P 500 Index will be graphically displayed in an attempt to reveal what investors in funds based on the index effectively own, what they don't own, and where potential untapped opportunity lies within the index.

Discussion topic du jour. Tom and Jim Dann will jointly discuss value investing with particular context relating to retirees. The origins and history of value investing will be presented along with where this strategy stands in the current market, how they've done relative to growth stocks, some reasons for looking at them now, and identifying several value-oriented funds or ETFs that might be worth checking out.

Upcoming Topics

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

Raytheon (RTN)

Hanesbrands, Inc. (HBI)

Sells

Thinking About . . .

Al Smuzynski

Investment Forum Moderator

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