



The Messenger

Spring 2026

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Your Donations Have Paid Off!

By Alec Deppe, Director of Programs and Retreats

In 2025, we got ambitious! We began fundraising for multiple large expenses across Camp’s main site. We started in the spring, raising money to upgrade our horse facilities. Then, in August, we had sudden need of well repairs. Once fall came around, we also began fundraising for main road repairs and landscaping projects. Thanks to your support, we’ve been able to manage all of these endeavors and then some!

Horse Facilities & Programs

Upgrading the horse facilities has been a massive undertaking! We started with replacing the arena fencing. Next, we installed a retaining wall behind the tack shed. Then, we added a rock bed around the tack shed for easier access in and out of the shed as well as the bathrooms. Throughout this spring, we will be completing the wood fence at the top of the retaining wall – for safety, – replacing the extremely leaky tack shed roof, remodeling the completely rundown bathrooms, and creating additional storage space for all of horse equipment, also known as tack.

Replacing the arena fencing allowed us to greatly improve the primary location where our spring and fall riding lessons take place. So far, we have had good results with riding lessons as well as with trail rides! Last fall, 11 students took weekly riding lessons, and 20 people participated in weekend trail rides. This spring, we have 10 students who are currently taking lessons as well as 40 people and counting signed up for trail rides! We are both grateful for this initial success and hopeful for continued growth! More information about these programs can be found at campiodiseca.org/horses/.



New arena fence



Tack shed retaining wall, rock bed, and fenceposts



Open your camera to follow this link to our Horse Facility Projects!



Well Repairs

Though this one wasn't on our radar to start 2025, it nevertheless came up as things do. Right as summer ended, both the campground well and the well for our lodges stopped working. We asked for your help to cover these expenses, and you delivered! Thanks to your support, we were able to cover over \$16,000 of expenses, allowing us to stay fully operational throughout our retreat season!

Road Repairs & Landscaping Projects (see pg. 3)

As mentioned in the Fall Messenger, Camp's main road is in serious need of repair and has been eroding quickly over the past few years. We had initially planned to resurface the road with chip and seal, expecting the cost to be around \$30,000. However, after receiving quotes, the total cost would have been north of \$55,000! Finding it difficult to justify the additional cost of repairing the road in this way, we now plan to use cold-patch asphalt kits to fill in the holes. This will save a large sum and come in well under the initial estimate of \$30,000. Not only that, but we had also initially planned to resurface the road late this year. Instead, we can make the repairs before this summer!



We plan to have this patched by summer!

Campground Mortgage

Speaking of paid off... near the end of 2025, we also received a large gift which has allowed us to recently pay off the mortgage on our campground. This mortgage has spanned 23 years and five directors! Though the campground was paying for itself on a yearly basis, paying off the mortgage will free up over \$15,000 in Camp's yearly budget, money that can now go toward general operations and program improvements. This also means that **we are now debt-free!** What a wonderful blessing!

What's Next?

Summer camp is now less than two months away! We are excited to continue this year's preparations in order to provide the best possible camp experience for all of our campers! Our preparations over the next month and a half include the aforementioned projects, searching for counselors, and seeking donations to directly support the summer program.

At the moment, we need 3-4 more male and female counselors each. We are looking for LCMS, college-aged, young adults to serve in these roles. Camp counselors are directly responsible for caring for our campers throughout their time at Camp. They serve as Christian role models and witnesses to the Christian faith for our campers. The importance of having highly qualified counselors cannot be understated. For this reason, we also train all of our staff in activities, safety, and theology! If you know someone who could be good for this role, please encourage them to consider it! They may also contact Program Director, Alec Deppe at 319-848-4187 or programdirector@iodiseca.org for more information.



Summer Staff

Other needs for this summer include scholarship funds and in-kind donations. Camp scholarships are used in two ways: first, to support campers in need, so they can attend camp, and second, they are given to campers who are attending Io-Dis-E-Ca for the first time! Last year, we gave away over \$2,400 in scholarship funds and anticipate that need growing this year. Additionally, Camp is in need of in-kind donations. The biggest needs going into this summer are paper products, stamps, cleaning supplies, **and hay**. Our full needs list can be found on our website: campiodiseca.org/needs-list/. Your support in any of these areas is greatly appreciated!



Needs List





SPRING CLEANUP- MAY 2



Thanks to your generous donations, we are able to fill both of these areas with rock and add a brick border around the rock beds. This will enhance the appearance around the buildings, making Camp even more of a place people want to be!

On May 2nd, join us here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as we get things ready to go for a busy summer camp season! We have a number of projects to complete before summer begins, and we could use your help. Our current list of projects includes: landscaping around the lodges; washing windows; hemming curtains; stamping post cards; inflating balls; organizing sheds; and picking up sticks. Our tasks are for people of all ages, so you can bring the whole family! Remember, lunch is included! Email director@iodiseca.org to let us know that you are coming. We appreciate your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca beautiful for the upcoming year!

2026 IMPORTANT DATES

May 1: Registration Discount Deadline #2

May 2: Spring Cleanup

May 21-22: Iowa Lutheran Theological Symposium

June 10: First Day of Summer Camp

July 17-18: IED LWML Retreat at Camp

July 25: Summerfest & Auction Fundraiser

July 25: Fall Horse Lessons & Trail Rides Registration Launch

July 28-31: Higher Things Confirmation Camp

October 10-11: IDE Confirmation Retreat



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Thrivent Choice

In 2025 our Thrivent Choice participants designated over \$12,000 in support of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Help make this year an even better year in Thrivent Choice donations by designating your dollars today! Go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836), state "Thrivent Choice", and designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!

Each donation must be completed manually as funds can no longer be designated via automatic repeat.

