*The public is welcome to attend the event of Trinity Lutheran Church, located between Grant and Ogallala and one mile west of Highway 61 on Road 768.*

Mission efforts in the African country of Sudan and support of Sudanese immigrants in this country will be the topic of the Mission Festival at Trinity Lutheran Church, south of Ogallala, on Sunday, Sept. 23.

Bob and Judy Bartels of Tobias will speak about their several visits to the country of Sudan and about Sudanese Ministries in Nebraska, sponsored by the Lutheran Church.

They will speak at the 8:45 a.m. Bible Study hour and also at the 10 a.m. worship. A potluck dinner will follow.

Bob Bartels farms in southeast Nebraska and also has a trucking business. Judy has taught in Lutheran schools. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

In 2009 Bob traveled to Sudan with a group from the Midwest to help assemble agricultural equipment and build a church in the country. Bob and Judy returned in 2010 and assisted with finishing the church and visited schools in the Nile valley.

The Bartels plan to return to Sudan in 2013 to assist with the African ministry. The country was recently divided into Sudan in the north and South Sudan, which is primarily Christian. Disputes over oil revenue and conflicts between Muslims and Christians have led to violence in the region in addition to many refugees fleeing from the north.

The Sudanese Ministries is a special project of the Nebraska District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. The ministry has sponsored several mission churches in eastern Nebraska for Sudanese immigrants.