



RLRI North Central 2027 Program Summary – Madison, WI

Friday Evening

January 22

CVM Hosts

Dr. Ashley Propst

Evening Challenge

Shane Rootes - “See To It!”

Worship/Prayer

Saturday

January 23

Devotional and Worship

8:30am

Morning Devotion

Pastor Jeremy Rodriguez – “Run to Win”

Session One

9:30am

“Our God Is a Sending God: Is He Sending You?” – Dr. Gina Wintermantel

From Genesis to the present day, God has been sending people to carry out His plans and accomplish His purposes. Together, we’ll explore several examples in Scripture to discover whom God sent, why He sent them, and what He accomplished through them. I’ll also share some personal experiences from my years serving on the mission field in South Sudan. We’ll close with a time of personal reflection considering whom God has sent you to in the past and whether He might be sending you to someone right now.

“So you work with puppies and kittens all day, right? Celebrating the surprising ways God uses veterinarians in all fields” – Dr. Claire Mathias

What does it mean to be a veterinarian when your career doesn't fit what you expected, or what others expect? This talk navigates our expectations of the traditional "success story" in veterinary medicine and how God uses our unique skills through the next right step.

“Your work is your ministry: Sharing your faith in everyday practice” - Dr. Christina Lehner

Is your faith functioning separate from your work? Proverbs 3:6 says, “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight”. In this talk, Dr. Christina will share & discuss ways to share your faith in everyday practice with staff members and families. She will also share her veterinary journey, from graduation to business ownership to becoming a mother.

Session Two

10:30am

“Theological Perspectives on Animals” – Dr. Gary Oetzel

Scripture has much to say about animals. This presentation will provide you with a Biblical framework for thinking about animals - their place in creation, our responsibility to properly regard their welfare, our use of them for food, and a primer on how the Bible regards specific animal species.

“Worst. Day. Ever.” – Dr. Cheryl Loken

We all go into veterinary medicine to help animals and their owners. It is a career fueled by compassion. But bad days happen. How do we get through those bad days when things go wrong, we feel inadequate, we are unjustly accused of wrong-doing, or we have difficult clients to deal with? Just as the Bible lays open personal failures and struggles of real people (Peter denying Jesus three times, John the baptist being imprisoned for speaking truth), this session will look at real-life difficult situations and Biblical insights on how to respond.

Session Three

11:30am

“Ethics and the newly emerging “Ethical Fatigue” debate” – Dr. Diane Noll

An open forum discussion looking at the well-known issue of Compassion Fatigue and the new topic of Ethical fatigue as more and more ethical issues enter our practices every day, especially for the Christian Veterinarian.

“Spur Yourself & Others to go From Student Debt Stress to Financial Peace” - Dr. Brandon Scharping

Are you burdened by how much student debt you have accumulated? This talk will show you how NOT to conform to the "normal" lifestyle of dragging student debt around your entire life. God's will is for us to be happy and have a peaceful life. This material will motivate you and your classmates on how to destroy your student loans and set yourself up for success. Financial peace will allow you to focus on the work God has called you to do as a veterinarian, as well as live and give generously throughout your life.

“A Calling to Ministry” – Dr. Melissa Cheeks

"The calling on our lives is where our passion and the world collide..." I remember singing a song with those lyrics in college. Veterinarians are some of the most passionate people I know, and our identity is wrapped up in who we are, and how we show up in the world. This talk will be a safe space to explore who God is and who he calls us to be: no matter the life stage, professional pivot, or job description. This session is led by a veterinarian who has worked as a small animal practitioner, stateside missionary, at-home parent, and church coordinator at different phases in life.

Lunch

12:30pm

Session Four

2:30pm

“Could short-term missions be for you?” - Dr. Elizabeth Brehm

What does it look like to incorporate missions and career? Is this even practical within the busyness of veterinary school? Does a week or 2 of serving really even make a difference? During this session, we'll discuss how impactful short-term missions can be and some ways that God grows and blesses individuals serving and being served through short term trips.

“You can love and do it all! Tales of parenthood in veterinary medicine.” – Dr. Morgan Scharping

The world often encourages us to pick one or the other. It tells us that we can't have a career and also a family. But what does God say? Can we do both? It may not be easy, and it may get messy at times, but the rewards are endless. Join Dr. Morgan Scharping as she tells tales of the ups and downs of parenthood in veterinary medicine.

“Embracing Goliath” - Dr. Emily Massie

The first year of practice can feel intimidating when we encounter situations that we do not feel prepared to handle. However, God has in fact prepared us. Using Ephesians Chapter 6 as a guide, we will walk through how to utilize the armor of God in everyday life as a new grad.

Session Five

3:30pm

Missions Panel

Join this group of CVM volunteers to ask questions and hear from them about their experiences with long-term and short-term missions.

First Years Out Panel

Join a group of recent graduates to ask questions and hear from them about what has surprised them since starting out in the real world.

WellBeing Roundtable

Join a group of professionals to ask questions and hear from them about how they approach WellBeing.

UW-Madison Vet School Tours/

Fellowship Time

4:30pm

Dinner

6:30pm

Evening Challenge

8:00pm

“That’s Not What I Asked For” - Dr. Ashley Propst

Have you ever prayed and God answered differently than you expected? Join Dr. Ashley Propst as she shares some of the ways that God has answered prayers in unexpected ways, and how she has been growing in trusting God more through the unexpected answers.

Worship and Prayer

9:00pm

Sunday

January 25

Visit Area Churches