

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2018 11:50AM,

**LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SANCTUARY
5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax VA 22032**

The Forum Fall Term runs through November 7. We will meet as a “club” starting November 14, at 10:30AM, at Tallwood.

Thanks to Ray Willson for moderating the Forum last week.

Market Perspective. Like many Octobers, this one is turning out to be a bad one. For the week, the DOW was down 3.0%; the S&P was down 3.9%; and the NASDAQ was down 3.8%. By my calculation, the S&P and DOW are both in correction territory (down 10%) since their peaks in September, and the DOW is down 8.8%. Lots of opinions have been written the past few days; you have read them. A few things are certain. Stocks are priced lower than they were a month ago. But are they “cheap?” There are some bargains out there. But how do you know which ones?

We will spend some time talking about the current state of the market.

TIPS. Joseph Fagella will talk about Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS) - their basics and a TIPS fund.

Predicting recessions. Now that’s a brave topic! Garrett Ruhl will share views on volatility and what we should look for anticipating the next recession.

Upcoming

Munis. Zach Teich will talk about municipal bonds at a date to be decided.

Managed Mutual Funds. Mutual funds have not gotten much love in the Forum lately. With \$18 trillion in assets under management, and several times larger than ETFs, plenty of folks still like them. James Dann will give some perspective on managed mutual funds, and ones he likes, on November 14.

“Smart Beta” ETFs. Please let me know if you have purchased or looked into “smart beta” ETFs. These are ETFs that use performance, diversification, and safety metrics to imitate managed funds. I would like to have a discussion of these funds.

Buys and Sells

Below is the Buy/Sell List from two weeks ago. We will collect buys and sells for the past two weeks, this Wednesday.

Buys (week ending 10/17/2018)

Intuitive Surgical (ISRG) - robotic surgery. MC: \$1B
Westwood Holdings Group (WHG)
Fidelity Select Energy Fund (FSNEX)
Magellan Midstream Partners (MMP)
International Paper (IP) - MC: \$17.3B. Dividend Yield: 4.7%

Sells (week of 10/17/2018)

General Electric (GE)
Goodyear (GT)
ING Group ADR (ING) - Netherlands bank. MC: \$47B
Maxwell Technologies (MXWL) - energy devices. MC: \$121M
Fidelity Blue Chip Growth Fund (FBGRX) - "too much tech"

Thinking About . . .

McDonalds (MCD), Johnson and Johnson (JNJ) - "overvalued?"
General Electric (GE)

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

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