

Mueller, Bruce. 2014. "The Protes'tant Controversy: Long-Lasting Reverberations of the Beitz Paper in the Dakota-Montana District." Paper presented at the *Dakota-Montana District Pastors' Conference April 29-30, 2014, Helena, Montana*.

This work explores how the Beitz conference paper—delivered in Schofield, Wisconsin in 1926— ultimately affected the Dakota-Montana District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod decades later. The first half of the paper gives an overview of the Protes'tant controversy as it affected congregations in Wisconsin, as well as Northwestern College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

The second half of the paper looks into how the Protes'tant controversy made its way to the Dakota-Montana District. A congregation and pastor from White, South Dakota departed the Wisconsin Synod in the 1930s, in part because of Protes'tant leanings. It took nearly two decades before the controversy flared up again in Akaska, South Dakota in 1950. Most recently, in 1960, the congregation in Livingston, Montana remained with the synod despite its pastor departing for the Protes'tant Conference.

For a time—in the Dakota-Montana District and elsewhere—it seemed that the Protes'tant controversy would surface every ten to fifteen years. In conclusion, the author wonders if the cycle has been broken or simply slowed.

Sievert, Karl G. "Preaching the Gospel on the Dakota-Montana Prairies or A History of the Dakota-Montana District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod." In *Fifty Years of God's Blessings in the Dakota-Montana District*, edited by Gerhard Geiger, Wayne Schulz and Gerhold Lemke, 4-16. Dakota-Montana District Anniversary Committee, 1970.

It was fitting that Professor K.G. Sievert was assigned to write a history of the Dakota-Montana District on its fiftieth anniversary in 1970. Sievert had been a pastor and, then, professor in the Dakota-Montana for forty-nine of the district's fifty years. The essay takes the reader to the earliest, pre-district days of the 1870's in eastern South Dakota. It continues to the beginnings of ministering to the German-Russian populations of northcentral South Dakota and southcentral North Dakota before continuing into eastern Montana. Following the district's founding in 1920, the author takes a decade-by-decade approach to the historical account. The author gives attention to events that he lived through, such as the breakup of the Synodical Conference and the ensuing turmoil within the district itself. He also includes a history of Northwestern Lutheran Academy and a gentle rebuke to the readers of the district who take the school for granted.