



April 22, 2021

Dear Prince of Peace Family –

I pray you are well. It is with mixed emotions that I announce to you that Sam Garcia, POP's Director of Youth and Family Ministry, has given notice that he will be resigning from his position on June 1, 2021. For more details, please read a letter from Sam below.

Sam has made a positive impact at Prince of Peace in his short time with us. I will miss Sam's energy, creativity, and courage to try new things. At the same time, I wish him well as he takes the next steps in his life and call to serve God's people. We will celebrate Sam's ministry in our worship service on Sunday, May 30.

What comes next for youth and family ministry at Prince of Peace? First, Sam will continue to lead our youth and family ministry over the next month or so, including celebrations for our high school graduates and confirmation students in May. Second, Angela and Pastor Rick will take the reins for our Rock-n-Water summer camp experience in June. Parents and participants will receive information very soon. Third, the church council will appoint a hiring team immediately to identify our next director of youth and family ministries. Our goal is to maintain momentum and bring the best person on staff as quickly as possible. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact me at pastorrick@popphoenix.org.

Please join me in praying for Sam as he follows the lead of the Holy Spirit into a bright future.

Peace,

Pastor Rick Sherrill



Letter of Resignation

April 20, 2021

Dear Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from my position as Director of Youth & Family Ministry, effective June 1st, 2021.

I have been admitted into the Master of Arts program for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. I have been awarded a full-tuition scholarship, and plan to begin my studies remotely in the very near future.

Although I am excited to take my next faithful step, I lament leaving such a wonderful congregation. I appreciate every opportunity for growth and development you have provided during my time here and will always hold this community close to my heart.

Thank you for trusting me with this incredible opportunity to do ministry with your families. Starting during the peak of COVID-19 brought a unique set of blessings and challenges that no textbook or school could ever prepare me for. You were there for me during a critical time in my life and have helped me reach many of my professional goals.

Thank you for accepting me as I am. You have been my ideal partner in ministry and have always supported my out-of-the-box ideas. While I will miss the amazing members of your congregation, I know the risen Christ is **ALWAYS** with us through joy, doubt, frustration, and change as we walk this new transitional journey. It is my hope and prayer that our paths will cross again!

Yours in Christ,
Sam Garcia