

A native of Park Ridge, Illinois, Ethan Mellema is currently a junior at Lawrence University pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance, studying with Kathrine Handford. Ethan originally auditioned at Lawrence as a piano performance major. Following his freshman year, he realized his true passion for church music and the desire to pursue a career as a full-time church musician serving the Lutheran church. Ethan grew up attending St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, where Director of Music Ministries, Anne Krentz Organ, was his first church music and organ mentor. Ethan is a recipient of the Thompson-Thiex Scholarship from the Oshkosh, WI Community Foundation, which supports students studying organ performance at Lawrence University. Outside of school, Ethan is the assistant organist and choir accompanist at First English Lutheran Church in Appleton, where he accompanies two choirs for weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship services. This past spring he received the Miriam Clapp Duncan Award for his outstanding collaborative work on harpsichord and organ. He attended the national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Kansas City in 2018 and this summer attended the Eastman Summer Organ Academy in Rochester, New York.