**Antigo Community Church – April 9, 2023**

**Title: Because He Lives**

**Text: Luke 24:1-12**

Introduction/Review

Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

“But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.”

Scripture Reading – Luke 24:1-12

Four Historical Facts:

1. Jesus Christ was tried, convicted, crucified and buried
2. Jesus’ tomb was found to be empty
3. Many disciples plus a couple of skeptics claim that Jesus appeared to them after His burial.
4. His disciples, inspired by Jesus’ resurrection, launched a movement that has billions of adherents worldwide.

Four Objections:

1. The disciples faked the resurrection – they fabricated the story
2. The disciples stole the body

Fact – people will give their lives for something they believe to be true, but they will never give their lives for something they know to be a lie.

1. Jesus didn’t actually die on the cross
2. His appearances where just hallucinations

The resurrection alone has the explanatory power to make sense of the historical facts.

“A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’ Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’” John 20: 26-29

BECAUSE HE LIVES:

1. JESUS IS GOD
2. THE SCRIPTURES ARE TRUE

He believed them, quoted them, taught them

1. FAITH IN CHRIST IS THE ONE TRUE FAITH

There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus

Forgiveness is offered through the blood of Christ

1. THE WORLD WAS CREATED BY HIM

There is purpose in life

We are created in His image

1. THERE IS AN ANSWER TO SUFFERING

Because Jesus was raised – we will too!

One day, everything sad (unjust) will become untrue (made right).

JUST BECAUSE HE LIVES!