

*We would  
love to talk  
with you!*



## Ellen Skillingstad

### Children's Ministry Director

Ellen lives in Eatonton, GA, with her husband and daughter. Originally from Charleston, SC, she understood the gospel through the faithful influence of her parents and first trusted in Jesus at the age of ten. After graduating from USC, she worked for Campus Outreach in Augusta, GA, for six years. Ellen loves sweets in any form and getting to serve the smallest members of God's family. Contact: [ellen.skillingstad@lopc-pca.org](mailto:ellen.skillingstad@lopc-pca.org)

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113 Scott Road, Eatonton, GA 31024

# HOME OF THE COVENANT FAMILY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LOPC

113 Scott Road, Eatonton, GA 31024

2024

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# What is covenant?

At LOPC we consider it one of our greatest joys and responsibilities to teach and share the Christian faith to the next generation. We love and value our children and desire to see them grow in their own faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is it that makes LOPC's children's ministry unique and distinctive? We believe that it is our conviction regarding the Scripture's teaching on the covenant. What is the difference between a Christian and a covenant framework of children's ministry?

Well, that begins with our view of the covenant. What is a covenant? Covenant is all about relationship. It all begins with God and what the Bible reveals about God. The very first words of the Bible are "In the beginning God." And the God we are introduced to is that he exists as one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And this God has always existed, even before he created anything. And that means as one God in three persons, this tri-personal God existed in relationship with one another.

And God created humans in his image, which means that to be human means that we exist in and for relationships. Covenant, unlike a simple contract, is a binding relationship to God and to one another. We belong to God, and we belong to one another. To be human is to live in covenant relationship.

We believe that as God has bound himself to us in relationship that he is a promise-making and promise-keeping God. God has promised to love his people and their children, and he has put the church and families in partnership to teach and share the wonders of that love in order that children will grow in their covenant relationship with God. We believe that baptized children are members of the church, and thus it is the joint responsibility of parents and the church to raise these disciples of the Lord.

Here we will highlight a bit about our process, values, programs, and what your children can expect to experience as we embark on this journey together. It would be our joy to partner with your family in the amazing privilege of bringing up the next generation to live in covenant relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.



# A Heart for the Next Generation

Psalm 71:18 reads, "So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come." At LOPC we aspire to proclaim and teach the wonders of God and the gospel to the next generation. That is why we want everything we do to value each child that we have the privilege to interact with. This is why we take your children's security with the utmost importance. We not only desire for your children to be safe, but we want you, as parents, to have peace of mind as you leave your child at any LOPC Kids Club event. We want parents to know that we will always have the best interests of their children in mind.

We also value multi-generational relationships. There is something very exciting about having the opportunity for younger members to add energy to the church and have the opportunity to learn from the older generations. This is also part of what being in a covenant relationship means, as we not only belong to the Lord but we belong to one another. We are, in that sense, a family, and we value being able to learn from all members of our family.



## Programs & Processes

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

What are some of the ways in which we live out this covenant framework and the values we express? Our process is quite simple. There are three fundamental areas we concentrate on in our education for children. Those areas are: Bible content, doctrine, and worship. Bible content goes through the story of the Bible and teaches how the entire Bible is all about Jesus. The good news that the Bible teaches is about what Jesus has done for us, and our teaching focuses on how all the content of the Bible points to Jesus. The Bible also teaches what can be learned about God, us, and the world. This is called doctrine, and we aspire to teach children the Christian worldview about God, humanity and the world. We also teach children about worship. We were created to worship, and part of our covenantal education is to give children a knowledge of God-centered worship.

What does this process look like in the programs we offer children? Some of the specific programs of our LOPC Kids Club include:







## Nursery

### Birth - Age 3

We have nursery for both infants and toddlers. During our services, your littlest ones will be cared for by trained staff and volunteers who have gone through our safety and security protocols and who will take excellent care of your infants and toddlers.

## Children's Learning Communities

### Age 2 - 5th Grade

On Sunday mornings, we have Learning Communities where our focus is on both Bible content and doctrine. Learning communities are offered for toddlers through the elementary years, where skilled teachers will communicate both the overarching story of the Bible and the worldview that stems from the Scriptures. Our vision is for children to learn that the Bible is all about Jesus and for them to have a gospel-centered view of the Bible.

## Children's Worship

### Age 4 - 2nd Grade

During a portion of the worship service, children from age 4 to second grade are given the opportunity to go to "Children's Worship" where they will learn the fundamentals of the elements of worship. This serves to prepare them to go into the main worship with a basic understanding of what is going on in worship.



## Prayer Partners

Every child from birth to the end of high school gets a "prayer partner." This is an adult who prays for them, supports them throughout their growing up years, and is a mentor for them. This is one of the beautiful things about being a covenantal, multi-generational church, and it is an area that we take very seriously.

## Fun Outreach Activities

Throughout the year, we offer events for both the children of the church as well as the community to gather, develop relationships, and build community. This can be anything from seasonal events around Christmas and Easter, Family Fun Nights, Fall Festivals, and other outreach activities. These activities allow us to gather together and bond while having fun.

## Nursing Mother's Room

Mothers with small infants are welcomed at LOPC. We have a small room set aside especially for moms adjacent to the sanctuary. While babies are welcome in worship or the nursery, we know that, often, moms need a quiet and calm space to feed or comfort a child.

We do all of this as a church seeking to come alongside and partner with families in equipping them in their work of raising their children in the knowledge of the Lord. In this way, the work of discipleship, while primarily the work of the family, is a joint venture in which we partner together. We would love to have the opportunity to partner with you as we seek to invest in the next generation together.