

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Desert Hills Lutheran,

I'm reading the most interesting book. *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*, by Simon Wiesenthal. The first half of the book is the story of Simon in a concentration camp during World War II, where, one day, on a work detail, he was placed in a room with a dying SS soldier who wished to confess and receive absolution from a Jew. This young soldier had murdered innocent men, women, and children. Faced with a choice between compassion and justice - silence and truth, Simon Wiesenthal remained silent and said nothing. He was haunted by the event. His book asks us what we would have done in his place. The second half of the book tells the responses to that question by 53 distinguished men and women from a variety of faiths, backgrounds, and disciplines. It is all about justice and forgiveness. This book will be a study book in the fall here at Desert Hills Lutheran and I recommend it very highly.

This weekend is the beginning of Holy Week. My sermon this weekend is an overview of Holy Week, starting with the ride into Jerusalem by King Jesus on a donkey. We will have a service on Maundy Thursday with communion at 5 pm and a Good Friday service at 5 pm. To get ready, I like to read about Holy Week - this year I'm focusing on the Gospel of John, chapters 18 to 21. The world was forever changed in that week in Jerusalem. Take the walk through the story to remember and to be ready for the week.

Blessings,

Pastor Martin