

Primary Parking at St. Luke's • Limited Parking at Sams House

**\$5 suggested donation for parking • FREE shuttle service running continuously between the two venues**

Service Animals Only

## Pioneer Day Events at St. Luke's

**PERRINE HALL:** Lunch includes homemade chilis, grilled hotdogs, and loaded baked potatoes.

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Cemetery Quest:** Start your quest at the playground to win a prize! For ages 7 and up.

**10:15 AM CEMETERY:** Guided Tour "*Military and Space*" highlighting veterans from the Civil War to Vietnam, and a number of the people behind the scenes of the Space Program.

**11:00 AM CHURCH:** "*How Brevard's Past in Space can and should shape its Future*": **Dale Ketcham, Lifelong Resident – over 30 years in the Aerospace Industry** - The Space Program is why Brevard is what it is. And why we have the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Playalinda Beach at Canaveral National Seashore. They are not mutually exclusive but are integrated into the Cape Canaveral Spaceport. Each relies on the other. Challenges await, but the past can guide us to a healthy tomorrow.

**12:00 CHAPEL:** Old time hymns played on the organ in our historic chapel.

**1:00 PM CHURCH:** "*U.S. Space Origin Stories and Milestones*": **Jamie Draper, Museum Director for the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum** - Long before astronauts launched to the Moon from KSC, Cape Canaveral was the nation's launch frontier - the birthplace of America's space and missile programs. Journey through the Cape's pioneering launch activity during the high stakes days of the Cold War Space Race. You'll hear the real origin stories - the triumphs, the tensions, and the daring innovations that made Cape Canaveral the launch pad to the stars.

**1:30 PM CEMETERY:** Guided Tour "*Island History*" - Stories of locals who cleared the land, built our community, and launched us into space.

## Ongoing Events: Self-guided tour of St. Luke's Historic Chapel & Cemetery



*Beginning In the 1870's the Sams, LaRoche and Porcher families settled in Courtenay, Merritt Island. The families had moved to the area from South Carolina after the Civil War. They founded a congregation as they met in their homes for worship and fellowship. In 1886 the Episcopal Diocese of Florida (founded in 1838) formally recognized St. Luke's Mission. In 1886 Mrs. Lucy A Boardman of Connecticut offered Bishop John Freeman Young money to build a series of churches on the central Atlantic Coast of Florida. Due to careful stewardship of that money, it allowed an extra church - St. Luke's - to be constructed in the late 1800's on land sold donated to the Diocese of Florida. This building was an example of the "pure" form of the carpenter gothic architecture, which has been described as the most American of church styles.*

*Since the arrival of the first pioneers St. Luke's has been a place where Christians gather to worship God, support one another, and reach out to the community and the wider world in loving service.*

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**PIONEER DAY AT SAMS HOUSE**

- Florida living history demonstrations and educational exhibits that include archaeology and anthropology, historic reenactors, encampments and artifacts on display
- Live music throughout the day – Celery City String Band, Chris Kahl, Boyleston Fish, Pine Trio
- A Pioneer “parade” throughout the grounds at 11:00 am, led by drum and fife, of those dressed in historic attire
- Local exhibitors from Brevard’s historical societies, historic homes and other history
- Local exhibitors from Brevard’s natural lands, wildlife and environmental organizations
- Vintage, crafts and farmers’ market vendors
- Pine Island guided nature trail hikes throughout the day
- 1888 Sams House tours with rarely seen antiques on display
- 1875 Sams Cabin family history, Native American artifacts and fossils on display
- Pine Island Preservation Society tent with vintage items, finger puppets, hiking sticks, nature-themed t-shirts, note cards, postcards, gifts for sale and raffle items including a local fruit basket
- Children’s crafts and games such as Hay Dive, Steer Roping, Cornhusk Dolls, Cornhole and “Milking the Cow”



*John Hanahan Sams came to Brevard County from South Carolina in 1875, bringing with him his wife Sarah, five children, older sister Catherine and older brother William. Taking advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862, the family originally settled in Eau Gallie. When the orange trees they planted failed to bear fruit, the family moved to North Merritt Island. As part of the move, the Sams cabin was floated up the Indian River Lagoon and reconstructed onsite in 1878. The oldest standing home in Brevard County, the cabin now serves as a museum and visitor's center. A larger, two-story home was built onsite in*

*1888. This house now serves as staff offices and bunk housing for visiting service groups.*

*Mr. Sams ran a successful orange grove and served as the first Superintendent of the Brevard County Public School System. He was instrumental in the founding and construction of St. Luke's Episcopal Church as well as the first schools in the area. John Sams died in 1924. His descendants lived on the property until 1996. The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the St. John's River Water Management District purchased the property. The EEL Program is responsible for management of the site. Pioneer Day and other events are sponsored in part by the Pine Island Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3) organization promoting conservation, awareness and appreciation of the Pine Island Conservation Area. We welcome new members.*