

INVESTMENT FORUM AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016, 11:50AM, Lord of Life Lutheran Church

The Forum will meet every Wednesday, 11:50AM, at Lord of Life, until the end of the Spring term on May 11.

Market Perspective. Another up week, the fifth in the last six weeks. The DOW was up 1.6%; the S&P up 1.8%; and the NASDAQ up 3.0%. Good jobs' numbers - but not enough to spark quicker interest rate increases - along with other generally positive news on the economy, drove markets. Oil prices and interest rates trended down for the week.

Stock Talk.

Verizon (VZ.) A stock that many of us own, and a large presence in many of our lives for television and computer services. We know, for better and worse, the quality of their services. Let's look at its performance as an investment.

Regional Banks. Many investors consider regional banks to occupy the sweet spot in the financial services universe: big enough to offer all banking services efficiently, but not so big to earn the dreaded "SIFI" (Systemically Important Financial Institution) label. Let's look at this subsector, which includes locally familiar names SunTrust, CapitalOne, PNC, and BB&T.

Future Topics.

Panel Discussion on Stock Picking. The Forum is about evenly split on members who buy individual stocks, and members who invest only via funds. We will have a four-person panel discussion on April 20, on exactly how the panel members select their stocks: how they get ideas, how they research their decision and what metrics they use, what services or advice they seek, and at what point they make the actual decision to buy. If you buy individual stocks, and would like to participate on the panel, please let me know.

Picking investment advisors. We last talked about this a year ago. Please let me know if you use an advisor (somebody you pay a fee to, to manage your portfolio or a part of it,) and are willing to share your experiences. Also if you use the services of "robo advisors."

Panel Discussion on Mutual Funds. A number of you have asked for more discussions on mutual funds. We will have a panel (date to be decided) on how you select mutual funds: how you judge the performance, what metrics you use; what publications, services, websites, and ratings you use. Please let me know if you would like to be a panelist.

Buys and Sells (week of March 30)

Buys

Verizon (VZ)
Exxon Mobil (XOM)
Vanguard Dividend Growth Fund (VDIGX)
Chevron (CVX)
Lockheed Martin (LMT)
Berhshire Hathaway (BRKB)
Amgen (AMGN)
Vanguard Total Stock Market (VITSX - mutual fund, or VTI - ETF)
Verizon (VZ)
SPdR S&P Midcap 400 Stock Fund (MDY)

Sells

Energy Transfer Partners, LP (ETP)
IBM (IBM)
Ford (F)
Valeant Pharmaceuticals (VRX)

Thinking About . . .

Fidelity Strategic Dividend & Income Fund (FSDIX)
Sell: Pfizer (PFE,) EMC Corp (EMC,) Himax Technologies (HIMX)
Verizon (VZ)

Forum Moderator(s) needed April 27. You pick the topics, or I can help. Or a two-person tag-team. I can distribute the agenda.

Forum Resources

Accessing Morningstar and ValueLine via the Fairfax County Library website.

Log into the Fairfax County Government website: fairfaxcounty.gov

Under "Find", click on "Library Services"

Under "Index," click on "OnLine Resources"

Click on the large "Morningstar" or "ValueLine" icons.

Enter your library card number in the box, and sign in.

Bookmark the last box, to enter your library card number, and skip the preceding steps.

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