



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **John Ericson**, Executive Director and Site Historian

Phone: 757-357-3367

Email: jericson@historicstlukes.org

Website: www.stlukesmuseum.org

St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum Receives Grant for Indigenous Studies Intern

Suffolk Foundation awards Samaritan Internship grant to St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum for summer 2026.

ISLE OF WIGHT, VA – November 24, 2025 – An integral part of the history of St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum, and the greater Isle of Wight County, is the role of the Warraskoyack and the Nansemond Nation, the Native American people who first populated these lands. We at St. Luke's

historic church and museum recognize that our old brick church is situated on the lands which were inhabited by the Warraskoyack and Nansemond Nation. We believe their story is an integral part of the history we should be sharing at our site, and we are excited to share that in-depth research will begin soon.

The Samaritan Internship grant, administered by the Suffolk Foundation, will allow St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum to hire a college student of indigenous descent for an internship that will focus on to begin to document the history, culture, and legacy of the Warraskoyack people in Isle of Wight County.

"We're excited to have a person dedicated to researching the important history of the Warraskoyack in Isle of Wight county during the time period around colonization. We're hopeful that this internship will be the first step in building deeper ties with Virginia-recognized tribes and Native voices in order to establish ongoing Indigenous-focused initiatives at St. Luke's," said John Ericson, Executive Director and Site Historian.

Applications for the Samaritan Internship at St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum will open on January 1, 2026. For more information, please email ebrown@historicstlukes.org or jericson@historicstlukes.org or call 757-357-3367.

Community Impact:

As a cultural institution, St. Luke's has become a key educational hub in Isle of Wight County, fostering a deeper appreciation for early American history as well as bringing the community together to foster their ownership of our shared history. Our old brick church was constructed for this very reason.

About St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum:

St. Luke's, located in Isle of Wight County, is the oldest church building in Virginia. It is dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history of the region and the early American colonial experience. Through educational events like the 17th-Century Living History Event, St. Luke's continues its mission to serve as a cultural and historical resource for the community.

For more information about our internship program or to find out how to apply, please email ebrown@historicstlukes.org or jericson@historicstlukes.org or call 757-357-3367.