

“Virginia’s Oldest Church”



National Historic Landmark, National Shrine, Museum, and Gift Shop

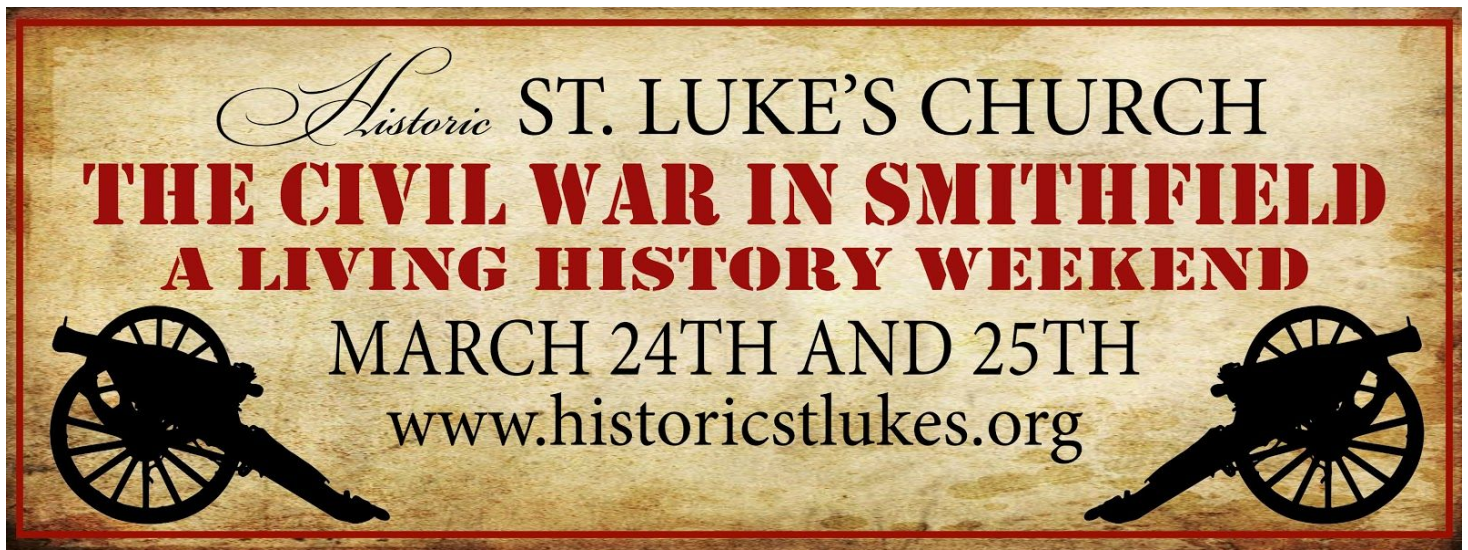
14477 Benn's Church Blvd.

Smithfield, VA 23430

757-357-3367 | Todd Ballance, Executive Director, tballance@historicstlukes.org

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THE CIVIL WAR IN SMITHFIELD: A LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND



Smithfield, VA- On March 24th and 25th, 2018 Virginia’s Oldest Church, Historic St. Luke’s, presents “[The Civil War in Smithfield: A Living History Weekend](#)”. Admittance to the weekend event is the price of general admission. Living historians, period vendors, and more will be showcased during this living history event.

Event highlights include a presentation by Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander entitled, "Freedom’s Fortress, Freedom’s Promises: The Contraband at Fort Monroe" at 1 p.m. in the church building. Fort Monroe, known as “Freedom’s Fortress,” stands as a reminder of where many freedom seekers established new beginnings for themselves and their children. When 3 escaped enslaved men sought sanctuary at the Union-held Fort Monroe in May 1861, Major General Benjamin Butler declared the men “contrabands of war,” paving the way for the 1861 and 1862 Confiscation Acts, and for President Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. It was near the Fort where following the end of the war, freedom seekers established homes and a new life for their families persevered and even flourished, establishing homes, businesses,



schools, and a future for their children and their communities.

The music duo, [Hudson & Clark](#), will present “The Civil War in Seven Songs” in the church building at 3 p.m. Their program will explore popular music during the American Civil War and how that music changed during the conflict. Other highlights include food from the local favorite, [Q-Daddy’s Pitmaster BBQ](#). Q-Daddy’s will be here during lunchtime on Saturday, March 24th to fulfill your BBQ needs.



Historic St. Luke's is also a certified non-profit with the [President's Volunteer Service Award program](#). For those federal employees and Armed Services personnel wishing to earn community volunteer service hours, contact the museum for more information about opportunities.

Historic St. Luke's is also a proud participant in the [Blue Star Museum](#) program offering complimentary admissions to military personnel and their dependents between Memorial and Labor Day each year.

About Historic St. Luke’s Church

Historic St. Luke's Restoration, established in 1954, is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit is Virginia’s Oldest Church built in the 17th-century and remains an enduring symbol of Americans’ pursuits of religious freedom and separation of church and state as imbued in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Today it operates as a National Historic Landmark, National Patriotic Shrine, Museum, and Gift Shop. Throughout the year daily guided tours are provided to the general public and private groups and educational special events and lectures are held. The museum displays a number of artifacts from throughout its history including America’s Oldest Organ - a 1635 English Chamber Organ. Historic St. Luke’s does not receive any funding from the federal, state, or municipal governments - all funding comes from private sources including individuals and foundations.

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