

**INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
11:50AM,**

LORD OF LIFE, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Welcome to the Tom Crooker Investment Forum. The Fall Term will meet 11:50AM to 1:15PM, from September 20 to November 8, 2017, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Please park in back of the church, and enter through the back entrance. We normally meet in the Fellowship Hall, or in the Sanctuary if the Fellowship Hall is unavailable.

I prepare the agenda each weekend and distribute it by e-mail, usually by Sunday evenings. Information and commentary is based on market data as of the previous Friday.

We have 106 registered for the Fall Term. The Lord of Life Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary accommodates this number. Guests are welcome, whether OLLI members who are not registered for the Investment Forum, or who are not OLLI members. (Hopefully, they will join OLLI.) While most members of the Investment Forum have been coming for years, we have 20 registered who are new to the Forum this term. We will spend some on what the Forum is about, what it is not about, how it is conducted, with observations from long-time (and newer) members. I will ask our new members to introduce yourselves and what you hope to learn at the Forum (All introductions and participation is voluntary.)

Market Perspective. Equity markets continued to churn higher, all finishing the week at all-time highs. For the week, the DOW was up 2.2%; the S&P was up 1.6%; and the NASDAQ was up 1.4%. YTD, the three indices are up 12.7%, 11.7%, and 19.8%. Who said investing was hard? Just throw darts at the S&P 500, and you will do fine! Why do we need the Investment Forum? Seriously, we all know that Mr. Correction and Mr. Bear are out there, waiting. They will spring and gobble a big piece of our portfolios, for a reason that nobody saw coming, but everybody will say afterwards was obvious.

“Stocks Pricey Amid Low Inflation.” Tom Crooker will discuss an article with this title.

Utility Stocks. We will look at the utility sector (yawn) and some of the bigger names.

Upcoming

I am looking for suggestions of topics for panels for the Fall Term.

We need a Moderator for the October 25 Forum. I can help with the agenda and will distribute the agenda.

Buys and Sells (week ending 9/13/2017)

Buys

New Residential Investment Corp (NRZ)

Amazon (AMZN)

MPLX LP Partnership Units (MPLX)

Arista Networks (ANET)

Vanguard Short-Term Corporate Bond ETF (VCSH)

Uniti Group REIT (UNIT)

Home Depot (HD)

Tencent Holdings ADR (TCEHY) - Chinese Google. MC: \$637B

JD.Com ADR (JD)

Nvidia (NVDA)

Electronic Arts, Inc (EA) - video games. MC: \$37B

Activision Blizzard (ATVI) - video games. MC: \$49B

Kroger (KR)

Disaster infrastructure: Fluor (FL), Teradyne (TER), Waste Management (WM)

Sells

Gilead (GLD)

Energy Transfer Equity LP (ETE)

Manulife Financial (MFC)

Thinking About . . .

RiverPark Short Term High Yield Retail Fund (RPHYX)

Investment Forum Website. The Investment Forum has its own website, www.olligmu.org/~finforum. Or from the OLLI website, www.olligmu.org, and from the Main Menu, click on "Clubs, Group Blogs, and Ongoing Activities," and then "Investment Forum." The current agenda and previous agendas are posted, as well as articles in the financial press that members recommend.

Al Smuzynski
Investment Forum Moderator
asmuzynski@verizon.net

